



# Belonging To The Diocesan Family

## support materials introduction



# Introduction

Church Schools are part of the diocesan family. As a diocese we have vision that shapes how we grow and work together.

## What are we about as churches, schools and Diocese?

### Generous Churches Making & Nurturing Disciples

There's the opportunity for growth everywhere! Here are the Five Marks of Growing we have agreed to help shape our vision.

#### Christ-likeness

Being a disciple means first of all being like Jesus — centred on God, shaping our whole lives in line with faith in him, being generous and loving even when it is costly.

#### Commitment

Taking faith seriously involves deepening our commitment — to Christ, to Christ's body the Church, to seeking God's kingdom. Among the ways through which we can build our commitment are regular participation in worship, generous stewardship, and letting God's gifts grow in ourselves and others.

#### Partnership

Partnership is about working with other churches, locally and globally, schools, community groups, people, organisations for the common good. It brings with it opportunities for the whole Church of God to grow in influence and numbers, as well as often making better use of scarce resources.

#### Influence

As disciples we are called to be salt and light to the whole world, and to work for peace and justice. A key part of our calling is to influence attitudes and behaviours in our communities and wider society.

#### Numbers

Jesus' last recorded command was to make disciples. We must be bold in our aim to increase the number of people associated with our churches, as worshippers and disciples. If a church is growing in numbers, it is often because it is focusing on other Marks of Growing. Increasing numbers is often a sign of spiritual health and certainly increases the Church's potential and capacity to do God's work.

This is what our vision for Generous Churches Making and Nurturing Disciples is all about. The five marks are a focus on how we work out God's mission in our Diocese. It's about growing, and working together.

These support materials are designed as a starting point for your school to explore what it means to be a part of the diocesan family. This getting started section is to support you in making visible in school what it means to belong to the diocesan family. Later in the term we will be sharing with you further support materials. These are designed to support your school and church working together to plan a short series of collective worship materials that help us think about our Five Marks of Growing and how we can live them out in our schools and local communities.



# Our Diocesan Family

## Getting started

### 'Our Diocesan Family' display

Before planning and delivering this series of collective worship we would love our schools to plan a display on the Diocese.

- Using the map provided create an 'our diocesan family' display in a classroom or central area.
- Encourage pupils to add their school, their parish church and other key buildings such as York Minster, Beverley Minster, Selby Abbey etc. on to the map.
- Encourage pupils to use the diocesan website to find out about our Archbishop and Bishops and add them to the map <http://dioceseofyork.org.uk/people-and-places/whos-who/the-archbishop-of-york/> <http://dioceseofyork.org.uk/people-and-places/whos-who/archbishops-staff/>

### Ideas for using the display through the year

- Add visits and visitors to the map as the year progresses.
- Add photos around the map of services and celebrations you hold in church. You could also print photos from York Minster at key festival times to reflect worship in the diocese (York Minster tweet and upload photos to their website <https://www.yorkminster.org/home.html> @York\_Minster )
- Regularly visit the diocesan website. There are lots of stories and events sharing what is happening in our diocese. <http://dioceseofyork.org.uk/news-events> You can also find lots of photos on the Diocesan Flickr account <https://www.flickr.com/photos/57933250@N08/albums>
- You could highlight relevant stories on the display and even write some of your own good news stories to share on the website. If you have a good news story to share then do email our communications officer Eleanor Course [ecourse@yorkdiocese.org](mailto:ecourse@yorkdiocese.org)

