



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 springtime 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 2nd and 16th 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](#)

Our resources are based on Ephesians 4 v 32

"Be kind and compassionate to one another, forgiving each other, just as in Christ, God forgave you."

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More prayers will be added to our website www.prayforschools.org [#loveourschools](#)





Love Our Schools #loveourschools

Ephesians 4 v 32

"Be kind and compassionate to one another, forgiving each other, just as in Christ, God forgave you."

Love consists of so many things! The Bible tells us that 'God is love' and that He wants us to be like Him and love others, even when that's a big ask.

It's not so difficult to love our friends, get on with others in our school and respect teachers we like and admire. But living out this Bible verse is far harder for us when someone is a bully, dishonest or unfair. We can ask the Holy Spirit to help us to be understanding and not just hit back or hate that person.



Kindness looks for opportunities to make life easier for others



Compassion puts itself in the other person's place and tries to understand their hurt, why they act as they do.



Forgiveness decides not to hold it against someone who's upset us but remember we're none of us perfect. Jesus set us free from so much when He forgave us and we can do the same.

Lord Jesus, I'm not always a good person – nobody is! But please help me in school to love other people with Your love. If I am kind, compassionate and forgiving they might see something of You and bad situations could get better. Amen.

Music

Song—"For the One" by Jenn Johnson, Bethel Music

*Let me be filled
With kindness, and compassion for the One,
The One for whom You love and gave Your Son
For humanity increase my love*

*Help me to love with open arms, like You do
A love that erases all the lines and sees the truth
So that when they look in my eyes, they would see You
Even in just a smile they would feel the Father's love*



Find the song here: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Lo-dOU1p4NE>

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A prayer for our schools (Our bookmark prayer)

Loving Father, thank You

For all who are part of our school.

Please grant them Your
encouragement, wisdom and peace.

Strengthen teachers

with heavy workloads.

May they be firm yet patient,
expecting excellence but
forgiving mistakes.

May they support their students,
playing to strengths, helping with
struggles and motivating them
to do their best.

Comfort and restore

those living under shadows of
unhappiness, abuse, pain or fear.
May many find faith, discovering
their identity in You and knowing
Your amazing grace in their lives.

Please pour

out Your blessings

upon our whole school community.

In Jesus' name,

Amen.



Bookmarks with this prayer can be ordered
from england@prayforschools.org

Love our schools



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New prayers for 2020—written by our partners

Be kind and compassionate to one another, forgiving each other, just as in Christ, God forgave you."

Loving God, we come to you in prayer at this time, as part of Love our Schools. We thank you for all of the good work that goes on in our schools.

We pray for teachers and support staff in our schools. We remember in our prayers all of those working in mainstream schools, as part of hospital schools, in pupil referral units or in other forms of schooling – all of which aim to support our children, as they learn, grow and develop. We pray for your mercy and guidance to be with the staff, as they seek to inspire the children in their classes. Imbue teachers with **kindness, compassion** and wisdom, strengthened by your Holy name.

We pray, living God, for all children, as they go through their school lives. May they be upheld through their friendships, families, learning and their teachers and support staff, to flourish and develop, day by day. When a child encounters difficulties or challenges, give them courage to seek the support they need and enable the school to provide **kindness and love** towards them, as they chart a way through.

We pray for our churches that we might seek closer links between the lives we lead as Christians and the schools near us; help us, living God, to pray for and work with schools in our community.

Almighty God, we ask that you bless the daily lives of all of those in our schools.

We pray this in the name of Jesus, our teacher and friend. Amen.

Revd Sara Iles, Free Churches Group

"The Lord is gracious and compassionate, slow to anger and rich in love." Psalm 145 v8

We pray for **compassionate** hearts; Lord help us to love and serve those around us no matter what our differences. Remind us to soften our hearts, to view people how you see them, that we would be a light in their lives. Lord open our eyes to see those around us that are in need of our **compassion**. Help us to listen, to hear their needs, to be interested in their troubles. Father help us to be more like you in a world where there is pain, loneliness and hurt – may we be voices for the oppressed, a giver to the poor and encouragement for the disabled. Lord may we love others as you love them.

Prayer Spaces in Schools

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New prayers for 2020—written by our partners

Be kind and compassionate to one another, forgiving each other, just as in Christ, God forgave you."

Dear God,

Thank you that there are **compassionate** people in the world.

Help us to watch and listen for the signs of need in our school community. Show us how to respond thoughtfully to anyone who is struggling by showing them **kindness**. May your light shine through us to lift them from their darkness.

Amen

Open the Book

Loving God help us to show your **compassion** to all. Father teach us to be more **compassionate** towards those struggling at school with stress. Open our eyes and ears to those who need a listening ear. Help us to understand the challenges that students and teachers face. Guide us with your wisdom to know how to support students and teachers. Give us your words of kindness to encourage everyone especially those in need. Help us to be your hands and feet sharing your love with those we meet in schools.

May your Holy Spirit prompt us when and how to share your good news.

Amen.

Scripture Union

Lord Jesus, thank You for **forgiving** us for everything so we can be free from feeling guilty and ashamed. So, when someone upsets us, even though they meant to, please give us enough love to forgive them and not want our own back. That's hard to do – sometimes almost impossible - but with your Holy Spirit's help we can do it.

Amen.

CARE

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New prayers for 2020— from Share A Prayer

Lord God

Be with all the prayer groups in our local schools in [*insert your city/town or village*] and also all people praying for all the nurturing of our children and young people.

May the children feel the power of our prayers for their wellbeing and mental health. We thank you for Your whole involving love for our children in schools.

We bless you and worship your holy name

Jenny – Cheltenham Prayer for Schools Network

A prayer encouraging us to be kind to the environment by two pupils from a school in Northamptonshire

Dear Lord,

We ask you to help us to save the beautiful planet that you made for us.

We want to get rid of the plastic that keeps filling our seas and oceans.

Soon our mistakes will cost the creatures of the sea their lives, we must protect them.

We ask for your help to make everyone see that we have to take action

Amen

Grace and Xanthe (Year 4)

A prayer encouraging us all to be kind based on Ephesians 4 v 32 from a pupil in Shropshire

Dear Lord,

Please be with all children in my school. I pray for kindness, compassion and forgiveness to abide in us always no matter what.

Holy Spirit, help each and every child, teacher, parents, helpers, dinner ladies and lunchtime supervisors have a clear understanding of what is kindness, compassion and forgiveness.

Because Jesus is full of kindness, compassion and can forgive us whenever we confess our sins

In Jesus name. Amen.

Kezia (Year 5)

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from Share A Prayer

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

Love our schools



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Ideas to “Bless our schools”



Pray

Meet with other like-minded people and regularly pray for your school. This can be weekly, monthly, half termly. Maybe link with other Christians who pray and ask for the focus once a term to be on schools and young people. Some groups pray in the morning. Others organise a meeting at lunch time and pray after sandwiches. Many pray in the evening with Christians from all churches in their area after a time of worship.



Ask teachers or staff if they have any prayer requests. Some groups with permission put a prayer box in reception or the staff room.



Pray and encourage all those you know who work in schools. Find out which classes the children in your church are in and encourage them to pray for them too



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 or in school that need doing -



Cleaning out paint pots, photocopying or sharpening pencils



Offer to help pick up litter



Listen to children read



Volunteer at a school event or get involved with the PTA



Help the school start something “Green” e.g. Recycling, using less plastic or even creating a outside nature area.



Bake a Cake or Give a Gift:

Bring a smile to teachers at coffee time

We know of prayer groups who have given flowers or plants; cakes, biscuits or chocolates; and even stationery gift pack with coloured pens, paper, sticky tape and glue sticks



Check the List of Volunteer Opportunities on our website

Maybe you can help on a regular basis. <https://www.prayforschools.org/get-involved/volunteer-opportunities/>



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Ideas for Children to "Bless our schools"

- ♥ **Pray:** for your teachers, teaching assistants, lunch time supervisors and support staff. Ask your Sunday school leaders to pray for your school.
- ♥ **Say thank you:** to a teacher or other member of staff.
- ♥ **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.
- ♥ **Offer to help:** Ask how you can help in your classroom or at break
- ♥ **Be good and helpful** in class.
- ♥ **Be kind** to everyone
- ♥ **Obey school rules** and be punctual for lessons
- ♥ **Sit next to someone** you don't normally sit with at lunchtime
- ♥ **Ask your grown-up** about their day on your way home or at teatime
- ♥ **Find out** the names of three people you haven't met before in school

Further great ideas available from Stewardship and 40acts <https://40acts.org.uk/>

Love our schools