



PRAYERS



IMPACT OF POVERTY

Lord Jesus, You experienced poverty as a small child, driven from the comforts of home, cold and hungry, not knowing what might happen next. Your family exhausted by it all. We pray for girls and boys who get to school tired, with no breakfast and leave not knowing whether there's anything remotely nice for tea. Children who can find little to be cheerful or hopeful about who are worried, unhappy, feeling misunderstood. Please send angels – human or otherwise – to give them comfort and help them get through this and provide for these very real needs. For You long for them to find the pathways leading to Your heart and into true fulfilment in life now and for the future. Amen.

CHILDREN'S BASIC NEEDS

Father God, thank You for everyone who is watching out for vulnerable children. For homework clubs, foodbanks, opportunities to play and laugh, find friends and be themselves even in the midst of need. Thank You for compassionate teachers, community workers, extended family and all who genuinely care and are able to share with families in need. We pray for an end of this crisis in our land which is depriving so many of so much. Please grant immense wisdom to those in government, nationally and locally to know how best to alleviate the pain and respond to the lack of so many. Amen.

MENTAL HEALTH CONCERNS

God our Healer, we know that Covid lockdown left huge suffering in its wake, with many children isolated, unable to learn properly and filled with anxiety and sadness. We pray for those who have found it hard to go back to school, for those who have developed mental health problems, for those who wonder where they can find help in their desperate longing for peace. Lord, please equip teachers, mentors, counsellors, Christian school and youth workers and others to meet the overwhelming needs of young people today. Amen.

PRESSURES ON SCHOOL STAFF

Compassionate Shepherd, we bring teachers to You now. Not only are they bearing the brunt of the deprivation of their pupils and how this spills over in the classroom and the playground, but they are themselves stressed because of the rising cost of living and the many financial and practical problems facing schools. Grant them Your strength and peace we pray, drawing them to Yourself to find the rest and reassurance they need to carry on. Amen.

SCHOOL CHALLENGES

Lord our Provider, please help headteachers, school governors and senior staff to find answers to the problems affecting schools every day. May money be released to meet regular bills, resources made available where there are shortages of books and equipment. May the school community stand firm and support each other to come through this current time of difficulty. Amen.