

Sheffield Hub

January 2024 Progress Report



Church in School Learning Hub Leader appointed

In September, Elise Deput started in her role as Church in School Learning Hub Leader with the aims of supporting existing church in schools in developing their ministry, encouraging new church in schools to form, and gathering learning and insight from both adults and children.

Visiting church in schools

Elise began visiting some of the existing church in schools and found that there were both similarities and differences across the diocese. The church in schools visited so far have similar elements: singing with actions, videos, Bible readings or stories, a hands-on craft or activity, and a short prayer. All have been after school, for about an hour, and have resources and ideas which would be great to share with others.

It was identified that an area for growth and development could be to involve parents/adults more in the discipleship and worship.

The first hub gathering

“God is always with me, God is in me.”

In November, the first hub gathering was held at St Mary’s, Wombwell. This was a small gathering, with representatives from three schools. The gathering focussed on worship and interacting with God. Insights from the children who attended include the quote above from one girl, and another child saying that he enjoys having the role of worship leader at his school.

Attendees also appreciated the chance to meet other church in school leaders, with one leader saying they’d never met anyone else who runs a church in school.

Diocesan Church in School Facebook page

In November, the hub Facebook page was launched. The aim of this page is to offer further support, guidance and ideas in between the hub gatherings to those who attended and to people who didn't manage to attend.

A second hub gathering planned

The second hub gathering is planned to take place in February 2024 at one of our church in schools. This gathering will have a focus on discipleship and ministering to each other, including asking what discipleship families currently do in their own home.

Online training

Elise is working with her colleagues in the diocese to create 'working with schools' e-learning modules. These modules will include practical advice and examples of good practice. The hope is that these could be used both within the diocese and more widely.

Looking to future pathways

This year, Elise will be working with the diocesan discipleship enabler to create 'family rhythm of life' resources. One of the aims of these resources will be to encourage discipleship within the home so that a family's faith journey continues, even after they stop attending the church in school (for example when the child leaves the primary school). The resources will be promoted both in church in schools and in other congregations.

Developing 'ready-made' resources

Ready made templates and resources will be created and made available on the diocesan website. These will include templates for session plans, risk assessments and permission forms.