



**The Education Team**

The Old Deanery

The Cloisters

Exeter EX1 1HS

Tel 01392 294950

[education@exeter.anglican.org](mailto:education@exeter.anglican.org)

[www.exeter.anglican.org](http://www.exeter.anglican.org)

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Dear Colleagues

**Supporting the training of C of E Clergy working with children and young people and their families.**

We are writing to ask if your school or MAT might be prepared to work with your local priest to support the training of curates (new vicars) within your own school context. From now on all curates in the Diocese will be expected to spend some time in a school honing their skills working with children, young people and their families.

This is because training for curates is currently being revamped, in order to offer greater support for them in learning how to work with children, young people and their families.

Every curate will have a different set of expertise and areas to develop. Our plan is for them to meet with the head and local priest to discuss what might be most helpful for them to experience during their placement with you. The type of things this could include:

- Working with an unfamiliar age group
- Observing and leading collective worship/ assembly in a community school
- Supporting RE Lessons
- Activities and meetings with parents and families
- Supporting and school based activity e.g. Open the Book, JAM club, CU or Messy Church

Following their placement, they would then be expected to write a reflection on their experience, which they would then discuss as part of their course.

The hope is that by working with schools in this way staff can help curates to appreciate the mutual benefit of working closely with the schools and the best ways to go about this. Ideally we are hoping for a range of schools - primary, secondary, church and community in a range of settings. If you would like to find out more and feel you may be able to support this initiative please email Fran Bradley ( [educationevents@exeter.anglican.org](mailto:educationevents@exeter.anglican.org) ) and we will send you information about our development day on October 4<sup>th</sup> .

With many thanks in anticipation of your support,  
Yours sincerely,

**The Education Team**

## ADDITIONAL NOTES

This new approach aligns with the 'Growing Faith' initiative, which is the vision set by C of E Bishops to ensure that every aspect of mission and ministry is seen through the lens of what it means for ministry with children, young people and households.

Growing Faith wants to see:

- a) Every parish creating expressions of church where children, young people and households are actively involved, growing spiritually and have their voices heard.
- b) 100% of Anglican parents recognising the importance of sharing faith with their children and actively engaging in this responsibility.
- c) Clergy and lay ministers who are confident in supporting households in sharing faith at home.
- d) Congregations which nurture and support the faith of children and young people.
- e) Churches which serve and are served by their local school communities, actively building strong relationships between church, schools and households.
- f) Children and young people who are confident to share their faith with their peers and families.

As with teachers there are standards curates need to meet. The most pertinent to this part of their training are that they should be:

A1 Able to interpret scripture in a wide range of settings...to communicate clearly and accurately in ways that enable others to learn and explore

B1 Able to communicate the gospel confidently and effectively using a variety of media in diverse situations, both inside and outside church

B2 Understand the importance of the C of E's engagement with schools for the common good and for the mission and ministry of the church.

C1 Able to develop the prayer life...of others of all ages and backgrounds in a range of life circumstances.

C3 Able to relate spiritual traditions to...those of all ages, backgrounds and in a range of life circumstances

D2 Able to reflect with insight and humility on personal strengths and weakness...gifts and vulnerability in response to a new context of public ministry

E2 Understand policies and best practice in safeguarding, and their application to a variety of contexts