

## Pray for your Local Schools



Prayer is such a vital part of every ministry and praying for our local schools is a great way to underpin everything else we do. Wouldn't it be wonderful if every school in the Diocese was a prayed for school? Why not make a start by praying for your local schools. For lots of wonderful ideas for praying for schools, have a look at <http://www.prayforschools.org/>.

### ***Prayer Groups praying for Schools***

As well as praying as an individual, meeting with others to pray specifically for one or more of the schools in your area can be a really effective way of focusing prayer. Prayer groups can meet in homes or in some cases on the school premises. So how do you get started?

#### **Getting a group started**

- Share the idea with some people who might be interested.
- Plan an initial meeting.
- Produce a written notice about the initial meeting. Make sure there is a way for people to be informed of future meetings even if they can't make the first one.
- Prepare to start small. Even two or three praying regularly can make a huge difference, but be ready to grow, too!
- Contact known Christians in the schools you will be praying for. Invite them to the meeting, or to give you suggestions for prayer.
- If your group is praying for just one particular school, it can be a good idea to inform the school about what you are doing. It can save misunderstanding, and you may be amazed at the response.
- Pray about your plans.

#### **The first meeting**

- Share your vision for the group with everyone, and develop the vision as people have new ideas.
- Give everyone space for questions, comments, etc.
- Determine the frequency of the meetings.

#### **Use this checklist:**

- Where will you meet?
- Which day and at what time?
- How often and for how long?



- Will the venue be fixed or varied?
- Who will lead the meetings?
- How will you make sure anyone interested hears about it?
- How will you find out what needs there are to pray for?

### What to pray for

- Pray about the whole of school life: pupils, staff, class teachers, management, appointments, Christians in the school, governors, RE policy, assemblies, special events, exams, discipline, safety, etc...
- Keep a record of the things you pray for, and how God answers.
- You may be asked to pray for things that are confidential. Make sure the information is kept within the group.



### Keeping going

- Think long term. Sometimes we need to pray about things for a long time.
- Look for ways of sharing with local churches what has been going on in your group. Have a regular way of getting your group advertised in churches, perhaps through their weekly or monthly news sheets.
- Invite a special guest from time to time, to pray with you or share some things for prayer. This could be a local Christian involved in education, some pupils from school, or a local SU leader or Scripture Union schools worker.

From <http://suni.co.uk/schools/encouraging-your-church-to-pray/>

For more help and resources, contact me at [sue.mayo@chester.anglican.org](mailto:sue.mayo@chester.anglican.org)

Sue