



# SCHOOL-CHURCH COLLABORATION

## Six Sessions to Improve School-Church Partnerships

### Context of the training

School and church leaders are very busy. They want to work well together and sense how fruitful partnership could be, but often fail to prioritise this amidst more immediate tasks. Research shows that powerful school-church partnerships develop where:

- External facilitation sets a context and structure for rich conversations.
- Contextualised training is offered that is relevant to both partners.
- Key parish leaders diarise time termly.
- A jointly created and owned action plan is used.

### Aims

Provide school and church leaders with:

- A termly opportunity for rich partnership conversations.
- Facilitation to support dialogue around more challenging topics.
- Training in areas of mutual interest and benefit.
- Space to review and adapt their shared action plan.

### Structure for each session (1.5hrs)

Headteachers attend with their church counterpart. These two leaders may also decide to bring additional parish partners with them e.g. other senior leaders from school, key Christian school staff, children's and family worker from church or a key lay volunteer.

- Bible input, worship and prayer (delivered invitationally, sensitive to non-Christian school staff) (8mins).
- Session theme and structure outlined. Ice-breaker opening table discussion - contextualised question related to the theme (6mins).
- Input: high quality taught input with handout (30mins).
- Facilitated activity: building on the input and providing space for participants to wrestle with it for their own context with their co-collaborators (40mins).
- Next steps, notices and grace/prayer/blessing: participants given time to name three actions arising and a timescale, plus space for Diocesan notices (6mins).

Session	Content	Resources
<b>SESSION 1</b> Mid Oct- Mid Nov 2-3.30pm	<b>Barriers to Effective Partnership</b> Purpose: how can you analyse the efficacy of your partnership? Common barriers – and creative solutions	Grove Book chapter 4  Headteacher insight video  'What's working?' analysis matrix
<b>SESSION 2</b> Late Feb- early Mar 2-3.30pm	<b>Pupil Spiritual Development</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• What is this?</li> <li>• How is it similar to but distinct from <i>Christian</i> spiritual development?</li> <li>• Where can you see 'progressively deeper opportunities' for your community Vs where is the pathway patchy?</li> <li>• Places you can work smarter not harder.</li> </ul>	Grove Book chapter 5  Smarter not harder case studies video  Pathway map
<b>SESSION 3</b> June-early Jul 2-3:30pm	<b>Power of Questions</b> Power of curiosity and finding the right question.  User pathways: what is the experience of spiritual development like for different members of the community? E.g. Christian, spiritually curious, those of other faiths/ worldviews, staff, wider families, SEND, EAL, UKME, etc.	Grove Book chapter 5  Lead On Questions article  'Pupil Experience' task

