



## Celebrating our East Devon Church Schools Collaborative Partnership!

Withycombe Raleigh C of E Primary School  
Feniton C of E Primary School  
Tipton St John C of E Primary School  
St Martin's C of E Primary and Nursery School

The changing world of education means that schools need to adapt the ways in which they work. We have been fortunate to work with other schools for some considerable time and have found that collaborating with others has brought many benefits including:-

- Improving outcomes for all children
- Supporting each other in our Church school ethos and values
- Enabling leaders to share inspiration and ideas
- Saving money through shared projects
- Developing teacher expertise through shared practice
- Successfully applying for grants
- Saving time by sharing policies and procedures
- Developing Governing Board expertise and working practices
- Sharing resources across schools – both physical and human

Here are some examples of the projects we have been involved with to date:

- Developing working memory in reception children
- Training for teachers who were new in Year 5
- Opportunities for new subject leaders to shadow experienced subject leaders
- Quality assurance of writing standards across the schools
- Training in 'Talk for Writing' and 'Story Telling Curriculum' for teachers
- Training in Maths for teachers
- Sharing of Friday Parent Information Sessions which are held at Withycombe Primary
- Visits to each other's schools to develop good practice across all the schools

In order to further strengthen our partnership we have entered into a Collaborative Partnership Agreement. This Agreement enables each school to maintain its own individuality and ethos whilst maximising the benefits of working together.

### Q&A

What is a collaborative partnership?

A group of schools that have agreed to work together for the benefit of the children in each of the schools involved. The governors and leaders in each of the schools have signed an agreement to commit to working collaboratively.

Will this cost my school anything?

Each school should benefit financially from working in this way and each school will continue to hold and manage their own, individual budgets.

Will it change who leads my child's school?

No – each school will retain its own Governing Board and school leadership team.

Will this change who teaches my child?

No, schools will continue to make their own staffing arrangements.

Will this change how my child is taught?

The collaboration is aiming to further improve teaching and learning across all the schools involved.

Who leads this collaboration?

A joint committee made up of governors from each of the schools involved and the headteachers of each school.

How do I know what happens and how decisions are made?

The Collaboration Agreement and the minutes of the committee will be published on each school's website and through newsletters.

Can our school get out of this arrangement if it doesn't work for them?

Yes, there is a process for leaving the collaboration contained within the agreement between the schools.

If I want to find out more who do I ask?

You can ask leaders at the schools – headteachers or governors.

Exeter Diocese and Devon County Council are both in favour of this collaborative partnership.