

Prayers for your local schools



An important and powerful way to support our local schools is through prayer. If you currently don't have any involvement with local schools and are wondering where to start or you are wondering what to do next – prayer is the answer! Here are a range of different prayers and creative prayer activities that your corps could use in a ten-minute schools-focused prayer slot in a meeting or adapt for other school-focused prayer events.

All-age creative prayer ideas

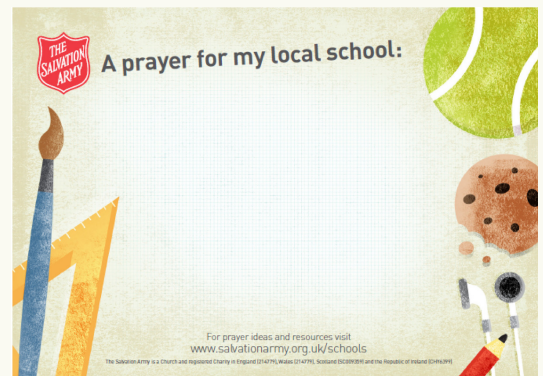
Prayer Wall

People can write or draw their prayers for local schools on to the prayer cards (free from the Resource Hub) and then stick them to a prayer wall. The prayer wall could be a special board or just a wall that has space for sticking the cards up.

When everyone has done this, the person leading the meeting or a volunteer could read out some of the prayers as a focused prayer time. The cards could be left on display, or people could be encouraged to take the cards home and display them somewhere that will remind them to pray for schools this week.

Paper chain prayers

Make a paper chain of people by folding a piece of A4 piece of paper in half, then half again and half again. Draw half a body along the folded edge, ensuring that the arms and legs reach to the edge that has not been cut. Cut out, and you have your chain of people! On the head of each figure write one of the following: pupils, teachers, volunteers, parents, head teachers – and a prayer for them on each body. Give some time for people to say their prayers together in small groups. These can be taken home to continue praying. (It might be an idea to have pre-cut figures for small children!)



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Jelly Bean Prayers

Give everyone one jelly bean each. Ask people to get themselves into a group with people having the same colour. Tell them not to eat them yet! Once in their groups, give them two minutes to pray for young people in schools, then two minutes to pray for staff and leadership of schools, and two

two minutes to pray for open doors and new opportunities for Christians and local churches working with schools in the area. Then people can eat their jelly beans if they haven't already!

Butterfly prayers

Give each person a cut-out paper butterfly. Explain that these represent transformation. Ask people to write a prayer that says thank you for some of the things already happening in schools that is bringing transformation and new life, or write down prayers asking for the transformation you and they would like to see for and in schools.

Prayer Station ideas

Prayer stations can be set up around the room to give people options of praying for schools in different and creative ways that they are comfortable with. Allow people the freedom and time to move from station to station or to stay in one place. Feel free to amend these to suit your corps and to add your own.

World Map

Stick a world map on the wall. Put up some of the educational needs of different places in the world (your corps may have links with specific places or alternatively you can show some of the information from the webpages below). Write a prayer on a sticky note and put it on the place you are praying for. Spend some time praying about schools and education in that place and take time to listen to God in silence.



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www.dosomething.org/us/facts/11-facts-about-education-around-world

www.humanium.org/en/world/right-to-education/

Prayer Card wall

People can write or draw their prayers for local schools on to the prayer cards (free from the Resource Hub) and then stick them to a prayer wall as outlined above. They could spend time speaking out or silently reading the other prayers and offering them to God.

Relieving stress

It's no secret that life for both pupils and teachers can be stressful. Spend a few minutes squeezing a stress ball or kneading some play dough and meditate on the following verse:

'Don't worry about anything, but pray about everything. With thankful hearts offer up your prayers and requests to God' (Philippians 4:6 CEV).

Pray about all the pressures faced by pupils and school staff and ask for God's love and peace to break into difficult situations.

Planting seeds

Set up a table with some pots filled with soil and Pray that fruit will come from the seeds which are being sown and tell God any specific hopes you have for the ministry of Christian schools workers.

Read one of Jesus' two parables in Matthew 13, either the Parable of the Sower (vv1-9) or the Parable of the Mustard Seed (vv31-32).



As you take a seed and plant it in the soil, think about Christians and churches who are 'planting seeds' through their work in and alongside schools.

Take time to reflect on what these parables might mean in relation to schools work in the area. Pray that fruit will come from the seeds which are being sown and tell God any specific hopes you have for the ministry of Christian schools workers.



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Bubble prayers

Take some time to think of what the needs are for your local schools. Say a prayer to God asking him to provide what is needed and to show you and your corps how they can join in with his schools mission. Blow bubbles in the air as a sign of the prayers going to God. As you see the bubbles float, try and listen to what God might be saying to you and your corps about how they can partner with him in local schools.

Prayers

Dear Jesus, thank you for our local schools. Thank you for the dedicated staff and volunteers that have a heart for seeing children and young people thrive in our community.

All: God of hope, hear our prayer.

We lift up the pupils in our schools. May they know life in all its fullness, and may they experience your compassion and love and show that to each other. May they be empowered to fight against injustice and boldly do what is right for others.

All: God of justice, hear our prayer.

We pray for head teachers and others in senior leadership roles. We pray that they would be supported and have the wisdom they need when making important decisions. Where there is stress and pressure may they experience your peace.

All: God of peace, hear our prayer.

We pray for open doors to share the gospel in word and actions. Show us creative ways to share your love with our whole community.

All: God of love, hear our prayer.

In Jesus name,

Amen

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Almighty God,

We thank you for the children and young people in our area. Thank you that you love them and that you have given each of them unique gifts and talents. We pray that they would have opportunities to flourish and to know true joy and love.

Thank you for those who work with children and young people in our area: for teachers, youth workers, volunteers, parents, carers and community workers. We thank you for their sacrifice, generosity and patience, and we pray that you would restore them and give them new life where they feel weary and weak. We pray that you would provide all that they need to care and support young people to develop into healthy, compassionate and strong people both physically and spiritually.

We lift up those pupils preparing for important exams. We pray that you would take anxiety away from them and give them all they need to do well.

We pray for pupils affected by bullying. Bring healing and restoration where they are hurt and broken. Guide schools in pastoral care and in creating policies that protect and support children and young people.

We pray for opportunities for Christians in our community to share who you are with schools. We pray for partnerships with schools that glorify you and benefit our community. Fill us with your Spirit as we step out to serve you in our community.

Amen

For additional ideas about praying for schools, take a look at the Pray for Schools website: www.prayforschools.org/

If you would like more information about supporting local schools visit the Salvation Army schools webpage: www.salvationarmy.org.uk/schools

Or you can also contact us directly to discuss supporting schools or to order the free prayer cards:

020 7367 4706

resources@salvationarmy.org.uk

More prayer resources created by The Salvation Army can be accessed on our prayer resources webpage: www.salvationarmy.org.uk/prayer-resources



www.salvationarmy.org.uk/schools