

Meditative prayer



Introduction

As we pray and support our local schools, it's good to dig deeper, explore further and rediscover the Father's heart for our schools. How does God want to bless the schools in our area?

Themes

You may want to prayerfully consider some or all the following

- What do you think is God's will for the school or schools that you are concerned with?
- How best can God's wisdom be released into our schools and those who support them?
- Given that we only see 'in part', how best might we be open to seeing as others see, and to receiving God's revelation?
- Let's also consider those who lead and monitor the issues that arise at a national level - in government and organisations such as OfSTED.
- How best the local churches might be involved with the young people who attend our schools?
- Let's pray for a wise and gracious relationship between the different faith communities.

- What would touch the Father's heart if He were to direct our concerns for a school?
- What would Jesus see, and think and feel and say if He visited our schools?
- What would the Holy Spirit be looking to bring into being, in the school community and beyond?

History

All schools have a history, even if they have only recently been created. How does this history have an impact on its life and function today?

Prayerfully consider...

- The reasons for the school's formation
- The religious or secular affiliation of the school
- The influence of the Local Authority in the case of State Schools
- How the successful aspects of the school's history *help* its present status and are a springboard for progress.
- Aspects of the school's history that *hinder* its present status and progress

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Aspirations

Everyone wants their school to be successful.

Prayerfully consider...

- What does the school do particularly well? Pray for those responsible for these aspects, and for those who benefit from them.
- What does the school aspire to in the future – either in terms of improvements or new projects
- What areas would you like to see the school develop?
- How can the school increasingly serve the broader community?

Structure of the School

A school can be viewed from many different perspectives.

Prayerfully consider...

- How those leading the school view their school
- How governors view the school
- How the Local Authority views the school
- How the chaplaincy team views the school (where appropriate)
- How teaching and support staff view their school
- How pupils view their school? Think about their different academic ability and social situations.
- How parents view the school

- Pray about how the school deals with pupils with special needs; 'Gifted and Talented' students and those receiving emotional or learning support.
- Pray for the staff who deliver the support and those with financial responsibility, who may need to make difficult decisions.

Challenges and Issues

Prayerfully consider...

- For those who have to lead and manage financial challenges.
- What ethical issues are apparent and how those involved in the curriculum and pastoral decision making and delivery, deal with them.
- Ways in which the communities around the schools involved, and how safe is the area beyond the school

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Pupils

Schools are concerned with the complete, holistic education of their pupils. What about the spiritual health of the school community?

Prayerfully consider...

- Pupils who *only* feel safe in school.
- Pupils who *do not* feel safe in school.
- Pupils facing particular academic or personal challenges.
- Pupils' learning within a diversity of languages or cultures.
- Pupils who do not feel understood.
- Pupils who feel they don't belong.
- Pupils in boarding schools a long way from home
- The pastoral system within the school.
- Form tutors, Heads of House, Heads of Year and so on.



More specifically...

- Consider how seriously the school takes the area of spiritual development . What works well and what more could be done?
- Do the pupils seem spiritually healthy in how they see themselves as individuals?
- Do they seem spiritually healthy in their dealings with one another, as a part of their community, in their relationships outside school and how they relate to wider global issues and challenges?

Finally, ...

God loves it when we engage in the activity of prayer. Let us pray a blessing on all those people and communities we have considered.

Perhaps you'd like to share your thoughts, intercessions, and observations with someone you trust. May we all be blessed in this creative endeavour and walk in step with the Spirit as He leads us.

Written by a retired deputy headteacher/church leader - February 2020

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