

Growing Partnerships

This covenant is designed to establish and grow a foundation for both schools and church communities to grow in partnership to fulfil God's mission. We are looking to grow a shared sense of belonging within both bodies.

Strong partnerships between schools and their church communities are empowering. Schools can benefit greatly from the input and leadership that a church can provide, and the church can benefit from the engagement with the family and with young people.

Fishbourne CE Primary School will:

- 1) Welcome the Priest-in-charge to lead weekly collective worship, termly acts of worship.
- 2) Welcome the Priest-in-charge to lead a weekly meeting of the extended worship team during school lunchtimes.
- 3) Pray for the church community regularly.
- 4) Work in partnership with church leaders to collaborate on shared projects.
- 5) Partner with the church where possible to support local or global issues (e.g. inviting the church to take part in fundraising for charities by attending community tea parties)
- 6) Warmly welcome members of the church congregation to lead and participate in Story Teller worship.
- 7) Offer parents opportunities to access church and church leaders.
- 8) Foundation governors are made to feel welcome and an intrinsic part of the school community.
- 9) Include news about church activities in our monthly emails and advertise church events through ParentMail.
- 10) Approach the church community for pastoral support when appropriate – for the support of both children and staff.
- 11) Warmly welcome the church community who practically support the school – for example, as part of the Volunteer Army.
- 12) Visit the church building for worship at least annually.
- 13) Visit the church and welcome visitors from the church for RE input.
- 14) Report to governors on church/school links.
- 15) The church and school relationship will be highlighted in the parish profile during the recruitment process for a new parish priest.
- 16) The school will be actively engaged in the process of recruiting a new parish priest.
- 17) Ensure all staff know about the covenant.

St Peter & St Mary, Fishbourne will:

1. The Priest-in-charge is committed to a weekly collective worship, termly acts of worship at points of importance in the liturgical or school year, and engagement at least once a week in some other form.
2. Offer further support in the worshipping life of the school, and the school will identify opportunities to include the parish at appropriate points
 - a. In Fishbourne, the parish church leads an ecumenical group drawn from the local community who lead an act of collective worship once every half term.
3. Work together to support pupils who wish to lead in acts of worship, and support the prayer life of the church, by the weekly running of 'Worship Team' in school lunchtimes.
4. Be led by the on safeguarding and the control of access to their pupils, and the parish will comply with this.
5. Offer pastoral support when appropriate, at the request of the Head Teacher. This support can be extended to staff as well as pupils.
6. Be quick to respond to any request of practical support for the school. This includes volunteering in the volunteer army, but can take any form that the school feels is appropriate or necessary.
7. Will identify and work together on at least one agreed campaign to serve the common good each year.
 - a. The annual School and Church Fete is a wonderful community event which offers hospitality to the wider village community.
 - b. Any further projects of volunteering, or any further community events will be discerned and discussed on an ongoing basis.
8. Will be actively engaged in the Governance of the School, and the Governing Body will continue to ensure that the Christian ethos of the school is at the heart of the school vision.
9. Endeavour to achieve a strong understanding of the ownership and trustee responsibilities of all land and trusts related to the school.
10. Highlight the church and school relationship in the parish profile during the recruitment process of a new priest. The parish priest will be expected to be an active part of the recruitment process for a new Headteacher.

Signed: Naomi Day (Headteacher)
Mother Jess (Priest in Charge)

January 2024