



## Ideas to use in running a pray for Schools event

**The Lord's Prayer** (Matthew 6:9-13): suggest setting up a number of prayer stations around the room and giving people time to visit as many or as few as they would like to. Stations are outlined below. Explain that the Lord's prayer offers us a pattern for prayer rather than simply a prayer to be repeated.

As an alternative to this approach you could simply run the event using the 6 sections below consecutively. A PowerPoint for this approach is available from the website.

### ***Station 1: 'Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name'***

**Materials needed:** Flipchart paper/pad and pens. Post it notes. Text for instructions

**Instructions:** Have the text below printed out and stuck to the centre of the flipchart

**Additional Bible resources:** Ephesians 3:14-19 Paul's prayer for the Ephesians focuses on people growing in their understanding of God the Father.

There are various names used for God in the Bible. Write one or two of them on the flipchart in front of you.

Now pause and think about the local schools in your area.

There are opportunities for God's name to be hallowed in the curriculum through RE & Collective worship. Give thanks to God for these opportunities.

You may know of people with responsibilities for these areas in your local schools: teachers, church leaders, schools & youth workers. If you know their names, write them on a post it and stick it to the flipchart.

Pray this prayer for them

*'Heavenly Father we thank you for the freedom and opportunities we have to share the words of the Bible in our schools. We pray for all those with responsibility for teaching RE and delivering collective worship. Give them clarity, wisdom and clear thinking as they communicate what the Bible teaches about you. May your name be glorified through what they do. Amen.'*



## **Station 2: 'Your kingdom come'**

**Materials needed:** In advance photocopy Appendix 1 which shows three windows from an imaginary school corridor. Provide enough copies for individuals to take one each. Pens

**Instructions:** print the text below and place 5 or 6 copies for people to use at the station.

**Additional Bible resources:** Use the images of salt and light in Matthew 5:13-16 to think about those followers of Jesus in your local schools.

Think about the idea of God's kingdom.

What does it look like?

What evidence would there be of God's kingdom in our schools?

You have an image of an imaginary school corridor in front of you.  
Take one.

In the first window write down the words that come to mind when you think of God's kingdom.

Now think about the Christians who spend most of their time in your local schools; teachers, support staff, young people and children. They are there as God's visual aid.

Write these roles in the second window.

Think about the pressures that Christians face as they try to represent God's kingdom in their local schools. Write these in the third window.

Take time to pray for Christians in your local schools. Pray that they would effectively witness to God's kingdom through what they say and do.



### **Station 3: 'Your will be done on earth as it is in heaven'**

**Materials needed:** Map of the area – as large as possible. If one is not available, then sketch one out on a large piece of paper that you can lay out on the floor. You need to be able to identify on the map the location of your local schools and your local authority offices. Tea lights and tea light holders. Matches (Check if there are any issues at your venue about use of candles and smoke alarms).

**Instructions:** the focus of this station is those who have authority for decision making. Our desire is that their decisions would be in accordance with God's will. Gather around the map

**Alternatives for a large group:** give everyone a tea light and then imagine the room that you are in as a map. Get people to go and stand in a location in the room that represents the area school you are praying for. As a leader, stand in a place to represent the local authority. Now encourage people to pray for those in authority in the location they are standing.

**Additional Bible resources:** Use Paul's word to Timothy in 1 Timothy 2:1-4 as you pray for those in authority in education.

In front of you is a map of the local area

Think about the schools that you have a particular concern for.  
Light a candle and place it on the map approximately where the school(s) is/are.

Light a separate candle and place it in the local authority office location.

Think about those who have important decisions to make about budgets and policy

Directors of Education  
Head teachers  
Governing bodies.....

Pray that they will make wise choices and if pray for them by name if you know who they are

Pray that the decisions they make would be in accordance with God's will



## **Station 4: 'Give us today our daily bread'**

**Materials needed:** Labels for each of the 'needs' of children and young people (see appendix 2 for photocopyable sheets)

**Instructions:** schools often end up as the focus for meeting a wide range of the needs of children and young people in our society. Food is a basic necessity but many live in poverty. The current economic situation means that even more children will face hardship.

**Additional Bible resources:** Look at the parables of Jesus in Matthew 13 – what do they teach us about the nature of the kingdom of God for all people.

**Food & diet:** it has been demonstrated that inadequate diet contributes to loss of attention span and low educational attainment. Pray for those seeking to offer solutions through breakfast clubs and school meal provision.

**Resources:** inequality in our society is highlighted in the area of technology between the 'haves' and the have-nots'. Increasingly access to technology enables more effective learning. Pray for wisdom in allocating resources to ensure access to technology for all.

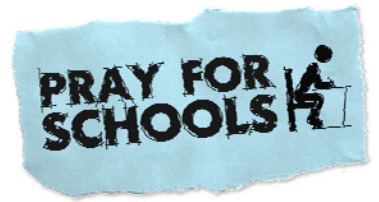
**Family:** the influence of family life is closely linked to educational achievement. Pray for those whose family life makes demands on them that make school life difficult.

**Security:** the environment that children and young people grow up in affects their sense of well-being. Pray that school would be a place of security especially for those most vulnerable in our society and increase their sense of safety.

**Identity:** school experience significantly shapes the identity of children and young people. In adolescence especially this search for identity is paramount. Pray for those working with young people who feel insecure about their identity. Pray that they would give sound advice and a listening ear.

**Acceptance:** we all feel the need to belong and in a school community this is especially important. Pray that schools would be places of acceptance where different beliefs and values would be accepted. Pray that children and young people would feel able to demonstrate and develop their gifts and talents in an environment of acceptance for their individuality.

**The future:** with unemployment among young people rising and trouble on a global front, children and young people feel less hopeful about the future. Pray for them as they think about their own future, that they would be able to look forward with hope. Pray especially that they would hear the good news of the gospel and that this would give them a new perspective on the future.



## **Station 5: 'And forgive us our debts as we have forgiven our debtors'**

**Materials needed:** a sheet of A4 paper and pens. Instruction sheet as below

**Instructions:** Relationships are at the heart of who we are as human beings – in particular with God and with others. School is a formative place for those relationships and can be tremendously influential in shaping thinking but also in affecting behaviour

**Additional Bible resources:** Look at Jesus' teaching about forgiveness to Peter in Matthew 18:21-35. What does this teach us about how we should treat others?

Take a sheet of A4 paper and a pen.

In the centre of the sheet draw something to represent children and young people

Think about who they relate to eg friends, sisters etc.

For each of these relationships write them around the outer edge of the paper

Join them to the centre with a line

On each line write the things that would damage that relationship

Pray that these relationships would be characterised by forgiveness and love rather than bitterness and resentment.

Pray for those who are the victims of bullying in our schools and for those who deal with the consequences

Pray for those who bully others – whether physically or verbally.



**Station 6: 'And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from the evil one'**

**Materials needed:** pictures of groups of young people, pictures of celebrities

**Instructions:** print the text below with enough 6 or 7 copies at the station.

**Additional Bible resources:** Look at the parables of Jesus in Matthew 13 – what do they teach us about the nature of the kingdom of God.

### Peer Pressure

Look at the pictures of children and young people

For many children and young people it is the impact of their peers that leads them into temptation.

Take time to pray for them as they deal with peer pressure

Pray especially for an alternative peer pressure that encourages them to make wise choices.

Pray for those who lead their peers – that they would be good role models.

### Authority figures

Use the magazine pictures to think about the adult role models adopted by children and young people.

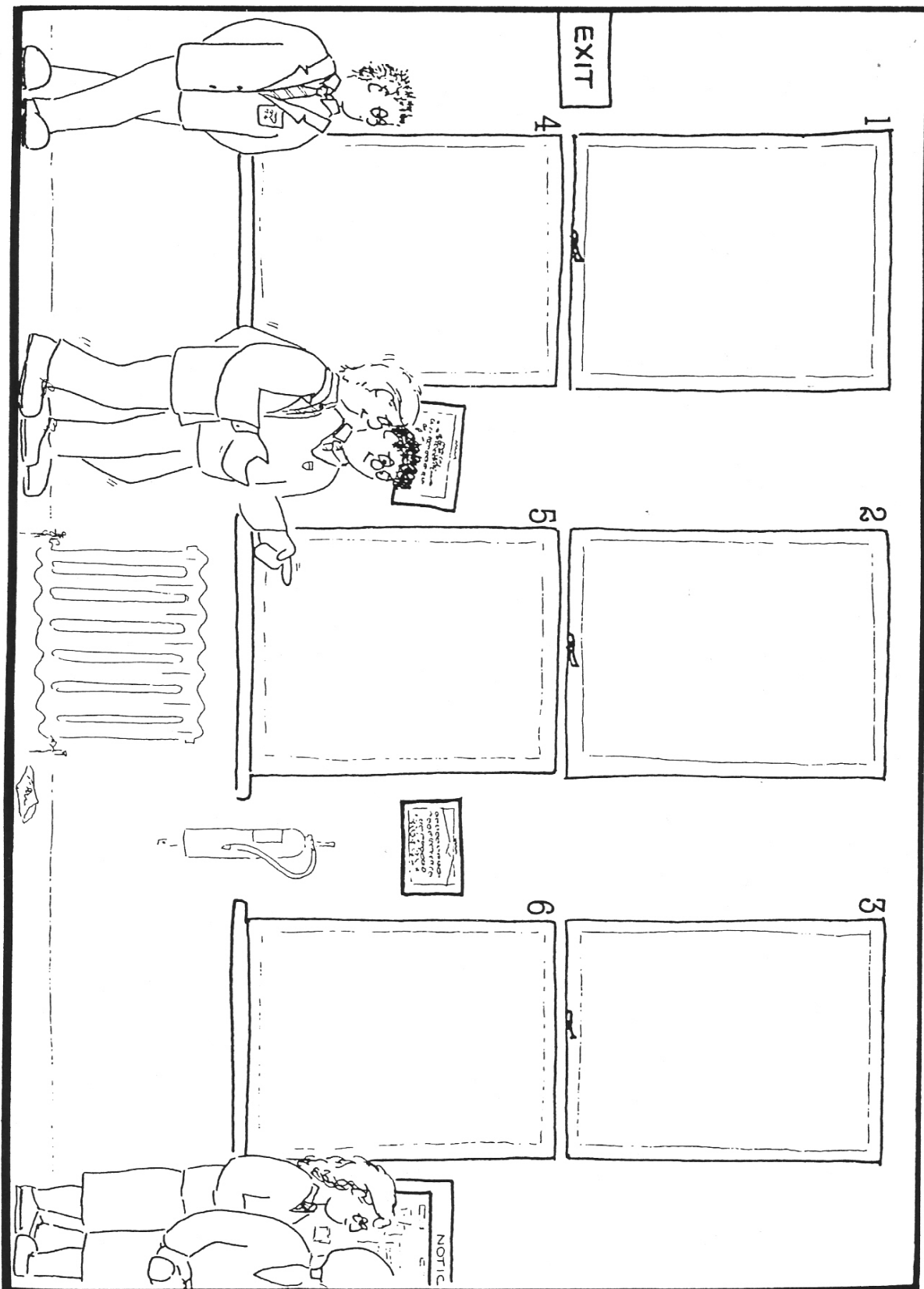
What good examples of influence can you think of?

What bad examples?

Pray for the impact of that influence that it will be a force for good

Pray especially for those who have the opportunity to help children and young people as they make lifestyle choices in local schools

Appendix 1: for use with station 2





*Appendix 2: for use with station 5*

**Food & diet**

It has been demonstrated that inadequate diet contributes to loss of attention span and low educational attainment.

Pray for those seeking to offer solutions through breakfast clubs and school meal provision.

**Resources**

Inequality in our society is highlighted in the area of technology between the 'haves' and the have-nots'. Increasingly access to technology enables more effective learning.

Pray for wisdom in allocating resources to ensure access to technology for all.

**Family**

The influence of family life is closely linked to educational achievement.

Pray for those whose family life makes demands on them that make school life difficult.



## **Security**

The environment that children and young people grow up in affects their sense of well-being.

Pray that school would be a place of security especially for those most vulnerable in our society and increase their sense of safety.

## **Identity**

School experience significantly shapes the identity of children and young people. In adolescence especially this search for identity is paramount.

Pray for those working with young people who feel insecure about their identity. Pray that they would give sound advice and a listening ear.

## **Acceptance**

We all feel the need to belong and in a school community this is especially important. Pray that schools would be places of acceptance where different beliefs and values would be accepted.

Pray that children and young people would feel able to demonstrate and develop their gifts and talents in an environment of acceptance for their individuality.

## **The future**

With unemployment among young people rising and trouble on a global front, children and young people feel less hopeful about the future.

Pray for them as they think about their own future, that they would be able to look forward with hope.

Pray especially that they would hear the good news of the gospel and that this would give them a new perspective on the future.