

the parish and school will work closely together with the School Chaplain to ensure that there is effective and appropriate supervision.

THE TEAM CHAPLAINCY APPROACH

A Parish church or Benefice may wish to take a team approach to serve and partnering with their local school(s). In this way the team works in and with the school to develop chaplaincy in many different ways, nurturing faith development, pastoral and spiritual care amongst children, young people and the wider school community. In turn, this may lead to new worshipping communities based in the school.

At the same time, the school will want to partner with the church (possibly arising out of their Parish School Covenant) and will actively encourage a 'ministry of presence' in the school from the local church. The Incumbent or other ministry lead would lead this team. Members of the team may need some training to help them in upskilling and development of their vocational formation and journeys. Ely Diocese has appropriate training pathways which include the Church of England, Growing Faith Foundation, Discovering Chaplaincy course, an entry level course which provides an introduction to chaplaincy in schools and is a great starting point for all those who are working and volunteering in schools. ALM pathways for those with discerning a calling to this ministry are also in development.

Discernment, safer Recruitment, safeguarding, supervision and ongoing vocational development are essential parts of chaplaincy as with any local ministry and the Mission and Ministry team are always available to support with this.

With both strands there is some cross over and a School Chaplain may arise out of a church following the Team Chaplaincy approach and it is hoped that these vocational journeys will be supported by the parish.

Commented [RN4]: I think we need to think about how this is worded the model of chaplaincy is about developing the number of active young disciples they may not land on a Sunday morning but there is a desire for them to be on discipleship journeys and to be connected to the church through some form of worshipping community

Commented [RN5]: May not be an incumbent may be a CYF minister

NEXT STEPS FOR PARISHES AND BENEFICES?

If you are already working with your local schools, seeking to develop these relationships or are think school chaplaincy may be part of your future mission and ministry we would love to support you on this journey.

If you or someone in your school or parish, would like an initial conversation about School Chaplaincy, please contact the *Growing Younger Enabler – Parish-Schools Mission* using the contact details below:

Commented [RN6]: Think this section needs to be aimed at parishes rather than individuals.

Reverend Mandy Flaherty – *Growing Younger Enabler – Parish-Schools Mission*
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Appendix 1: School Chaplain Role Description Template

School Chaplain Role Description [core]

Whilst the outworking of the role of a school chaplain may well be context specific, there are some core elements to the role descriptions of any chaplain.

Here's a sample role description for a School Chaplain, which you can tailor to suit the specific context of your school or educational institution, this is subject to safer recruitment and safeguarding processes:

Purpose of the Role:

The School Chaplain provides spiritual, pastoral, and emotional support to students, staff, and the wider school community. The School Chaplain will champion the participation, voice and leadership of children and young people. With rooted Christian faith and values, the Chaplain fosters a welcoming and inclusive environment, encourages faith development across the community and beyond and acts as a bridge between the school and the local parish church, helping to develop new worshipping communities where appropriate

Key Responsibilities:

Spiritual Leadership

- Lead and coordinate acts of worship, assemblies, and prayer across the school, empowering children and young people to take leadership roles within this and the wider spiritual life of the school and church communities.
- Facilitating opportunities for the voice of children and young people to be heard, valued and acted upon within the spiritual life of the school and church communities
- Support the spiritual development and wellbeing of students and staff, regardless of faith background.
- Offer opportunities to explore the Christian faith and support those in established faith journeys to grow and develop their spiritual lives
- Organize and facilitate Christian festivals, services, and events throughout the school year.

- Prayer with and for the communities.
- Within Church Schools, working with school leads to develop and embed Christian Ethos.

Pastoral Care

- Provide pastoral support to students, staff and wider school community. This may include purposeful listening, restorative justice and mentoring for some or all of children, staff and families.
- Be a visible and approachable presence around the school and church.
- Work collaboratively with pastoral teams, safeguarding leads, and external agencies.

Church and Wider Community Engagement

- Build a bridge between the school and church developing a meaningful relationship and collaborative partnership between both communities
- Build relationships with the wider community including other faith communities.
- Represent the school at faith-based events and networks.

Curriculum Support

- Contribute to the delivery of Religious Education and PSHE where appropriate.
- Support staff in exploring faith and ethical dimensions across the curriculum.

Person Specification:

Essential:

- A committed Christian with a mature and active faith.
- Experience working with young people in an educational or church setting.
- Experience with and committed to empowering children/young people to take leadership roles within the spiritual life of the school.
- Experience in listening to and valuing the voice of children/young people
- Strong interpersonal and communication skills with both children/young people and adults.

- Missional approach and ability to appropriately share their Christian faith and story.
- Ability to both prompt and respond to questions of faith and walk with people of all ages on their journey of faith.
- Ability to work collaboratively with staff, church and external partners building strong partnerships.
- Distinctive about own beliefs and inclusive in welcome of everyone of all beliefs, contexts, cultures and spiritualities.
- Ability to meet people where they are, accepting them unconditionally.
- Ability to listen and to develop trusting relationships with children, staff, wider school community and church.
- Committed to development of own faith journey and ongoing vocational development and learning

Desirable:

- Chaplaincy training.
- Experience in leading worship and spiritual activities.

Understanding of the language and culture of both school and church and ability to hold the space between these.