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| **Name of Parish:** | **Draycot Benefice** |
| **Contact Name in Parish:** | **Katherine Bloomer** |
| **Email:** | **katherinebloomer100@btinternet.com** |
| **Name of School:** | **Langley Fitzurse School** |
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APPLICATION FORM

**Signed by school contact …………………………………………………..**

**Signed by church contact Katherine Bloomer**

**Please return completed forms by email or post to:**

**ali.driver@bristoldiocese.org**

Diocese of Bristol
1500 Parkway North,
Stoke Gifford,
Bristol
BS34 8YU

[www.bristol.anglican.org/csp-award](http://www.bristol.anglican.org/csp-award)

**1**

PRAYER AND WORSHIP LIFE

*The aim of this section is to ensure the existence of a real partnership in prayer and worship between the church and school.*

*The sections of this form are likely to overlap, please do not be concerned if this happens.*

1. **How does the church support the school in its worship and prayer life?**
* Each year the Draycot Benefice provides Bibles for Y6 Leavers
* In September the church organises a ‘Back to School with God’ service, followed by a BBQ in school to welcome new families and establish a firm link between St Peter’s and the school
* The school is regularly included in the Benefice prayer cycle, Sunday intercessions and monthly Benefice prayer meetings.
* Pupils and families are invited to services & actively encouraged to participate; services are advertised in school and school newsletters, with specific invitations for Mothering Sunday, Pancake races, Crib service, etc
* The Ministry team regularly lead collective worship, support the planning of school services, host Festival services for the school, provide annual Experiences, offer Quiz the Curate and support for RE lessons/visits, and set up a Prayer Space during Y6 SATS week.
* The Draycot Benefice provides resources for pupils during Advent, Lent, Thy Kingdom Come, and worship at home during the COVID 19 Lockdown. The school was actively invited to join in with the 2020 Lent Eco Challenge and took up the challenge enthusiastically.
* Setting up and running the Worship Council since 2013 in order to support the school in developing prayers, worship, liturgy, spiritual practices, etc.
* Providing a Benefice wide Holiday Club during the October half term, with the support of Trevor Ranger and Synergy Trust
1. **How does the school support the church in its worship and prayer life?**
* Praying for the church on a regular basis in CW – Worship Council wrote the prayer, and shared it with St Peter’s Church
* Joining in the Harvest projects, e.g. gathering donations for Doorway and The Rise Trust
* Taking an active part in special services e.g. Harvest on the Farm, Rogation around the village, and providing music & song for the Scarecrow Festival Songs of Praise. As well as advertising & attending Carol and Crib services, and church festival services
* Sharing prayers, artwork e.g. the Shepherd mosaic gifted to St Peter’s
* Advertising church events in the school newsletter & with posters in school and on social media, encouraging and enabling pupils and their families to take part.
1. **What next steps can you identify to develop this further?**
* With the arrival of a new head teacher, ensure regular communication, particularly for special events/projects e.g. Drumhead service
* Look at inviting church members along to Celebration assemblies
* Continue to develop a range of hymns and songs to share between church and school services
* Having a shared the same version of The Lord’s Prayer and Action Grace, look at other prayers we can share between Collective Worship and church services
* Explore ways of sharing Faith at Home (building on resources shared during COVID 19 lockdown)
* Ministry team to discuss with school about re establishing options for Confirmation for Y6 pupils.
* With a new federated governing board across two schools, there is a need to ensure training and understanding to maintain this relationship, and perhaps explore sharing the Christian message across both schools.

**2**

ACTIVITIES IN CHURCH AND SCHOOL LIFE

*The aim of this section is to ensure that the church and school work meaningfully together to provide practical activities to underpin this partnership.*

1. **What activities are shared between the church and school?**
* School invited ministry team members to share in Understanding Christianity training, and safeguarding training.
* Head, governor and member of the ministry team attended SIAMS training together, which enabled focused work to take place
* Christian Distinctiveness meeting includes the head, foundation governors and a member of the ministry team which aids communication, understanding and linking possible events
* Foundation Governor attends PCC, with the school as a standing item on the PCC agenda – this has enabled input to the new school vision, the 11 by 11 scheme, and financial support for Worship Council projects and governor training.
* Member of the Ministry team runs the school Worship Council, which is supported by St Peter’s PCC, and organises an annual Celebration for local schools to share ideas and say ‘Thank you’ to pupils for their work.
* Working together, the church runs annual ‘Experiences’ in church, using volunteers from the Benefice, governors and parents to run the stations.
* The school joins with St Peter’s and the Draycot Benefice for the annual Harvest appeal, donating to local charities, such as Doorway and The Rise Trust
* The church and school worked together on Lent and Advent activities, e.g. 2020 Eco Challenge
* The village magazine links the school and church, advertising events, requesting support or volunteers e.g. reading, gardening, funds, or contacts such as for Ghana Day
* Church volunteers support pupils in making Christingles each year and provide a link with The Children’s Society
* A member of the ministry team was invited to PTA meetings to encourage communication and prevent clashes of fund raising projects. This has led to the PTA using the church for meetings, and the PTA supporting St Peter’s to provide refreshments before school services.
* The church and school work together to plan and put on the ‘Back to School with God’ service and BBQ to welcome new families and pray for pupils and teachers at the start of the new school year.
* Quiz a Curate – the Curate shares his knowledge of science and environmental concerns, as part of RE provision, asking Big Questions, and the impact of faith on the way we live.
* The church makes sure all adults who volunteer are DBS checked and trained in safeguarding

There are many shared church/school/village activities as there is a strong community in Kington Langley, e.g. the Scarecrow Festival, providing refreshments at Carols on the Common. There are church members who also volunteer at the school in a number of ways such as reading with children, gardening, transport, etc.

1. **What is the impact of these? How do you know?**
* A positive relationship across the school and the church, results in volunteers coming forward, financial support and the use of both buildings by the other. St Peter’s especially appreciated being able to use Cherry Hall for services (often at short notice) during re-ordering work in 2019.
* Having pupils and their families in church in informal ways means they feel more comfortable in church, and start to feel that they belong.
* Training and working together through the Christian distinctiveness meeting, governors and PCC meetings, enables a supportive relationship leading to the sharing of ideas, prayer support and shared opportunities.
* A close relationship has continued between school and church though changes in clergy and head teachers, showing the depth of commitment on both sides
* The Experiences provide opportunities for both pupils and adults to gain a greater understanding of church festivals, prayer, the role of church and the Eucharist.
* Working together, sharing resources and expertise, gives greater meaning and wider learning e.g. harvest appeals, Lent challenges and Ghana Day
1. **What next steps can you identify to develop this further?**
* Forward planning for new foundation governors
* Work together to enable pupils to befriend villagers through Rendezvous at Union Chapel
* Having shared the 2020 Lent Eco Challenge, to find ways for pupils to share in the Eco Church project, to help support the Diocese in achieving its Climate Justice commitments.

**3**

THE SCHOOL AND CHURCH

BUILDINGS AND OUTSIDE SPACES

*The aim of this section is to enable children and staff to develop an understanding of the school and church buildings, their uses and historical context, as well as meeting meet the living church community.*

1. **How does the school use the church building and any outside space?**

St Peter’s Church founded Langley Fitzurse School in the 1850’s, so there is a joint history within the village for pupils to discover and explore, leading to a sense of continuity and belonging.

Pupils regularly visit the church for a wide range of events:

* School services (welcome, Christingle, Leavers), festivals (Harvest, Christmas, Mothering Sunday, Easter), Remembrance
* Taking part in the annual multi sensory Experiences, such as Harvest, Easter, Pentecost, The Lord’s Prayer and Church
* There is an open invitation for the school to make visits for RE lessons, art, etc. Members of the Ministry team have been part of sessions to explore Baptism and Weddings.
* The school would periodically supply artwork to be displayed in St Peter’s. Following the reordering in late 2019 this needs to be revisited with the PCC to find an appropriate place.
* The PTA also uses the church building for meetings.
1. **How does the church use the school building and outside space?**

St Peter’s Church has used the school hall for a variety of services – Rogation, Back to School with God, etc. During the re-ordering in 2019 the school kindly made the hall available for some church services and a welcome lunch for the Ugandan Youth Choir who were visiting the Diocese.

1. **How does this sharing enhance the relationship between church and school?**

Sharing of the school and church buildings creates a mutual ease for parishioners, parents and pupils, and a familiarity with both spaces. People feel safe and welcome in both places. As a result, families come more often when specifically invited to services, as well as for festivals. Regular communication is key to this. Both church and school are important parts of the community, and so alternate venues and work together e.g. for Carols on the Common, and contributing to the annual Scarecrow Festival.

1. **What next steps can you identify to develop this further?**

The re-ordering at St Peter’s has made the building more welcoming, and has increased the informal space, enabling meetings, activities, etc to happen more easily. The Church is keen to find ways to use this in partnership with the school.

* Invitations to church members to attend school open days, beyond a member of the ministry team
* Look at a Church stall at the school fete?
* Find new ways to display pupils artwork in the re ordered church
* Church and school might work together to create trails at the church or in the village (history, ecology) possibly in conjunction with the local history podcasts, Memories of Kington Langley

**4**
SERVICE TO THE COMMUNITY

 *The aim of this section is for everyone involved to see ministry (service) to the school as a whole church responsibility, not just the job of the clergy.*

1. **How does the leadership and congregation of the church and school work together in shared ministry for children and adults and in doing so serve others?**
* The place of the school was a key part of the parish profile when advertising for a new vicar in 2014. The church ministry team plan the work in schools and children’s work in church together as part of the church’s mission across the Benefice. Each school year a church rep meets with the school to renew their ‘covenant’ and agree a year plan.
* In recent years, with new foundation governors, the school and church have grown closer, with a governor attending PCC meetings, which aids communication, planning and more effective mutual support.
* A church rep sits on the Christian Distinctiveness Committee, which has ensured that the church has been part of developing the school vision and values, and extending the understanding of what it means to be a church school
* The church/school relationship has deep roots, which has been proved through changes in head and clergy.
* Joint projects at Harvest have benefited Doorway and The Rise Trust. Christingle raises funds for The Children’s Society. The Ghana Day and ongoing work with the Worship Council is creating a deeper relationship with Vivian, sponsored through Plan International UK. The 2020 Lent Eco Challenge is hoped to bear long term fruit, as pupils’ enthusiasm prompts change in the way the church cares for Creation.
* Working together on joint village projects e.g. active support & participation for the Scarecrow Festival, and Carols on the Common, which raise money for local charities.
* Finding creative ways to support the well being of staff and pupils (e.g. ministry team rep organising a taster session for Heartsmart) alongside the church offering pastoral support, as requested.
1. **How do the children have an effect on the life of the church, school and local community?**
* Pupils are able to be involved in church services, which brings joy and hope to the congregation
* Pupils take part in the Worship Council Get Together with local schools to share what they have learned and to inspire one another. This is an important way for pupils to share their views on worship and what it means to be a church school.
* The Worship Council provides a regular opportunity for pupils voices to be heard, and to influence how the school develops its Christian distinctiveness, e.g. shaping a question when recruiting a new head, developing a relationship with Vivian, a sponsored child.
* Pupils use their creativity to enhance the school and the church with the support of the local community e.g. NADFAS funding the mosaics, working with local artist Fi Redmond to create the worship cloth in school
* The more involvement pupils have with church, the more the congregation/clergy are challenged to shape their worship and activities, etc to authentically include children e.g. church services, Pancake Races, Holiday Club, Lent groups
* By working together, the Lent Eco Challenge has had a wider impact in the village and in families through the enthusiasm of the children
* The church, school and village community work together on joint fundraising events such as the Scarecrow Festival, supporting the Royal British Legion at Remembrance, Doorway & The Rise Trust at Harvest
1. **What next steps can you identify to develop this further?**
* The school used to host Macmillan Coffee mornings/afternoon tea. Currently hoping to explore older pupils going to Rendezvous Coffee morning at the Union Chapel to create links with elderly members of the community
* For the school to find ways of sharing their music and singing with the wider community
* To explore with PTA the idea of a Friends of School to involve the village further
* The church to support the school as it develops in Courageous Advocacy, determining which charities to support
* For the church to invite the school and village to become more involved and work together for St Peter’s to become an Eco Church, benefiting everyone.

**5**

OVERALL IMPACT

1. **What impact do you believe the partnership between church and school has had on the overall life of both the church and the school?**

The ongoing partnership between Langley Fitzurse School and St Peter’s Church enables greater communication, familiarity and practical involvement, and a wider sharing in events, which benefits pupils & their families, staff, the church and the village. Regular meetings enable planning and sharing good practice, but also result in new ideas e.g. Ghana Day, Drumhead service, celebrating Keith the Elm tree’s 10th birthday. It also enables pastoral work by the Ministry team to be more real and accessible, breaking down barriers, and deepening understanding and trust.

The church is able to support the school in collective worship, RE, developing its Christian vision and values, as well as ideas for spiritual development. A close relationship means that events such as Experiences can be more tailored to the needs of pupils, ensuring greater engagement and effectiveness. In return, the school helps the church to focus on ways of meeting the needs of families, involving pupils in services and other aspects of life in the church.

Working together throughout the year, staff, pupils and families get to know the church, both the building and the people, and the village, in different ways: welcomed at the Back to School with God service; challenged with Harvest charity projects; nourished through Crib services and Christingles; valued through Mothering Sunday and Leavers Services. In return, the church is starting to respond to the pupils’ passion and enthusiasm for the Lent Eco Challenge, and future ways of working together to care for Creation.

1. **What evidence is available to support this?**(e.g. last SIAMS views of parents and community)
* **PCC Minutes –** the school is a standing item, with a foundation governor regularly attending, resulting in the PCC contributing financially (SIAMS training for governor), sharing thoughts on the new vision, and ideas for 11 by 11.
* **Christian Ethos/Distinctiveness Meetings –** staff, governors and a rep from the church ministry team meet regularly to plan, support, share good practice and monitor the development of the distinctive Christian character of the school. Minutes available on the school website.
* **Worship Council minutes** – available on the school website
* **Village magazine –** monthly news shared to maintain the connection, and results in offers of help and volunteers, e.g. Visitors for Ghana Day
* **School newsletters –** shared with clergy to ensure up to date communication, and church events, etc advertised to families
* **PTA –** started toshare ideas, co-ordinate events, and parents now offer refreshments before school services.
* **PARENT SURVEY –** sent out in May 2020 to all parents and carers

**Evidence from SIAMs report (March 2016)**

* *On its Christian character* - Exceptionally strong links with the local church underpin the school’s Christian distinctiveness
* *On leadership* – There are invaluable links with the Diocese and the partnership between the school and the church is a high priority for both. Local clergy in particular work extremely closely with the school supporting children’s learning and regularly leading worship. Children take part in community events, such as Rogation Sunday... Festivals are celebrated at the church and are well attended by parents who praise the family feel of the school...
* *On worship* - A variety of different leaders offer children a rich experience of worship. The introduction of a children’s worship council has been instrumental in developing in worship.

PRAYER AND WORSHIP

*The aim is to ensure the existence of a real partnership in prayer and worship between the church and school.*

IDEAS FOR CHURCH AND SCHOOL:

1. Include the school community regularly in public intercession.
2. Establish a prayer or support group for the school.
3. Involve children and adults in planning collective worship and special church services.
4. Hold a regular prayer event or group in school for governors, parents, teachers, clergy and teachers to join together.
5. Include relevant school news, personnel and needs in the local church prayer calendar.
6. Plan joint worship occasions between church and school to be held in both places.
7. Have prayers and notices for the school on the church noticeboard.
8. Share prayer requests with one another and where appropriate align prayer focuses.
9. Pray for the school chaplain. Post a photo of them on the church prayer/mission board and encourage the chaplain by letting them know that they are prayed for by the church.
10. Establish a school Eucharist.
11. Include the school in special services for mid-week festivals and patronal festival.
12. Hold regular 'open' collective worship occasions in school, to which adults from the church are invited.
13. Establish a joint church and school choir or music group.
14. Invite children who are learning instruments to play them in the church for services or events.
15. Encourage church musicians to support music in school and school worship.
16. Establish a core of hymns, songs and liturgy that will be used in worship in both church and school.
17. Use quality and up-to-date collective worship resources which are readily available online or in print and share with the church those which are being used.
18. Establish ‘Education Sunday’ as a major opportunity for church and school to come together, using material circulated to parishes each year.
19. Organise training jointly for worship leaders in church and school.
20. Establish confirmation classes for those who wish to, on school premises, perhaps after school.

 ACTIVITIES IN CHURCH AND SCHOOL LIFE

*The aim is to ensure that the church and school work together as often as possible to provide practical activities to underpin this partnership.*

IDEAS FOR CHURCH AND SCHOOL:

1. Run an After-School Club or Messy Church in school.
2. Establish a holiday club or playscheme together.
3. Find ways to integrate Sunday School or All-age Worship and school programmes.
4. Share the church’s world mission links with the school and vice versa.
5. Run a joint church and school Christian Aid week with an educational, as well as fundraising dimension.
6. Organise events jointly such as Christmas activities, toy/homeless charity collections or Foodbank or shoe-box appeals.
7. Help create spaces for teaching staff and congregations to reflect theologically on the task of education.
8. Provide a special morning coffee and snacks to the staff once a month or at the end of a school term.
9. Plan an annual Church School Partnership Day on which church members visit and plan activities in school.
10. Seek out ways of listening to children's perspectives of church and the Christian faith.
11. Encourage a good flow of news through a school page in the parish magazine or church contribution to school newsletter.
12. Work with the children at the school to provide an item for a church service, such as a drama or musical item.
13. Think about opportunities for older students to serve through work experience at the church.
14. Set up and run a temporary or permanent prayer space in school. Resources that enable churches to provide these to schools can be found at www.prayerspacesinschools.com
15. Invite church members to bake or provide cakes or biscuits for the staff room. These are always welcome or could be for special occasions such as OFSTED visits, the end of terms or the feast day for the Saint associated with the school.
16. Run a Christmas or Easter themed trail in the church or school for pupils, staff and parents to visit (books with these ideas are available).
17. Include a standing agenda item on every PCC meeting about developing and deepening partnership with the school.
18. Offer to support fundraising by running a stall at the church or school fete and providing people to help out at events.
19. Have children ‘follow’ church members to learn what and why they do in their role as vicar, churchwarden, organist or other.

# THE CHURCH AND SCHOOL BUILDINGS

*The aim is to enable children and staff to meet the living church community as well as see the church building and churchyard.*

IDEAS FOR CHURCH AND SCHOOL:

1. Invite a member of the church community to tell the story of their church in a school assembly.
2. Ensure there are welcoming church members present in the church when children visit, perhaps simply doing routine tasks.
3. Take the initiative in hosting a visit from a school.
4. Ask church members to ‘share their Christian story’ in RE or collective worship.
5. Devise, perhaps with school specialists, suitable resource boxes or worksheets for when school classes visit, emphasising the Christian journey as well as church features.
6. Arrange class visits to the church to explore the symbolism and functionality of the building.
7. Discuss together how the church buildings could be used creatively so that children feel welcome in their local church. Students could be involved in these discussions by making suggestions and contributing ideas.
8. Make or find appropriate opportunities in the church diary to which children and their families may be sent special invitations, e.g. Christingle services or Education Sunday.
9. Have regular displays of school children's work in church.
10. Work with children to make an altar frontal, banners, vestments or flower displays for the church.
11. Work together to organise a church based activity day for all the school community. Make it an ecumenical venture and include the whole community.
12. Have a church stall at the school fete, or a school stall at the church fete.
13. Offer to run a pre-bookable crèche for parents for important meetings such as parent’s evenings or curriculum evenings.

SERVICE TO THE COMMUNITY

 *The aim is for everyone involved to see ministry (service) to the school as a whole church responsibility, not just the job of the clergy.*

IDEAS FOR CHURCH AND SCHOOL:

1. Include the school in the parish Mission Statement and mission planning.
2. Share with the church congregation the school vision and values, how these fit with the church mission and why all the community have responsibilities for prayer and service.
3. Invite the headteacher, member of staff or governor to speak or briefly answer questions about their role in a service.
4. Encourage people to become school governors, especially Foundation Governors, and make sure they know you value this lay ministry [www.bristol.anglican.org/schoolgovernors/](http://www.bristol.anglican.org/schoolgovernors/)
5. Ensure there is feedback from governors and a regular 'school' item on the PCC agenda.
6. Co-opt the headteacher to the PCC (but don't expect them to come to every meeting!).
7. Encourage church members to read the CE Vision for Education so they understand how transformative their input into school life can be.
8. Encourage church members to engender a "culture of affirmation" of the work of the teachers in your local school.
9. Recognise and support church members who are involved in school life wherever it is, as paid staff or volunteers, not just in the local school.
10. Include learning about church schools in the parish teaching programme.
11. Organise pastoral training and support for adults involved in school e.g. joint quiet morning, mentoring support.
12. Nurture vocations to the teaching profession and affirm and support church members who are teachers.
13. Organise or co-ordinate support for parents and "parenting". You might consider running a parenting course – see [www.npi.org.uk](http://www.npi.org.uk) for a range of resources.
14. Liaise with the school over dates and planning of 'big events' (fêtes, fund-raising etc.) and perhaps include some joint events.
15. Encourage church members to offer their time to the school to support things such as painting or listening to children read.
16. Run projects about local issues of social justice, such as Food Banks, or homelessness, together in partnership.
17. Encourage a Parent Teacher Association to become 'Friends of the School' so that it becomes open to the wider community and then encourage church members to join.
18. Organise a bible study or Alpha course in the school building during school time.
19. Read the ‘How to…’ guides on the diocesan website which cover topics such as delivering high quality assemblies, creating great all-age worship and listening to the voice of children and young people, for further ideas and inspiration about how to support your local school.