

## Outcomes—Faith grows through...

### ...BEING

*fostering attitudes that demonstrate children and young people are...*

### ...and DOING

*activities that 'happen' in the central intersection*

### Valued

*Recognised as created in God's image, not learning to be*

### Encountering God

*Opportunities for prayer, spiritual encounters, expressing faith etc.*

### Included

*Children and young people feel a sense of belonging*

### Conversations about Faith

*Opportunities to hear and share stories of discipleship, normalising the spiritual*

### seen as Equals

*The inherent culture of the community perceives them as Fellow Pilgrims*

### Relationships

*Connections within community, safe space, interacting across generations*

*None of these happen in isolation—it is in the dynamic interaction between the 'beings' and 'doings' that fertile ground is cultivated where faith may grow.*

*"Growing Faith seeks to bring the three spheres of church, households and schools together—in how we think and in what we do—for ministry with children and young people to enable them to live out a lifelong faith in the whole of life."*



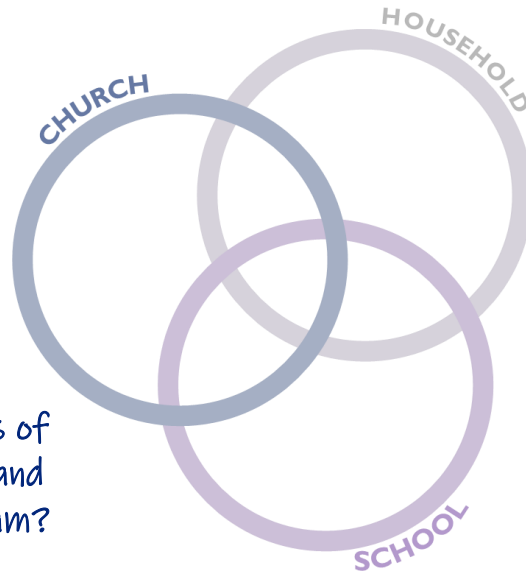
THE CHURCH  
OF ENGLAND  
GROWING FAITH

*The Growing Faith Adventure is a call for the renewal of hearts and minds so that it becomes second nature to include and value children, young people and households in every aspect of church life for the lifelong formation of faith in the whole of life.*

*February 2020*

Growing Faith promotes a partnership between the three communities of Church, School and Household to enable the discovery, exploration and growth of faith for **all** in those communities. The partnership is imagined as intersections of a set of overlapping spheres to find and promote ways to help faith to grow with children, young people and households.

Where would the people active in your worshipping community fit in this diagram?



Where do the activities of the church, household and school fit in this diagram?

Each 'sphere' might already be interacting with one of the others, but more contexts need to demonstrate clear and fruitful interaction between all three – the 'central intersection'. The intersections encourage a joint venture or activity seeking opportunities for developing prayer and gathering for worship, leading to conversations about Christian faith being normalised. The question Growing Faith is asking of worshipping communities is whether our **DOING** has helped us **BECOME** the whole people of God?

**What are the shifts in attitude needed that will enable that becoming?**

## What might Growing Faith look like?

Some questions to discern the answer:

1. Who is it for?
2. Does it connect communities and develop relationships so that children and young people are included?
3. Is there the opportunity for children and young people to have spiritual encounters?
4. Where are the opportunities for children and young people to share the story of their encounters?

## Growing Faith Principles

Three principles are shaping our approach to Growing Faith:

**Connected Communities** - looking for the meaningful connected community of faith in the intersection between church, school and households.

**Spiritual Encounters** - engaging in conversations about and expressing faith as people encounter God as individuals and together.

**Imaginative Practices** - searching for 'a new way of being church' and creating new thinking and new doing in relation to children, young people and households.

Assessing any activity, vision or attitude through the three Growing Faith principles helps to draw the thinking toward that central intersection where all three communities are operating in partnership.

The vision is a call to aim for the central intersection of the three sphere, so that our communities of faith might include and value children and young people as fellow pilgrims.