



Here at Pray for Schools we long for every school in the land to be a prayed for school!

All through the year hundreds of prayer groups meet together to pray because they want to support their local schools. As we look forward to the new hope that spring-time brings, we thought it'd be great to encourage Christians up and down the country to join together to 'Love our schools!'

Why not choose a date for this between 4th and 15th February?

Prayer groups and individuals could set aside a time of prayer for their schools, using our specially written Pray for Schools resources. And then, having prayed, perhaps God will lead us further – to 'Bless our schools' in practical ways in the coming weeks and months! Join in the "Love our schools" initiative and use #loveourschools

The Bible tells us; 'Love is kind.' (1 Corinthians 13v4)

Kindness is something every one of us can show to others; however young or old, rich or poor, happy or sad we are. It only takes a smile or a friendly word, a thoughtful deed or a willingness to forgive.

Jesus always put others first. He talked to those whom others ignored. He healed people who had illnesses and disabilities. He fed the hungry. Most of all, He died for the sake of every person in the world – that took all the love in the universe for Him to do.

There are many ways to love others - kindness is a great place to start. Our prayers and actions can be ways to reflect *God's love for our School Community*.





Prayer written by Lisa Jones, Scripture Union's representative on the Pray for Schools Steering Group.

Thank you Father for our schools.

We praise You Lord, for You are full of love, peace and hope.

Please help us to be people of good news sharing your love, peace and hope into schools.

Please help us to build good relationships with everyone.

Please help us to be peace makers when there is tension and stress.

Please help us to bring hope when there is despair and dejection.

Please help us inspire others to be joyful when there is much to celebrate.

Please help us demonstrate your love

Amen

Prayer written by Claire Wall, Pray for Schools Wales Coordinator.

For teachers

Dear Lord,

Thank you for the school into which you have put me.

Help me to be the best that I can be.

Please give me supernatural strength and patience and give me a sense of joy in my heart that transmits to the children.

Help me to remember how precious each child is to You and to get through all that surrounds my work with a light heart, knowing that we are also your children and precious to You.

I ask You for your protection on us all and thank you for it.

In Jesus' holy name.

Amen



From a teacher in London

Heavenly Lord

Thank you for this school and for placing me where you want me to be. I pray that you would give me the strength and emotional resilience to be all I need to be for each of the students in my care; help me to never forget that each is individual and has their own needs and background. Help me to be a light to them in patience, guidance and kindness. When I am weak, be my strength and lift me up to be all that they need. When I doubt my impact remind me that in you I can powerfully impact a generation who will change the world into one that sees your kingdom come.

Father I pray that when I get frustrated by red tape, by the limitations of my role that you would give me your joy and excitement to bound out of bed on the dark cold mornings. Thank you lord for each student you have placed in my care. Thank you for their parents and brothers and sisters. I pray that I would be able to show your loving kindness and support even in the most difficult and challenging times with all students and families. Give me wisdom to know the battles to fight and the ones that will bring change and passion to keep going. I pray that you would rejuvenate the love I have for teaching. I thank you for this precious gift you have given me and equip me with all I need to be for those you have placed in my care.

In Jesus name. Amen

Prayer written by Tandia Hughes, Prayer Spaces in Schools' representative on the Pray for Schools Steering Group.

Heavenly Father, we thank you for the opportunity we have as churches and individuals to serve and love our schools.

As we enter this new season we pray that you will bless these schools abundantly, bless each student as they learn and grow, each staff member as they encourage and build pupils. And Lord help us to continue reaching out to serve our schools in new and exciting ways, through prayer, prayer spaces, mentoring and more.

In Jesus name. Amen



Prayer by Revd Sara Iles, Representative on Pray for Schools Steering Group from Free Churches Group and Congregational Federation in Wales,
(originally written for Education Sunday courtesy of Churches Together in England)

Let us come together and pray...

Loving God, Gather us in from north, south, east and west, from city, town and village.

Gather us together, in your name, as your church, to praise your Holy name.

Gather us and let your kingdom come. Let us rejoice in your glory and grace.

Gather us, like fragile saplings, at the start of this new season, eager to learn, even if we feel unsure.

Let us know we are always rooted deep in your love. Give us strong branches to reach out in trust. Gather us, as we draw close to Christ, listening to Jesus' words.

Let us be sustained by his ministry and saving love. Gather us ever closer to you when we know we have let ourselves and others down. Let us know your reassurance and the promise of forgiveness, so we can start afresh.

Gather us around the glow of the Holy Spirit; the Spirit that gives us fire in our hearts to yearn for and work for justice. Let us be inspired and transformed to embody the change we want to see in the world.

Gather us, like threads, from all walks of life, from schools, colleges and universities; from homes and workplaces; from places of transition and refuge.

Let us be woven together, in your name, to create a haven of hope and wonder for all; to make a rich and diverse tapestry of love and life in all its fullness, which reflects your Holy image.

Gather us and strengthen us to serve in the world; to reform all that is unjust; to reshape and cherish the planet, to nurture the earth, as you intend.

Gather us and empower us, living God, to share the Good News of your grace and mercy.

In the name of Jesus, our friend and teacher.

Amen



Ideas to "Bless our schools"

Love our schools

 **Pray** :for our teachers, teaching assistants and the whole school community, for the children and young people – perhaps focus on a different class each day

 **Say thank you:** to a teacher or other member of staff.

 **Offer to help:** There may be jobs in the classroom that need doing - like cleaning out paint pots, photocopying or sharpening pencils.
Offer to help pick up litter,
Listen to children read or
Volunteer at a school event or get involved with the PTA

 **Give a gift:** We know of prayer groups who have given flowers or plants; biscuits or chocolates or even a stationery gift pack with coloured pens and paper, Sellotape and Pritt sticks! Involve the whole church if you like.

 **Bake a Cake:** bring a smile to teachers at coffee time!

 **Check the list of Volunteer Opportunities on our website** maybe you can help on a regular basis. <https://www.prayforschools.org/get-involved/>

Ideas for Children

Love our schools



Pray for your teachers, lunch time supervisors and support staff

Be good and helpful in class

Be kind to everyone

Obey school rules and be punctual for lessons

Make a thank you card for your teacher, teaching assistant, caretaker or lunchtime supervisor. Write a letter, draw a picture or perhaps use buttons and make some button people.