

Growing Faith Foundation Learning Hubs

Funded Development Opportunity for 2023-2025

growing
faith



THE CHURCH
OF ENGLAND
EDUCATION OFFICE

Vision:

Growing Faith is the movement that exists to change the culture of the Church of England so that everyone instinctively puts children, young people and families at the heart of all the mission and ministry of the Church.

It comes from the vision set by the House of Bishops and endorsed by General Synod in 2019. It involves churches, schools and households working together to help children, young people and families have life in all its fullness.

The Growing Faith Foundation seeks to benefit children and young people, helping them create the world they want to live in, specifically through the lens of the Christian faith. In the short term, this will mean focusing on 0-16 year olds but in the medium to long term it will include 17-21 year olds.

The Foundation is seeking to resource 12 different types of Learning Hubs across the country to further its impact in these communities, who will in turn act as a strong developmental community of practice from which other leaders can learn nationally as we seek to double the number of children and young active disciples in the Church of England by 2030. Hubs will be creative spaces, where people are encouraged to try new things and not be afraid of things turning out differently to how they planned or imagined.

Learning hubs will:

- help inform and bring about culture change in the wider Church of England, seeking to place children and young people instinctively at the heart of our mission together.
- help grow the Church of England younger and more diverse, by committing to make young active disciples.
- be innovative and creative spaces that model Growing Faith in the intersections of church, household and school.
- inspire and encourage other leaders on their Growing Faith journey through sharing learning and emerging outcomes.
- be a key point of contact for the Growing Faith Foundation to capture story, use as examples and share more widely.
- contribute to research projects being completed as part of the work of the Growing Faith Foundation.

A great learning hub will:

- be a community where there is already (or where there is a strong intention to be) a strategic relationship between school, church and household (this could be at an individual parish/school level, or in a more area/regional grouping – for example with a deanery or cluster of schools or MAT).
- be a community where the voice of children and young people is instinctively at the centre of thinking and practice and where those children and young people are enabled to be leaders and ‘agents of change’.

- demonstrate a clear commitment to equity, diversity, belonging and inclusion, including proactive engagement of under-represented groups.
- have a local hub working group to move Growing Faith forward (to include a range of these people: a church leader, primary school leader, secondary school leader, parent/carer, a representative for children's work, a representative for youth work, a school chaplain, a representative from the Diocesan central staff, representatives from key stakeholders in the local community e.g. local council, uniform. Groups, local clubs, local businesses etc).
- have a clear and growing strategic relationship with their Diocesan central staff team, eg through a Diocesan youth or children's adviser or member of the senior leadership team.
- have outlet/s for sharing story regularly e.g. website, social media channels.
- work with other churches, parachurch organisations and other organisations or have a commitment to explore this.
- commit to pray for the children, young people and families within the hub and beyond.

What do we expect a learning hub to do?

Sharing at local and national level:

- to find effective ways to regularly share stories and insights with the wider church, key stakeholders and young people themselves. This may include presenting at wider events/conferences, website updates, blogs or through social media channels.
- to produce a short review update (x2 a year) to be shared with the Growing Faith Foundation, your Bishop, Diocesan Director of Education, Director of Mission and other relevant senior staff.
- to produce an annual video sharing your story, both the successes and challenges (with professional support from the Growing Faith Foundation if needed).
- deliver a minimum of 1 training session each year for school leaders, church leaders, youth and children's leaders/volunteers in your locality/Diocese. (It will be important to work with Diocesan staff colleagues in planning this).

Partner with the Growing Faith Foundation:

- to be key valued partners of the Growing Faith Foundation and work together with us to shape the direction of travel for Growing Faith nationally
- to identify a key person to be the point of contact for the Growing Faith Foundation.
- to join the annual in-person Hub Gathering.
- to be a 'go-to contact' and place of welcome for diocesan and national events.
- to have one or more representatives attend and contribute content to Growing Faith conferences.

Learning:

- to complete a 2-year learning and development project on an agreed theme and present impact and outcomes to the Growing Faith Foundation.
- to pilot projects that are transferable to other contexts.
- to contribute to research projects being completed as part of the work of the Growing Faith Foundation.

What will the Growing Faith Foundation do for you?

We will:

- provide regular termly structured opportunities to bring Learning Hub leaders together to share learning and experience.
- provide initial training and ongoing support for Learning Hubs as required.
- support the Learning Hubs' local training activities with speakers and resources.
- provide access to networks and programmes within the Growing Faith Foundation.
- visit your Learning Hub.
- be a sounding board for ideas and suggestions and connect Hubs to others around the country.
- provide the opportunity to pair up with another Hub in a different context to learn from and with.
- resource each Hub with an annual grant of £10,000, with Dioceses match-funding where possible.
- commit to pray for your hub.

How might you use the grant funding?

- for video production, social media and design work.
- resourcing pilot projects that could be developed and replicated in other settings.
- to buy in expertise from different fields to deepen practice and thinking.
- to form partnerships with other organisations.
- travel expenses.
- to host training sessions, gatherings for the working group and other Growing Faith events locally e.g. venue hire, refreshments and resource production.
- towards staff time.
- for access arrangements for children and young people.

Will a hub be a hub forever or for a fixed time?

In the first instance, the commitment to being a GFF Learning Hub is for two years. After 18 months, we will review the progress of the 12 Learning Hubs and look to resource their further development.

How do we apply?

To apply to become a Growing Faith Foundation Learning Hub for 2023-25, please go to XXXX and complete the application form. This needs to be submitted by 31 October 2022. The applications will be assessed objectively according to the evidence they have presented (See the separate Evidence Base document used for selecting hubs).

Following this, Hubs will be confirmed and awarded their designation by 30 November 2022, and welcomed to the training and development programme overseen by the Growing Faith Foundation national team.

For any questions, please contact cheryl.govier@churchofengland.org | 07848 028620