



Creating new relationships with schools

How does the Church start building meaningful relationships with schools?

Leicester Diocesan Board of Education

Transforming the lives of children & young people through effective, distinctive, rooted & inclusive education



Theological basis

Let the little children
come to me
and do not hinder them,
for to such belongs
*the kingdom
of heaven.*

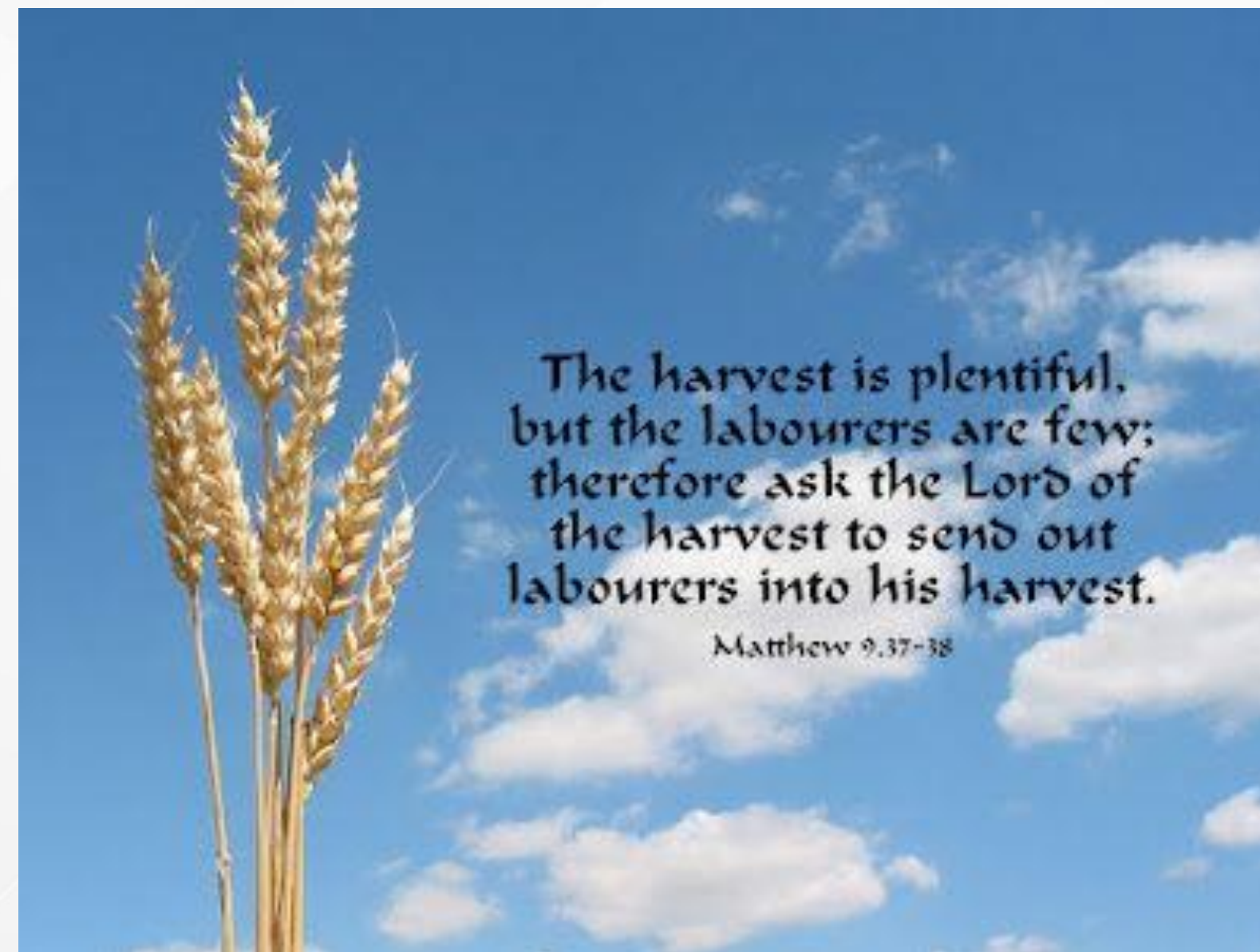
Matthew 19:14 (ESV)

DoNotDepart.com



Theological basis

Matthew 9:35, "Jesus went through all the towns and villages, teaching in their synagogues, preaching the good news of the kingdom and healing every disease and sickness".



Polite persistence

- Do not expect a response first time – schools are busy places!
- If you have emailed to introduce yourself, follow up a couple of weeks later
- Think about when you are communicating – beginning and end of terms are busy!
- Don't expect to be able to speak with the head straight away
- Can you ring the office and ask if emails have been received? Make it clear that you are open to support the school in anyway they need.
- Can you turn up in person, so they know who you are?
- Can you take a basket of goodies in for the staff at difficult times of year (parents evening / exam season etc...) with a letter from the Church?
- Can you utilise contacts and relationships that are already in place – e.g. / Academy
- Speak their language – RE / CW coordinator (CofE schools) / spiritual and celebrations / CW / assemblies / volunteers to help out / prayer school



What do schools need?

- Important to build relationships and communication with schools slowly and ask this question: How can we help you? How can we serve you? What areas do you feel you need volunteers for and help with?
- Budgets are tight – they might be glad of some help to paint or do some gardening. Forest school maintenance?
- Governors – particularly foundation governors in a CofE school.
- People to hear pupils read.
- People to volunteer to walk children to Church / swimming etc...
- Visitors for RE lessons / CW / assemblies
- Volunteers to run lunch clubs, afterschool clubs
- Volunteers to make teas and coffees at parent's evenings.

START SMALL AND BUILD UP FROM THERE. ALL COMES FROM RELATIONSHIPS



Thinking time

What has resonated with you on this training?

Is there one idea you would like to explore further?

What is involved in taking this forward? Who is involved?

What barriers might there be in taking this forward?





THANK YOU

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