

Good Practice in Home / School / Parish Links

That's a Good Idea!

- *Regular prayers for the parish/es offered during school mass or assemblies.*
- Prayers of the Faithful during Sunday Eucharist sometimes refer to the needs of the parish schools.
- *School services sometimes held in the parish or parishes on a rota basis. Parish services sometimes held in school.*
- A place available for quiet, personal prayer in the school.
- *Parishioners invited into the school chapel.*



- A distinctively Christian welcome sign for all who enter the school – such as “Peace to all who enter here”.
- A high quality focal point in the school's entrance area that reflects the Catholic nature of the school and the liturgical season.

- *Advent/Lent/Easter Family Liturgy held in the deanery or parish church.*
- A notice board in a prominent place in school containing parish news; weekly bulletins; names of people who are ill; forthcoming parish events.
- *A section of the parish newsletter or parish notice board allocated for regular news about school. Information could include welcome to new staff, new pupils and prayer intentions.*
- Two pupils from each parish as parish contacts; collecting bulletins and taking school newsletters back to the parish.
- *Times of parish mass, etc. on school newsletters.*
- Communicating, through a newsletter, the content of each term's R.E. to parents, including suggestions of how parents can support their children.
- The RE newsletter stapled to parish newsletter each term to keep parishioners informed.
- *School and parish together celebrating 'Moments that Matter' with parents.*
- *School [as well as parish] welcoming newly baptised members of the faith community.*
- Baptismal anniversaries remembered.
- *Catholic Support Agency contacts available through school.*
- *Supporting family prayer life with booklets, suggestions and ideas.*
- Send a prayer card home in November so families can write the names of those who have died they want to remember. They will be prayed for in school.
- Create a 'tree of remembrance'. Buy a decoration/light to remember the dead. Have a tree lighting ceremony at the end of November.
- Inviting parents and parishioners into school for prayer and special liturgies.
- Prayer for parents/parishioners during Advent – 10/15 minutes in front of the Advent wreath at the beginning or end of day

- Voluntary mass/stations of the cross/rosary at lunchtime/before school for children/staff/parents/parishioners.
- Using liturgies and ideas from, 'Journeying Together' e.g. welcome liturgy for reception where children have a Yr. 6 'special friend'. This child then plays a role in the 'Goodbye' liturgy for Yr. 6 leavers.
- Parental involvement in liturgy – praying with parents and parishioners.
- Encourage parent/parishioner participation by providing them with a leaflet so they can join in.
- Involvement by both partners in planning joint liturgy
- Parents meet priest in school – not just sacramental preparation.
- Development of chaplaincy team – not just priest
- Employ a lay chaplain who would have links with the parish e.g. SVP and RE Co-ordinator. Part of the role would be to help staff prepare liturgies/masses etc. They would also listen to children, parents and staff as friend or adviser.
- Mission Statement reviewed regularly – all stakeholders involved including parish and parents.
- Joint school – parish mission statement
- Link person for home / school / parish communications
- A member of staff on the Parish Council.
- The relevant section of school development plan could be shared with the parish council on an annual basis.
- Home / school / parish development team – action plan
- Youth worker for schools / parishes
- Service of welcome for newly baptised children
- Shared fundraising between home/school/parish e.g. 'Romanian shoeboxes'/ Cafod
- Joint project e.g. tending the Church grounds or painting the school or parish hall.
- Create or work together on a 'quiet garden' to be used by school/parish/parents.
- Joint 'mission' with the parish
- Housebound 'adopted'
- *Pastoral care partnership.*
- School and parish – adult formation / Alpha – Journey in Faith
- Parish and school help to support family life relationships through various programmes. Involve 'Marriage and Family Life' ministry if appropriate.
- Celebrations involving the whole community.
- Service of commissioning for a new headteacher/teacher in the parish.
- Service of welcome for a new member of the school community.
- *All new parents and staff to the school gifted with a gesture or symbol of welcome from the parish community/ies. (A school prayer leaflet and/or bible, for example).*
- A member of the parish to be included in welcome liturgies and meetings.
- Baptismal anniversaries remembered.
- Sacramental preparation – prayer partners
- Prayer sponsors given prayer card with child's name
- Prayer sponsors invited to a post communion party

- Service of Reconciliation for the whole school community.
- Wider parish community involvement in school eg. reading partners, sewing groups, invited speakers etc.
- Use of ICT suite for adult education – parents and parishioners
- Create links between the school and SVP and support them financially.
- Involve parents and parishioners in making 'story bags'. The RE story can be linked to the literacy strategy.
- One week every year the school/parish and home to explore global and multi-cultural issues together.
- Parents/parishioners invited to give talks in school, e.g. history etc.

- Useful web sites:

www.quietgarden.co.uk