

National facts and figures

From the Church of England Research and Statistics,
Great Smith Street, London SW1P 3AZ

'Statistics for Mission, 2016' states:

- The worshipping community of Church of England churches (2016) is 1.1 million.
- Over recent decades, attendance at Church of England church services has gradually fallen. These trends continued in 2016. Most key measures of attendance fell by between 10% and 15% from 2006 to 2016.
- Although the pattern is one of gradual decline, this masks the experience in individual parishes over the past 10 years. In 11% of parishes 'Usual Sunday Attendance has increased.' In 38% of parishes attendance had decreased.

Exeter Diocese facts and figures

The Church of England's worshipping community (2016) is as follows:

Age Range	Exeter Diocese	National
0-17 years	13%	20%
18-69 years	44%	49%
70+ years	43%	31%

- The 'Usual Sunday Attendance' in Exeter Diocese (2016) is 19,300.
- In the diocese, 28,500 children and young people attend a Church of England school.

Practical shared actions will make a difference to our church and school communities and help both to flourish

Would you like to find out more?

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If you have questions regarding appropriate safeguarding checks contact Phil Parker, Assistant Diocesan Safeguarding Adviser and

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We look forward to hearing from you.



Mission, Ministry and Education: Churches, Schools and Families



pray



grow



serve with joy

share the vision

Practical ways of working together

The Education Team is here to support in our shared ministry with children, young people and their families. Our contact details are on the reverse, however this leaflet is designed to start your thinking. There are huge benefits to be gained when church and school leaders work together. With good communication and mutual respect, the reach of strong collaborations can widen to include others in the church and school communities, with positive outcomes. Some suggestions follow for you to consider:

- If you are not already linked with the school, arrange to meet with the Headteacher / Head of School to introduce yourself.
- Attend key events such as sports day and school plays. Offer to take on a job like presenting medals or passing out programmes as this is a perfect opportunity to become known in the community and meet children, young people and their families. Become a 'familiar face' at the school's family events.
- Consider joint initiatives, for example a Christmas shoe-box appeal or harvest collection.



- Invite the school to join in with church events, for example, offer to display art work during a flower festival, or ask if they'd like to provide a window display at Christmas. You may find you have a whole new group of people visiting the church as a result - this is a good thing!
- Host a school visit, with the support of your parishioners. The focus might be linked to the RE curriculum or equally might have a wider remit such as supporting art or creative writing. Make an offer to the school and ask what they would like.
- Offer your church and grounds as an additional learning space.
- Offer to talk to classes at the school about your faith and your spiritual journey. Children are naturally curious so be open to questions. This can link to the RE curriculum.
- Offer to lead school assemblies or collective worship. Visit the school first so you know the format, and parameters. Ask if there is a theme you should follow. Discuss with the Headteacher the frequency of your involvement and, particularly if a church school, agree a regular pattern.



Fact: In Exeter Diocese, 28,500 children and young people attend a Church of England School.



- Invite your local school to attend church services for Christian festivals. Make sure staff, children and young people, and families feel welcome, and that toilets are unlocked! A Christingle service is a great one to hold but requires joint planning to be a success. Communication is key. If this is a church school, discuss the regularity of church services with the Head.
- Encourage congregation members to offer practical support for the school. There are many ways in which this could happen, for example, by:
 - assisting with one-off art projects
 - becoming a regular listener of readers
 - Making scones for the summer fayre
 - Offering help at a PTFA event
 - Blitzing the garden or painting the shed
 - Supporting a sewing project
- Encourage a good flow of information about the school through the church magazine, and if the Head agrees, through the school newsletter or school reception foyer.
- Regularly pray for all aspects of the school and include in the prayer calendar
- Give children and young people genuine ways to be involved in the life of the church. Their families may well join them, and you.
- Support your school. Encourage, and create opportunities for your parishioners to do the same. Build relationships.

Consider safeguarding requirements with the school. (For advice, see contacts on reverse.)