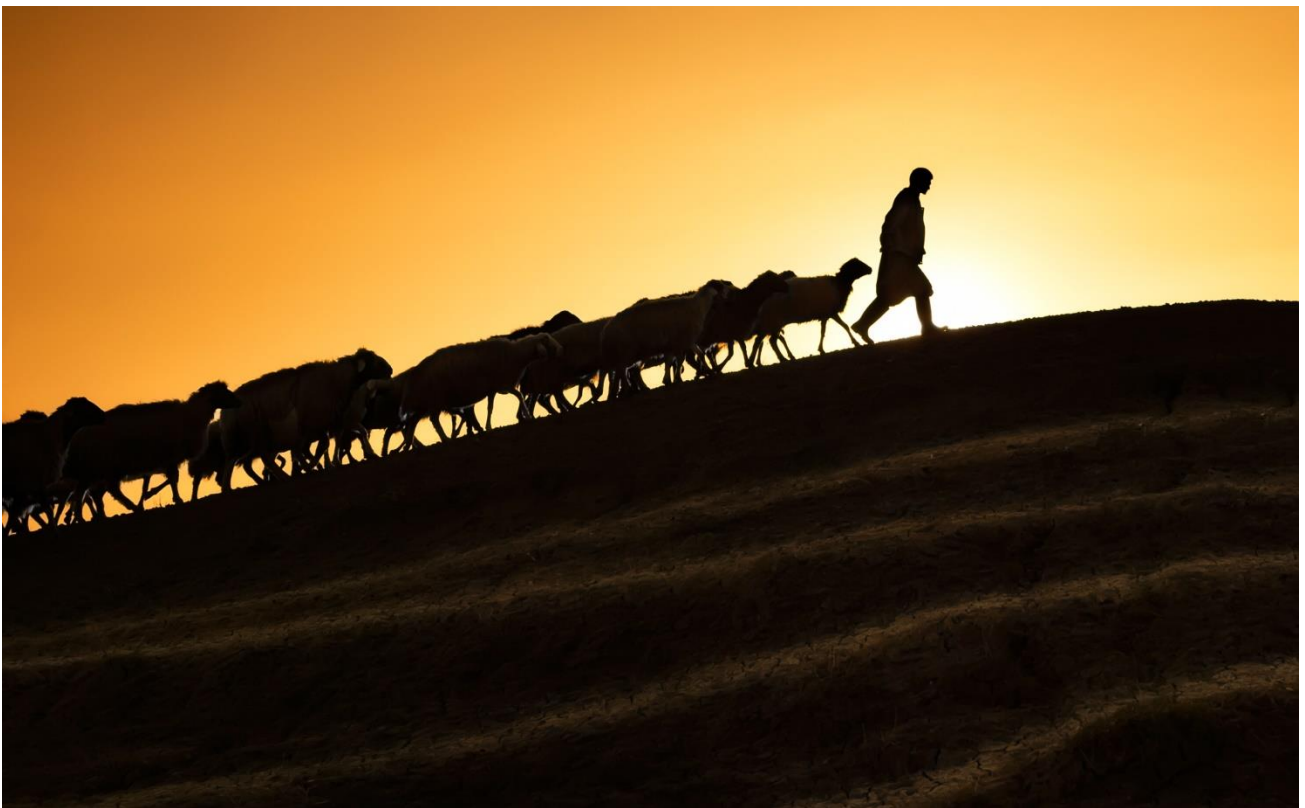


**PRAY FOR
SCHOOLS**

Make Jesus Known



***Pray for Schools Fortnight
7th-21st May 2017***

A PARTNERSHIP BETWEEN...



This year we are adopting Hope Together's theme; **'Make Jesus Known'** as they plan for mission in 2018.

'Devote yourselves to prayer, being watchful and thankful. And pray for us too, that God may open a door for our message, so that we may proclaim the mystery of Christ.' Colossians 4; 2-3

Making Jesus known is at the heart of all of our hopes for children and adults in schools. Prayer and mission go hand in hand and the Pray for Schools partner organisations are engaged in both. Each is involved in sharing the message of the gospel in the world of education and we're all passionate about prayer!

Who did Jesus say He is – how can we know Him?

"I am the Good Shepherd. I know my sheep and my sheep know me – just as the Father knows me and I know the Father – and I lay down my life for the sheep." (John 10; 14, 15)

"I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me." (John 14;6)

"I am the light of the world. If you follow me, you won't have to walk in darkness, because you will have the light that leads to life." (John 8:12)

The Good Shepherd watches over us; caring for us when we are in need. The Way, the Truth and the Life guides us along His paths of wisdom, honesty and love. The Light of the World rescues us out of darkness so we can see and know our amazing God.

Resources

- Practical ideas for local events
- Prayer Stations
- Prayers
- Prayer Diary
- Suggested Programme: 1½ hour event
- Template invitation letter to event
- PFS Resources Booklet from <http://www.prayforschools.org/?p=514>



*in our villages,
towns and cities*

Practical ideas for local Pray for Schools Fortnight events

In your church:

5-minute slot during a Sunday service to pray specifically for nearby schools and the children, young people and adults in church connected with them.

With other Christians in your neighbourhood:

An evening of worship and prayer for teachers and other staff, schools workers, parents and anyone else with a heart for young people.

As a group of parents and staff **connected to a particular school.**

Encouraging children and young people to bless their school through their prayers.

On our own using the Prayer Diary each day. See Pages 6 and 7.



Prayer Stations

PRAY FOR
SCHOOLS

Praying with pictures

Why not take some photos of the schools near you and display the pictures around the room or on a table to encourage others to pray for each school? This could also be done using a local map and pins.



Rainbow Tealights

Use a pack of different coloured tealights. Each colour could represent a group of children in your school.

For example:

- **Red** those taking exams
- **Blue** those struggling with bullying
- **Green** those with upsets at home
- **Yellow** those who are ill
- **Purple** those with special needs
- **White** all children in your area



Choose one colour from the tea lights and pray for those children. Take it in turns to choose and pray. When all are lit it is like a rainbow effect—praying God's promises on every child. Take care with tea lights and extinguish all tea lights after this activity

Praying with Sweets

Take a bag of Jelly babies to church and pray through these Scripture Union Scotland ideas:

https://www.suscotland.org.uk/media/5512/jelly_baby_prayer_cards.pdf

or if you prefer 'M and M's!!!!

https://www.suscotland.org.uk/media/5513/m_m_prayer_cards.pdf



Music Suggestions

Songs – Let it be Known- Worship Central

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=GRdISRYPTHg>



Prayers



Heavenly Father, thank You that Jesus died on the cross to save us from sin and rose again to set us free!

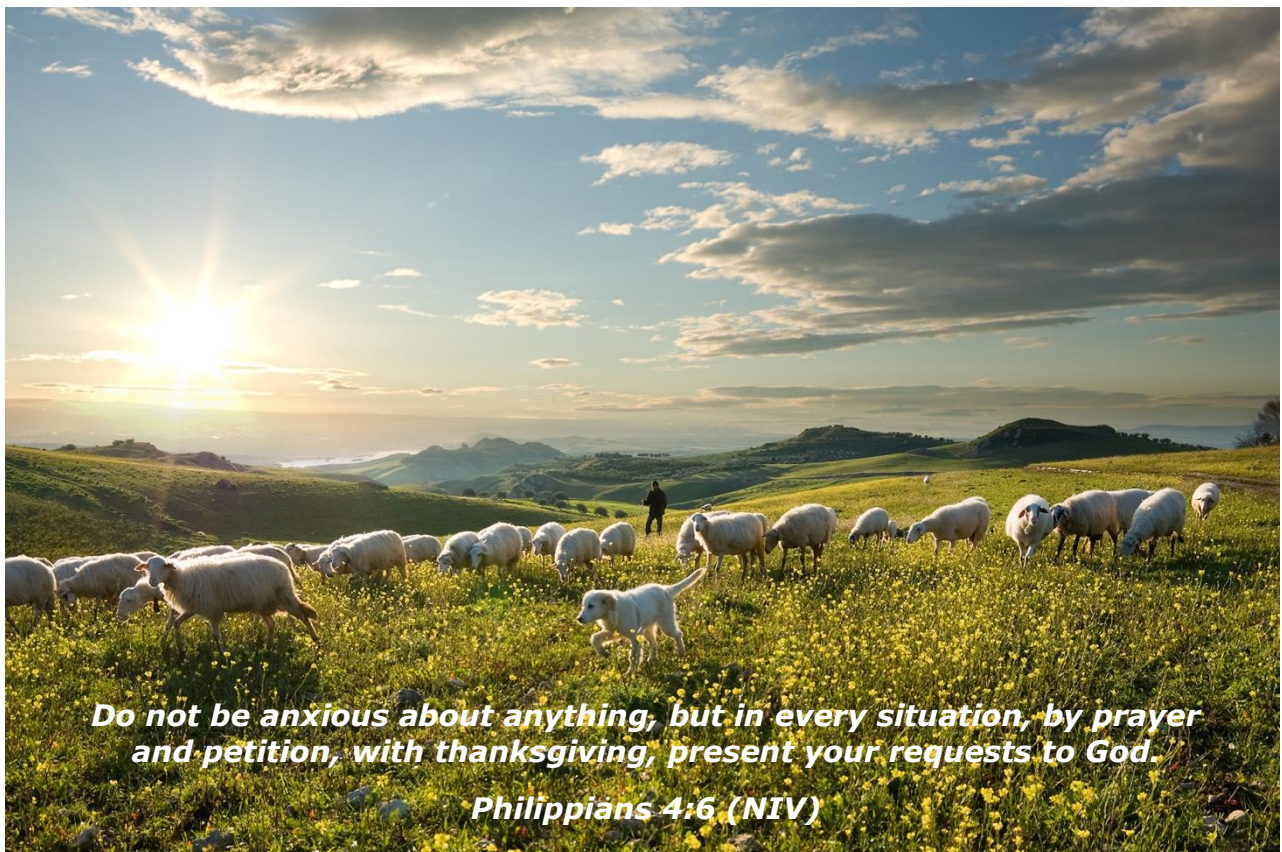
We know that many children, teenagers and adults in our schools have not heard this Good News. We pray that 'Jesus will be made known' to them in coming weeks and months. Lord, help us to pray about this, being watchful and thankful. Amen.

Jesus our Good Shepherd; please protect and provide for those in need of help, especially through the pastoral care of staff and Christian volunteers who visit schools. Amen.

Jesus, the Way, the Truth and the Life; please teach us to follow You. Reveal Your goodness and mercy to children and young people in our schools and grant them abundant life. Amen.

Jesus, Light of the World; let Your love shine upon our school communities so that ignorance, pain and deprivation are replaced by Your knowledge, healing and blessing that transforms human lives. Amen.

Almighty God, through our prayers and willingness to serve, please open doors so that the message of the gospel will spread in our schools and bring hope for today and faith for the future. Amen.



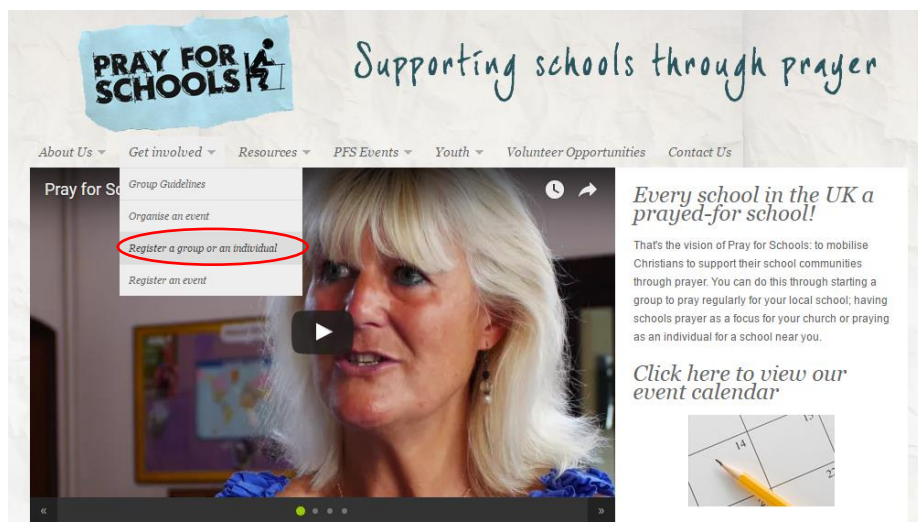
Prayer Diary

Week 1

- 7 Thank God for the thousands of groups and individuals who pray regularly for schools. Pray for encouragement not to give up but keep believing for the answers to their prayers.
- 8 Ask God to bring about significant conversations and connections between Christians during Pray for Schools Fortnight events that will inspire them to continue to pray together for local schools.
- 9 Pray for renewed encouragement for Christian parents, teachers and other staff, schools workers, students and others as they pray and practically engage with the schools in their area.
- 10 Ask God to help all who are preparing for important exams. Pray they will be able to concentrate on revision, retain information, stay healthy and keep alert so they can do their best and gain the results they deserve.
- 11 Pray for Head Teachers and others in senior leadership roles; that God would grant them wisdom and discernment as they make important decisions and undertake challenging tasks.
- 12 Intercede that the children will be taught more about the truth and grace of the gospel – in assemblies, RE lessons, from visiting local church ministers, schools workers and others. Ask the Holy Spirit to open their hearts and minds to understand and accept what they are hearing.
- 13 Give thanks for the contribution of church and other independent Christian schools to the education of so many children in the UK. Pray that they will continue to be free to teach biblical truth and values in the light of Government concerns about 'extremism'.
- 14 Ask God to raise up many Christians who can be a positive influence; through serving as School Governors, on fundraising and other committees, volunteering in the classroom and blessing their local schools in other practical ways.

Week 2

- 15 Remember everyone who works in schools: teachers and those looking after the building and grounds, providing administrative support, supervising children at lunchtimes and giving other support.
- 16 Pray for Education Secretary Justine Greening MP and her team - that God would grant them insight and wisdom in their dealings with teachers, parents, local authorities and other agencies concerned with the nation's children.
- 17 Intercede for the growing numbers of children and young people affected by bullying; whether face to face or online. Pray for those who help them to cope with the mental health issues and other problems caused by this abuse.
- 18 Remember teachers and other support staff working with children who have special needs. Pray that they will receive grace and patience from God and find joy in all they do.
- 19 Ask God to grant wisdom to those responsible nationally for the education budget who are having to make very difficult decisions to cut funding. Pray for fairness and the ability to use the money available wisely.
- 20 Pray about the plans for Relationship and Sex Education; that Governors and parents will not be required to accept material they believe is unsuitable for their children.
- 21 Ask God to bring increasing numbers of Christians into the teaching profession, especially in areas such as maths and science where there are serious shortages.



www.prayforschools.org

Register your prayer group online!



Programme ideas for 1½ hour event

1. **Refreshments before you start:** gives opportunity to mingle and look at resources.
2. **Welcome.** (5 mins)
3. **Worship:** ideally led by young people and as inclusive and varied as possible. (15 mins)
4. **Film clip** to set the scene. (3 mins)
5. **Testimonies:** (10-15 mins)
 - young person describing how they are making a Christian difference in school
 - local Head teacher
 - Youth for Christ/School Pastor/Prayer Spaces/Scripture Union/Open the Book or other Christian worker or church leader involved in local schools.
6. **Inspirational talk:** on the 2017 theme of Making Jesus Known. (10 mins)
7. **Prayer:** this should be the main focus of the evening (25 mins)
Use creative ideas such as:
Prayer stations around the room focusing on various aspects of interest such as:
 - Local map marking schools
 - Sheets describing and illustrating individual schools
 - Photographs of young people
 - Specific prayer requests
 - Information about the Local Education Authority
 - Details about Government Departments and other bodies concerned with UK schools**Liturgical prayers** – for personal use or spoken out together
Opportunity to write prayer requests on Post-it notes to then be prayed for by others
Presentations (eg. power point) of issues like bullying/curriculum content/behaviour issues/ staff/ encouraging Christian pupils /organisations and agencies working in schools
8. **Encouragement** for people to consider setting up prayer groups for individual schools and register with Pray for Schools on www.prayforschools.org/groups/register-a-group/ (5 mins)
9. **Announcements** about future events and other follow up activities (5 mins)
10. **Closing song and prayer** (6 mins)

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. Adopt a style of worship to **make Christians from different traditions feel included.**
4. **Avoid negative comments** about local schools or young people – it is right to identify concerns but there is much to encourage us. Remember confidentiality.
5. Include **opportunities for response:** asking people to sign up for future involvement, announcing dates and details of any follow-up activities.

DRAFT INVITATION LETTER/EMAIL



<<Dear Mrs Smith/Sally >> (handwritten)

Date

<<name of your area>> Pray for Schools evening <<date>>
<<time>><<venue>>

I am writing to invite you to a special event we are planning which will bring together Christians with a heart for young people to pray for our local schools. So many of us have links as parents, pupils, teachers or other staff, Governors or simply concerned church members and neighbours. The vision behind 'Pray for Schools' – which is a network of prayer groups all over the UK – is for every school to be a prayed-for school and during the first fortnight in May local events like ours will be held around the country to encourage and mobilise churches and individual Christians to pray strategically for the education establishments in their area.

Our <<name of your area>> event is being planned by <<planning group names and who they represent (churches/schools/organisations)>> and we hope to focus on specific local schools and important education issues. Our theme is 'Freedom'.

The programme will include a range of contributions from our different churches, schools and other connected organisations. There will be time to share ideas, pray together and meet informally over light refreshments. To find out more please get in touch with me (contact details are at the top of this letter).

I really hope you will be able to attend the <<name of area>> Pray for Schools event.

Yours in Christ (or similar sign-off)

<<handwritten signature>>

Mary Jones

PS Pray for Schools fortnight is organised by a partnership of Association of Christian Teachers, CARE, Churches Together, Prayer Spaces in Schools, Scripture Union, Open the Book and Youth for Christ.
www.prayforschools.org

