



PLANT CHILDREN  
IEUENCTID YOUTH  
TEULUOEDD FAMILIES

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## How Can the Church Support Your School?

The church have previously enjoyed significant relationships with schools across Wales, where support was given through morning services, education on Christian beliefs and general support for the staff and students alike. During recent years this relationship has dwindled, and some schools don't have any contact with a Church. Although we appreciate that some school structures don't require this, we would like to give each school the opportunity to build those relationships in a way that would benefit them.

I would like to provide a brief description on how the Church in Wales is changing.

*"In 2012 Lord Harris presented a report stating that the church is insignificant to young people. This statement stirred the church, to the answer of employing four full time experienced people to work with children, young people, and families. Each one works across the Diocese as well as having an area in which they are dedicated to. These areas are Anglesey, Bangor and surrounding area, Llyn Peninsula and North Merionydd, and South Merionydd. Within their roles they explore new and possible ways to engage the church with the community, through support, training, networking, and resourcing."*

*(Church in Wales, 2012)*

The Bishops commissioned a team of advisers in 2011 to conduct a root-and-branch review of the Church.

The three members of the team were:

- Lord Richard Harries, the former Bishop of Oxford, who chaired the group;
- Professor Charles Handy, former professor at the London Business School;
- Professor Patricia Peattie, former Chair of the Episcopal Church in Scotland's Standing Committee.

The 2012 a report was presented, making 50 recommendations which has been adopted by the Church in Wales. One of the many areas identified by the review was the present work with children, young people and families. Recommendation XII states:

*"At least two trained full time workers, clergy or lay, should be appointed to work with young people in each of the present archdeaconries."* (Church in Wales, 2012)

Bangor Diocese have now employed 4 members of staff whose role is to enable the local churches to reach out and work with children, young people and families. As the four Children's, Youth and Family Ministry Enablers (CYFME's) have begun to work alongside the Churches they have identified, in many places, a significant lack of work alongside the local schools, particularly secondary schools.

They are, therefore, seeking ways in which the school would like support from the church. This may not be in the form of a vicar providing collective worship, but in many other ways such as educational visits, training for teachers, resources, chaplaincy and much more.

In order for the Churches to understand the needs of your school and meet these effectively we are asking if you could complete a short 10 minute questionnaire and to return it to Kirsty Williams, Diocesan Centre, Cathedral Close, Bangor, Gwynedd, LL57 1RL.

Thank you for your time and I hope to hear from you in the near future.

# How Can the Church Support Your School?

1) Does your school have contact with or a relationship with the Church in Wales?

Yes                      No      *(Please circle)*

If yes please describe what this looks like?

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2) Are you aware of any resources that the Church could provide for schools e.g. educational packs, prayers spaces, Gsus bus?

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3) Would your RE staff be interested in attending training sessions that would enable them to teach modules effectively any of the following (Please tick?)

Christian Belief?                     

The Meaning of Easter?                     

The Reason for Christmas?                     

Why do we believe what we believe?                     

Is there any other training that they might find useful?

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4) Do you use resource boxes for your themes?

If no would you find them useful?      Yes                      No    *(Please circle)*

If yes, from where do you source them?

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5) Which of the following areas would you consider involving the Church to support you in, after further conversations between us. *(Please circle)*

Christian Union                      Prayer Spaces                      Voluntary work placements

Moving on day for:    Year 6                      Year 11                      Year 13

Providing space for students to perform/exhibit

Mentoring

6) If you were to arrange an educational visit to one of our many historic churches, which elements would you want in the tour/session e.g. interaction, activities, mock services?

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7) Is there anything else with which your school would like support?

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If you would like to discuss the church supporting your school please don't hesitate to contact your Children Youth and Family Ministry Enabler; Kirsty Williams.  
07971790669/kirstywilliams@churchinwales.org.uk