

Some of the local examples of churches taking up these opportunities are:

- In the village of Southwater, Sussex there is an exciting ecumenical project involving the local Anglican, Methodist and URC churches. In a community building in the heart of the village they run a variety of after school activities. There is an after school drop in for 11+, an arts and craft club for 7 -10s, and a Junior youth club for 10-14s. The Christian youth worker employed by the project works closely with the local community and County Youth services.
- 'Stars' After School Club for 5-11 year olds, is part of the outreach for Tewkesbury Methodist Church, started by their Stewards and Youth Enabler. The Walking Bus, consisting of volunteers who supervise the children who are picked up from the local Church of England School for the 10 minute walk to the Church Hall, takes the children to the Club. Activities range from craft to games with separate Club afterwards as 'Kid's Church' for those who wish.
- Whaddon Homework Club, operating as a Charity in its own right, has existed to provide educational opportunities for 5-11 year olds, in the heart of a housing estate in Cheltenham. The United Church of St Michael, which is Methodist and Anglican, provides the majority of volunteers and the Club is situated in the Cornerstone Community Centre built onto the side of the Church. Every Tuesday for 2 hours after school they run a wide ranging Activity Programme. 'J4U' runs as a separate Club afterwards for worship which all children are invited to stay on for.

For further information on opportunities and guidance on Extended Services please visit:

www.cgmcontheweb.com

or contact secretary@cgmcontheweb.com

Produced by CGMC, a network of Churches Together in Britain and Ireland on behalf of our members

Every Church Matters



Extended Opportunities
for children - and churches...

An introduction to Extended Schools
for Local Churches



CHURCHES TOGETHER
IN BRITAIN AND IRELAND

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What is an Extended School?

An Extended School, or Extended Service, is a school where there will be a greater range of services available to children and parents. It is the government's intention that every child will have access to year round activities outside school hours. Schools will work with a range of partners to provide access to these services. These will include support provided by other agencies such as health and social care, child care for primary school pupils, support for parents and more use of the school's facilities by the community. These will take place before and after school and during the school holidays. This is an important part of the Government's focus on children and the Every Child Matters programme. For more details visit www.everychildmatters.gov.uk

Will every school be extended?

Yes, by 2010 the intention is that all schools will offer access to a range of services. Schools are being encouraged to work in clusters and in partnership with new and existing private and voluntary sector providers to offer services across a geographical area. Schools will not necessarily offer everything on their own site.

How does this affect me?

As schools develop their extended services they will be looking for partners. These extended services mean that children and parents may have a wide variety of before- and after-school activities as well as out-of-term options to choose from. Your current children's work may be able to become part of these Extended Services or you may wish to develop something new in partnership with the school.

Why should my church get involved?

This is an important opportunity for your Church to be part of developing new community initiatives, and now is the time to get involved.

Extended schools may become the natural community focus for children's activities, and churches are a natural place for children and young people too.

What does this mean for our existing children's work in the Church?

Your work with children may be able to continue much as it has done before. There may be changes in the context, such as the other activities on offer and in the minimum set standard of training required to work with children (including the voluntary sector). To be part of an extended school you may need to comply with Ofsted requirements. Your Local Authority will be able to help you more with this. Remember these services are optional, and their extent will be decided in each local community.

Who do I talk to about this?

Firstly, find out if other churches in your area have had any discussions about this and see if you can work together. Contact your local schools and find out what they are planning and who is co-ordinating the plans. It is important that you know what your Local Authority is planning to offer the children and young people in your area. Each now has an Extended Schools Remodelling Adviser and a plan for Children and Young People. You can access these through their website or one of the sites listed on the back of this leaflet. Your own denomination's support staff can help too.