**Lay Chaplaincy in Schools Curriculum outline**

The overall aim for the course is to:

**Develop a group of fully trained, equipped and motivated lay persons who feel a sense of role clarity and support and are being used to their full extent by the schools.**

**We want to offer a chaplaincy specialism that will serve both the school and the mission of the church in the school context.**

The structure of the course is built upon two premises:

1. That the **mission of God** is at the heart of ministry in schools.
2. That **building relationships** is at the heart of chaplaincy in schools.

**Framework of the course:**

14 sessions, 3 hours each (6:30-9:30)

3 weekend workshops

Every session will start/end with prayer and make use of Bible verses/Scripture to ensure a theological foundation and enough time for theological reflection

Group discussion/case studies

Homework

**Session 1: Chaplaincy in context: Introduction**

* Introduction: About the course
* Introduction of course participants/”icebreaker”
* Defining chaplaincy
* Chaplaincy in a theological context
* Why do we have CofE schools and what is the role chaplain in a CofE school?
* Why have a school chaplain?
* Group work: Core chaplaincy values
* Homework

**Session 2: Chaplaincy in context: The role**

* Lay chaplain role description
* Core chaplaincy competences
* Examples of chaplaincies in schools
* Ethics
* Chaplaincy in a theological context: Christ as pastor, Christ as priest etc
* Group work/discussion: Participants reflect upon their own role; what they are good at, what areas they need training in and what type of chaplaincy role they can see themselves having

**Session 3 and 4: Pastoral care**

* Theological foundation and reflection: How do you inspire/offer insight to people
* Building trust and relationships/finding ways into the community/being present
* Who are you there for? Staff, governors, parents, pupils?
* What is your "way in"?
* Creating a “culture of sharing”
* How do you react in a conflict situation?
* Confidentiality
* Protecting yourself and the people you are talking with (practical scenarios: What would you do if this happens)
* Safeguarding and reporting (legislation/legal implications)
* Finding a supervisor/confidant in church (need of support)
* Group work/discussion: How can I do this? What am I good at? Evaluation tool - awareness of limitations
* Homework: Find a supervisor/confidant in your local church or neighbouring parish/deanery

**Session 5: Contemporary education: What is school?**

* Structure of the education system
* How education is funded
* Governance
* How the curriculum is set and how schools are tested and graded (Ofsted, SATS, SIAMS)
* Reflection on power
* Reflection on the nature of knowledge for individuals and organisations
* Group work/discussion: What is the role of a chaplain in "carrying the school's ethos and holding people to account"?
* Homework

**Session 6: Contemporary education: Pedagogy and teaching methods**

* Christian pedagogy
* Reflection on learning
* School culture and ethos: What does it say?
* How are schools Christian communities
* Educational politics, dominant ideology of education and education from a Christian perspective
* Disadvantaged groups/families, the effects of disadvantage and how the support works within the educational system
* Group work/discussion

**Session 7: Relationship and witness: What is church?**

* Love x Relate x Create
* What is church?
* Fresh expressions of church
* Permission and understanding: Who is inviting you (head, staff, children, clergy)?
* Are you working on behalf of your local church or are you building a church in the school?
* How do you get support/engage with the school?
* Projects/things to set up (eg Prayer Spaces, prayer groups, breakfast clubs)
* Group work/discussion: What do we mean by "evangelism"? What is evangelism in school? Power/influence in working with children
* Homework

**Session 8: Relationship and witness: Faith talk**

* How do we make it easier to share faith in everyday conversations
* Practical exercises on “faith talk”
* Group work on “faith talk”

**Session 9 and 10: Spirituality**

* Human spirituality (how do we think about people)
* Children's spirituality
* School's spirituality
* Teacher's spirituality
* Group work/discussion: How can a chaplain be a support for children's, teacher's and school's spirituality and how do we get the children's voice heard by the teachers?
* Homework

**Session 11: RE**

* What is RE
* Legal status of RE
* Overview of RE syllabus
* The difference between "school RE" and "faith RE"
* What is the role of a school chaplain when it comes to RE?
* Group work/discussion: How can we inspire teachers and pupils to move towards *why* we learn about religion; not just *what*
* Homework

**Session 12: Collective worship**

* What is worship
* What is collective worship
* How to do collective worship in schools
* Group work/discussion: How can the chaplain get involved in collective worship (be on the team/committee) even if not leading the worship themselves?
* Homework

**Session 13: Relationship with the Church**

**(Each participant invites a member from their local church/deanery/parish to join them in this session)**

* Building a strategy for your work that supports both the church's mission action plan AND the school's plan/strategy
* Build a link between church (congregation) and school
* Communicating with and reporting back to the church
* Building a team/become part of the ministry team in your church (if there is one) and making sure the incumbent/ministry team "owns" your ministry position
* How to build strong partnerships and avoid feeling “isolated”
* Funding and finance - working on behalf of the PCC
* Group work/discussion: Team up with your representative from church and discuss *how you can develop* your relationship (and the relationship between church and school)
* Homework: Set up a meeting with the incumbent/ministry team in your local church or in the parish to discuss a strategy for your work

**Session 14: Network and resources**

* Guideline for a conversation with your local headteacher
* CsoC and Diocesan people and projects
* SCALA: The school chaplains and leaders association (membership benefits etc)
* Building a network of lay chaplains (e.g. ALM network evenings once a term?)
* Creating a job description
* Group discussion: Go back to the core values of school chaplaincy discussed in the first session and agree on three

**Conflict resilience: WORKSHOP**

**Listening skills and body language: WORKSHOP**

**Basic coaching skills: WORKSHOP**