

## Huyton Deanery Schools Ministry Strategy

Sep 2025 – Sep 2027

### Context Statement –

Currently, there are five Church of England Schools and twenty Community Schools across the Deanery with which we are engaged in ministry. Some Ministry also takes place in Roman Catholic Schools through local agreement on an ad hoc basis.

St Gabriel's C of E \*

Hope Primary Joint Faith School\*

St Mary and St Paul's C of E\*

Huyton with Roby C of E

Kirkby C of E

The Schools marked asterisk are supported by myself with the local parish. The other two C of E Schools are supported by their local parish and do not feel they require regular direct support from myself. This is kept under review as situations change.

The Deanery can be rightly proud of what it has achieved through its investment in Schools Ministry so far. Hope Primary Joint Faith School now has Rebecca (Deanery Schools and Youth Worker) seconded for two days a week as their School Chaplain. The School has their very own School Chapel which is used to help children to develop and grow in their faith through planning and leading worship and prayer space opportunities. Hope Primary School had their SIAMS Inspection in September 2025 and overall grade was Outstanding.

Working with Rev Jonty Forster, the local parish priest, has been encouraging and has enabled the school to access church services and receive support with the RE curriculum. Also Rebecca and Rev Jonty being key members of the Governing Body for the School. In Hope Primary Schools recent SIAMS Inspection Report "The Chaplain is a real asset to Hope Primary School and supports staff and pupils with the delivery of Collective Worship widely across the School" and "The appointment of a chaplain to support worship in the School has enhanced the provision of Collective Worship".

St Gabriel's C of E Primary School working with closely with Associate Vicar who is the School Link to provide weekly Collective Worship for School at Church. Supporting the Associate Vicar with planning a two year cycle of the Bible for Collective Worship. Also supporting and planning experience days for the School to attend Church around the seasons of the year e.g.

Harvest, Christmas, Lent, Easter. St Gabriel's had a recent SIAMS Inspection in 2025 and received an overall grade of Good.

St Mary and St Paul's Primary School working closely with Rev Kimberely Mannings and Rev Tom Hurst Curate to provide weekly Collective Worship for School. Also supporting and planning Prayer Spaces for the School to attend at Church or in the School around the seasons of the year e.g. Christmas, Lent, Pentecost and Moving on. Attending termly meetings with the School Worship Committee to pray, support and listen to their ideas for worship in School. In a recent visit from Bishop Ruth Worsley (Bishop of Liverpool) Paul the Headteacher shared how Rebecca is part of the team at St Mary and St Paul's alongside Rev Kim and Rev Tom and hugely grateful for the team.

Outside of my work directly in the Deanery I work with Prayer Spaces in Schools as a Networker and Ambassador. This involves two meetings a year online praying, supporting and sharing ideas with other networkers across the region. I have been invited and attended conferences for training with Prayer Spaces in Schools.

Being part of the Triangle of Hope Youth Pilgrimage Team as Programming Lead. In our cohort of Youth Pilgrims eight are from our Deanery across three Churches.

Meeting other Schools Workers termly across the Diocese to pray, share ideas and support one another. Working with some of those Schools Workers in the Diocese in the annual Children's Society Christingle/ Pentecost Praise Services at Liverpool Cathedral.

There is a lot of good – from this strong foundation there are also some challenges – with the right focus and further investment the Deanery can engage with lingering challenges. These include:

Some of these schools belong to different trusts which can make it challenging to be part of the deanery family of schools.

There is a shortage of volunteers to assist with Schools ministry in the Deanery.

Communication across Schools and Schools Ministry providers in the Deanery is not consistent resulting in some Schools feeling isolated etc.

Some Schools have their own established ways of working and it has been challenging to engage them with Deanery and other resources.

### **Schools Ministry: DLT Vision**

For all Schools across Huyton Deanery to have Christian Ministry supported and nurtured by Rebecca Hooton and the growing team of volunteers.

### **Bringing the Vision about –**

- Develop and maintain an up-to-date map of schools currently engaged in ministry, as well as those with potential for future involvement - C of E and Community Schools.
- Convene a gathering of those ministering in Schools twice or three times a year to offer support, pray together and share ideas. This would also provide us with an opportunity to discuss resources and how the Deanery Academy might support their ministry.
- Develop a Hub of resources e.g. Experience Packs and Prayers Spaces available to any School in the Deanery. Also for worship and other events for those schools who don't currently have a minister going in or those who lack confidence in leading worship.
- Develop the current Schools Page on the Deanery Website to include the Dynamic Map of the Schools which are represented across our Deanery. Their Prayer needs and requests etc.
- Explore the recruitment of volunteers to create additional capacity for Schools work across the Deanery and provide additional training opportunities e.g. Scripture Union.
- Organise a Deanery Schools Conference once every three years underlining the Deaneries commitment to Schools Ministry. Building on the success of the 2024 Deanery Conference, to host a Deanery Conference in 2027 around the themes of Schools Ministry and Children and Young People.
- Develop a prayer network for all Schools, so that all Schools Leaders receive the assurance of our prayers regularly.
- Publish a Schools Ministry Newsletter to be shared digitally across all Schools in the Deanery.
- Ensure the Deanery Leadership Team remains updated throughout the strategy period including any ongoing adjustments required and a review beginning Q3 in year two.
- Implement the strategy according to a revised deanery schools work budget overseen by the Deanery Operations Lead.

### **Outcomes –**

- All Primary Schools throughout the Deanery will be clear about what resources the Deanery has to offer and be encouraged to use these resources.

- By the end of the second year of the strategy, establish a confident and well-trained cohort of volunteers supporting schools ministry across the Deanery. Overseen and supported by Rebecca.
- Dedicated up to date digital resources and presence on the Deanery Website.
- From 2025-26 establish termly gatherings for all involved in Schools Ministry across the Deanery. Involving the chapter and wider deanery to ensure all Schools are encouraged. Feedback from these meetings to continuously shape delivery through ongoing adjustments.