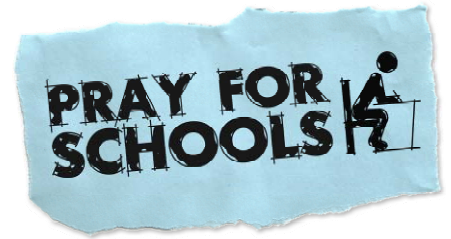


PROGRAMME IDEAS FOR 'PRAY FOR SCHOOLS' EVENTS



Do make full use of the resources pack – it includes suggestions, prayer ideas and publicity material that can save you time and energy as you plan your event.

1. **Welcome** to everyone
2. **Refreshments**: gives opportunity for people to mingle and look at resources
3. **Worship**: ideally led by young people and as inclusive and varied as possible
4. **'Pray for Schools' DVD** (3 minutes): to set the scene
5. **Talk**: highlighting opportunities for Christian involvement in local schools, the importance of prayer and the larger national picture
6. **Testimonies**:
 - young person describing how they are make a Christian difference in school
 - local Headteacher
 - YFC/New Generation/SU or other Christian worker involved in local schools
7. **Prayer**: this should be the main focus of the evening so try to dedicate perhaps a third of the programme time to this. Use creative ideas such as:
 - **prayer stations** around the room focusing on various aspects of interest e.g
 - a map of the area marking schools
 - sheets describing individual schools
 - photographs of young people
 - specific prayer requests
 - information about the Local Education Authority
 - Government Departments and other bodies concerned with UK schools
 - **liturgical prayers** – for personal use or spoken out together
 - **presentations** (eg. power point) of issues like bullying/curriculum content/behaviour issues/ staff/ encouraging Christian pupils /organisations and agencies working in schools
 - **prayer request cards** written by individuals, collected and redistributed
8. **Encouragement** for people to consider setting up prayer groups for individual schools and also register with Pray for Schools. There will be a sign-up sheet you can print off in the event resource pack, or you can register your group on the Pray for Schools website www.prayforschools.org/groups/register-a-group/
9. **Announcements** about future events and other follow up activities

Points to keep in mind

1. *Choose a comfortable neutral venue, convenient for public transport and parking.*
2. *Rather than just one or two people doing everything, try to include contributors from different churches and groups so everyone can 'own' the event*
3. *Make sure that anyone unfamiliar with being in Christian meetings won't feel uncomfortable and marginalised by any of the content.*
4. *Adopt a style of worship that ensures Christians from different traditions feel included.*
5. *Avoid any negative comments about local schools or young people – although there are many concerns there is much to encourage us.*
6. *Include opportunities for response: asking people to sign up for future involvement, announcing dates and details of any follow-up activities.*