



# FACCTS: Looking Forward

## Our vision for the next five years

### INTRODUCTION

FACCTS - Fleet and Crookham Churches Together in Schools - is a community youth project established by the churches in Fleet and Crookham to serve the schools in our community. Established in 2002, we currently employ two people (one full-time, one part-time) who work mainly in our secondary schools, taking assemblies, PSHE and RE lessons, assisting with pastoral care, helping with Christian Unions and extended school activities, and supporting school staff. In addition there are five (soon to be six) Christian clubs based in our junior schools which are run by unpaid volunteers.

Our aim is to provide appropriate and complementary resources to schools for the spiritual and moral education of students and give them the opportunity to hear about the Christian faith in a relevant way. We recognise that FACCTS is not the only way in which churches work with schools but we believe it does provide some specific advantages to schools and churches and is appropriate for certain projects.

This **consultation document** explains the background and detail of the work in which we are currently engaged and outlines the potential opportunities for expanding that work. We hope that it will prompt conversation, engage and challenge everyone with a stake in the education of our children: schools, churches, teachers, individual church members so that, as it is refined, it becomes a blueprint for the FACCTS team to develop the work over the next few years.

**We passionately believe in the education of our young people and that, working together, we all have a role to play in that process. Please consider the ideas and plans outlined in this document and then communicate your response to the FACCTS team as soon as you can. We want to hear from you!**

### MISSION STATEMENT

**In response to Christ's call upon our lives, we seek to serve the students and staff in our local schools and to be a Christian witness and resource in our community.**

### AIMS

1. On behalf of CTFC (*Churches Together in Fleet & Crookham*), to work in partnership with schools on activities and projects which are relevant and important to them;
2. To participate in the spiritual and moral education of young people;
3. To engage in youth-based activities, available to all, and with a Christian ethos;
4. To support and encourage school staff in appropriate ways;
5. To offer a Christian foundation for people's lives.

## STRATEGY

Through FACCTS, churches will:

1. Provide trained and experienced Christian schools worker(s);
2. Provide unpaid, vetted Christian volunteers who are equipped to work independently in schools or alongside the schools workers;
3. Work in partnership with schools to identify further ways in which local churches can support their work.

## THEMES

In order to help focus and prioritise initiatives and opportunities, we have grouped individual projects and activities into eight **themes**:

- Curriculum support**
- Christian foundations**
- Supporting school staff**
- Extended hours schemes**
- Pastoral support**
- Engaging with developing countries**
- Sixth Form links**
- Enhancing youth work**

The first four of these themes are already being fulfilled to some extent by existing projects; the rest remain speculative at this stage although we aim to implement them within five years if approved and funded. The response to these ideas will help to shape the future work of FACCTS and each theme will be reviewed annually with churches and stakeholders (headteachers, teachers, school governors, clergy, and church members).

Each theme is described by its scope (or purpose), how it will be achieved (the method), the resources needed and the anticipated outcome.

### 1 - Curriculum Support

- Scope** Support junior and secondary schools during school hours or at events that form part of the schools programme by providing input from a Christian perspective on religious and/or non-religious topics, through lessons, assemblies and other activities.
- Method** Participate in RE (*Religious Education*) & PSHE (*Personal, Social & Health Education*) lessons, sports coaching, residentials and other school activities that complement the curriculum.
- Resources** Schools workers and volunteers with specific skills, e.g., storytelling, talking about career experiences, helping to run clubs, etc. There will be some expenditure to cover salaries, training, vetting costs and equipment.
- Outcomes** Enable schools to deliver a broader range of curriculum based activities. Contribute towards improving students' attitudes and perspectives through access to wider community role models.

### 2 - Christian Foundations

- Scope** Provide and promote activities with a clear Christian link to help students and staff to understand our faith.

- Method** Engage the young people in activities such as lunch-time clubs, faith-based groups, town-wide youth events, Christmas and Easter presentations.
- Resources** Limited input from schools workers although they may initiate activities. FACCTS will work with churches to ensure appropriate communication, training, vetting and resourcing of volunteers for all projects that come under its banner. There will be some expenditure to fund the schools worker input, vetting costs, training and materials.
- Outcomes** Enrich the range of in-school and extended-hours activities which are available for schools to promote confidently to their students.

### 3 - Supporting school staff

- Scope** Provide practical and visible moral support and encouragement to staff in schools as representatives of the Christian community in the town.
- Method** Offer regular thanks and encouragement, e.g., break-time coffee, breakfast and BBQ opportunities. Also offer practical support through encouraging members of the Christian community to offer themselves as school governors or to help with specific school projects, etc.
- Resources** Schools workers to identify and grow opportunities which will mainly be staffed by appropriately skilled volunteers. There will be some expenditure to fund volunteer recruitment and training, vetting costs, and consumables (coffee, doughnuts, etc.).
- Outcomes** Staff are positively aware of how valued they are by Christians and others in Fleet and Crookham.

### 4 - Extended Hours Schemes

- Scope** Support young people in out-of-school activities, under the auspices of the Government's Extended Hours scheme.
- Method** Participate in Extended Hours initiatives developed by Hampshire County Council and local schools; e.g., homework clubs, sports coaching and other activities. Where appropriate expand these by encouraging local churches to offer "Extended schemes" as service providers to schools and Hampshire County Council, either alone or in partnership with other organisations.
- Resources** Schools workers plus appropriately skilled volunteers. Some expenditure to fund the school worker contribution, volunteer recruitment and training, vetting costs.
- Outcomes** Provide young people with structured extended hours activities that will provide safe and interesting settings to stimulate their development.

### 5 - Pastoral Support

- Scope** Work with individual students to help promote their mental, physical, social and spiritual well-being.
- Method** Offer mentoring and/or counselling on relationships and other issues to students identified by the schools and who willingly agree to participate.
- Resources** Schools workers and recognised counsellors from the Christian community working within the school pastoral care system. Some expenditure to fund specific skills training and development plus some 'away-day' activities.
- Outcomes** Help students overcome academic or behavioural difficulties, improve life-skills and thus increase the opportunities open to them.

## 6 - Engaging with developing countries

- Scope** To educate and involve young people about the issues facing the developing world.
- Method** To initiate a project to take groups of Year 10/11 students overseas to experience at firsthand the lives and experiences of people living in developing countries.
- Resources** Schools workers, staff and parent volunteers to plan and deliver a trip by 2010. It is anticipated that this would mainly be self-funded by the students.
- Outcomes** Students obtain a better understanding of developing countries needs and expectations through first-hand experience.

## 7 - Sixth Form links

- Scope** Support for 6th Form and Tertiary college staff and students.
- Method** Run an appropriate transition programme for Year 11 students similar to "It's Your Move" in junior schools. Visit and liaise with their CU (*Christian Union*) and related groups to participate in their programmes and promote area youth events.
- Resources** Part-time involvement of schools workers during the summer term and intermittently at other times. There will be some costs for schools worker input and materials.
- Outcomes** Students make a better transition to college and thus perform better and faster than otherwise. Also have more opportunities to access Christian-based activities.

## 8 - Enhancing youth work

- Scope** Encourage closer collaboration and sharing of experiences between schools and youth workers within our Christian community and so improve the effectiveness of explaining/demonstrating our common message.
- Method** Initiate regular meetings between youth workers (paid and volunteer) within the town, to collaborate on training opportunities, cross-working, etc.
- Resources** Schools workers to set up meetings, away-days and related activities to engender better and closer working relationships. There will be some expenditure for specialist trainers and materials.
- Outcomes** Schools workers and volunteers feel part of a larger community, helping them to work better, use other workers to complement schools work and vice-versa and thus produce better results.

## PEOPLE, FINANCE & OTHER IMPLICATIONS

### Organisation/Management

CTFC (*Churches Together in Fleet & Crookham*) to provide Directors who are motivated and empowered to move schools work forward.

Directors responsibilities include appointing and supervising workers, managing finances, developing effective communications, and engaging people in active prayer ministry.

### Staffing

Move to two full-time schools workers plus one part-time office administrator.

Associates (volunteers) to provide lunch-time clubs in each junior school.

More associates to enable planned extension of work under the agreed themes.

### Communications

Develop more effective communications to reach all shareholders and stakeholders via the web site, regular newsletters and other publicity.

Provide an on-going prayer ministry underpinning all the themes.

### Expenditure

Current annual operating cost for themes 1 - 4, is around £45k.

An additional annual income of £10 - 15k is required to realise potential developments (themes 5 - 8). This would enable our part-time worker to become full-time, provide training for both workers and associates, and meet costs for materials and recruitment/vetting.

### Funding

Our current operating costs are met by £26k from churches, £8k from individuals, £12k from one-off "semi-regular" donations from individuals, and £1.5k from local authority grants, all of which we are grateful to receive.

We will also intend approaching other sources such as external trusts.

At the end of September 2008, our funds covered about six months' operating costs.

### Compliance – Policies, practices, training

Operate under SU (*Scripture Union*) policies, including recruitment, vetting (including CRB), risk management, and that all staff (paid/unpaid) are trained and agree to operate to these policies.

Take out annual public liability indemnity insurance.

Directors report annually to shareholders/stakeholders on progress and finances.

## Affiliations

Continue to subscribe to appropriate umbrella organisations to enhance the capability and credibility of FACCTS. These organisations provide advice, support, training, policies, national perspective etc:

- Churches Together in Fleet & Crookham
- Scripture Union (under their Affiliates Scheme)

## CURRENT NEEDS

- Directors committed to active involvement in the work of FACCTS
- A person to develop and lead our communication efforts
- An additional £10 - 15k per annum. Ideally this will come mainly as pledges from individuals (for example 50 to 75 people giving £20 per month, ideally over 3 years).
- Additional volunteers to enable the themes to move forward and expand.

## YOUR RESPONSE

We would value your response to the ideas proposed in this document. You may feel able to:

- comment on our current activities and themes, or on those we are proposing for the future;
- make some helpful suggestions about how we could implement some of our aims;
- pledge your help in terms of time or money.

Whatever the case, please contact us soon - we're looking forward to hearing from you.

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