

# Charter Practices : Prayerful Support

Our children's, youth and family ministry is central to our church's vision and provision, receiving our prayerful support at all times. A helpful way of framing this might be to reference the Growing Faith Foundation symbols - the three areas of Church, Home and School - recognising the ministry to children and young people happens across these areas. As a church we recognise the holistic nature of ministry as children and young people spend time in church, home and school.

**In ministry, personal times of prayer, study, retreat and reflection are not to be seen as added extras, but essential for a healthy ministry life. Jesus, in the midst of the demands of ministry, needed time to pray and rest, even when everyone was looking for him (Mark 1.37)**

**(Start Here)** : *Just adopted the charter? It isn't about agreeing with a document, but more about the way the practices become part of our church life together and shape the kind of support we offer to both salaried and volunteer children's and youth ministers. 'Start Here' is a straightforward way of putting the charter in to practice.*

Starting Practice -

- We pray for our children's, youth, family team on a regular basis as part of our regular cycle of prayer (using social media, church newsletter, prayer chain etc).

**(Developed practice)** : *Keen to move things along? Once the starting practices have become embedded, start to add the following when you feel ready.*

Developing Practice -

- Publicly commissioning and praying for our children's, youth and family team on an annual basis in front of the whole church family. We have a day set aside (September or January) when this is done as part of our main act of worship together.
- An external mentor for our employed minister(s) and ensure they meet on a regular basis. We have amended the job description to include a reference to this.
- We have encouraged the children's, youth, family minister to create a prayer team from within the church who will commit regularly to praying for the children's, youth, family minister and the work they are carrying out.
- Holding an annual night of prayer with prayer stations, input from children and young people on the themes that they would like prayer for etc.

**(Add your own)** : *The starting and developing practices are ideas to get you off and running, we would love you to add your own practices and then share them with us so we can share them with others.*



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