



GROWING FAITH TEAM CHAPLAINCY LEARNING HUB REPORT

(January 2024)

Please note that this project was started a year ago with alternative funding to start the project, so not all achieved in a year!

Project Aims

To develop a coordinated team chaplaincy programme across eleven schools in a church Multi-Academy Trust, linking church leaders and lay volunteers from the local church with the schools to act as school chaplains.

Project Status

Established: 6

In the high school, we have a lead chaplain (from Integrate Youth for Christ) and team established delivering regular collective worship, a service at local Anglican church for those with additional educational needs, weekly lunchtime club, mentoring four young people, Question of the Week, transition activity day support, presence in staff room and with pupils.

In the five primary schools, we have a lead chaplain and a team. Each school looks different, but all have regular collective worship run by chaplains. All have been given chaplaincy resource boxes. Several schools have lunch clubs running and chaplains are involved in varying activities including: festival visits to churches/Christingle service, RE curriculum provision, Open the Book, reflection planning, involvement with governors, staff pastoral support, school ethos input, staff support during SIAMS and Ofsted, Question of the Week at lunchtimes and one school connected with families through a Posada.

Early Stage: 2

One primary and one infant's school have a lead chaplain but no team. Both deliver collective worship, and one has some RE curriculum support.

Challenge: 3

Two junior schools and one primary are proving more challenging as we haven't been able to appoint a lead chaplain or teams. IYFC run a lunchtime club in one of the junior schools.

General:

- Next training – One Big Day – we are running a seminar about “Engaging with your Local School” at this regional event in April. We will include some of our chaplaincy training, research and lessons learnt.
- Chaplaincy Lanyards –we are collating photos of all the chaplaincy volunteers to print chaplaincy badges and increase visibility.
- Parachurch/local church links – pupils from chaplaincy schools come to two youth cafes and have attended the IYFC regional youth worship event.
- Chaplaincy WhatsApp Group for encouragement and sharing ideas.
- Focus on building a sense of team within the different emerging chaplaincy. We have met with two teams and have a meeting planned for two more in early February with others in the pipeline. These meetings are for planning, creating vision for future ideas, gelling as a team and praying for the school.
- We have also got a head start on a new school due to join the trust, having already appointed a lead chaplain who is delivering collective worship regularly and other volunteers who ran a prayer space before Christmas, inspired by one we ran last summer in another school.
- We hope to arrange a Christian dance company to run workshops in the primary schools but need to source extra funding for this. We also plan to run at least two prayer spaces in 2024.