

Serve Your Local School



THE PROJECT

To inspire and equip churches to engage more with their local schools

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- encourage churches to engage with and support local schools in a variety of ways, always with integrity and following good practice;
- provide a day of resourcing that involves a number of organisations willing to partner on the day;
- be open to participants of any church denomination;
- provide some theological understanding of supporting schools as an expression of Kingdom mission in the community;
- explain how churches can bring a Christian faith perspective to children in many areas of the curriculum and why this is welcomed by schools;
- showcase resources for primary and secondary schools through workshops, plenary sessions and exhibitions;
- encourage praying for schools.

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The original idea for this project came from a *Crossing Places* initiative of the Baptist Union of Great Britain (BUGB) entitled Love Your Local School (LYLS). This has been delivered in partnership with several Christian agencies in England, included Scripture Union England & Wales.

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Churches used to be at the centre of the community, but it is often the local school that now fulfils this function as most families in the area have some link with it. Schools and colleges are also the places where children and young people are to be found for much of the week, whereas the number coming into our churches regularly has generally diminished

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SYLS: Project plan outline

Awareness. Many churches are unaware of the opportunities available in schools, or of the legislation which encourages schools to invite faith-based workers to participate in the life of the school.

Inspiring. A key part of helping churches see what is possible for them will be sharing good practice and stories.

Equipping. Church people will need to be informed about the options and resources available; given the know-how to engage with them; and supported by contacts and further help that maybe available.

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Scripture Union proposed that SYLS begin with a National Launch, followed by a series of local evening events around the country. These local evenings would seek to address the first 2 areas above. The task of equipping would initially, be tackled through providing a resource pack and supporting contacts.

After a season of these local evenings, which will need to take in the breadth of Scotland, a more substantial national training event could be undertaken, hosted in a central location.

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THE STEERING GROUP

The steering group would consist of about half-a-dozen people; including representation from Baptist Union of Scotland; Care for Scotland; and the Church of Scotland, plus someone with an education background (e.g. a Christian headteacher).

SUS intends to employ a part-time member of staff to coordinate the SYLS project. This worker would be line-managed by SUS but would receive guidance from the steering group, who would bring both expertise, and the resourcing support of their organisation.

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The ways in which churches may decide to develop their engagement with schools as a result of SYLS are numerous. It is imagined they will include:

building closer links with schools and praying for them;

serving needs identified by schools;

chaplancy work;

delivering educational needs, befriending and other support.

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EXAMPLES OF THINGS CHURCHES CAN DO WITH SCHOOLS

Christmas/Easter lessons (P&S) or services

RO assemblies or events

RME Lessons – providing RME resources (Storysacks Topic Boxes)

After school groups – basketball, football, craft, Arts and drama etc

Drop in ('cosy') café in church if next to school

Support for P moving to S/ transition support

Bible Alive (P)

Offering the church building/garden/ Day out to church

1 to 1 mentoring/listening service for pupils-working with guidance staff



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Sponsor school to go to Lendrick
Muir on EAB



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- Cross curricular work i.e. Christian Focus Weeks/Days
- Offering opportunities for work experience i.e. people within your church who have contacts
- Parenting classes & support
- Seasons for growth/pupil support groups
- In-service facilities/lunches for staff
- Single day Holiday club during an In-service day (primary)
- Support for school closing
- Joint fund-raising activity for International projects
- Breakfast club
- Eco-school & Eco-church joined up thinking

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Q1: Are these opportunities real, and do we need a proactive approach like SYLS for more churches to take full advantage of them?

Q2: What structure & roles need to be put into place for SYLS to move forward?

Q3: What model of delivery do you feel would work best? (National training days? local events? Taster nights? Resource Pack? Website? Etc)

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The Lighthouse Group The Lighthouse Group (TLG) is a Christian charity that seeks to empower and equip the local church to transform the lives of young people who are struggling in education. TLG Education Centres are church-owned and run schools where secondary school children facing exclusion can come to continue their education. Early Intervention Centres are where church-based volunteer behaviour coaches go into local primary schools to mentor children struggling with behavioural, educational, social or emotion difficulties. TLG wants to see the local church become the first port of call for a young person in crisis.

To work with those who are missing out not only on an education but more often than not a childhood.



TheLighthouseGroup
educating young people, transforming lives



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When Sam Owoo became minister of Hivings Free Church (Central Baptist Association) in September 2009 he immediately saw a need amongst the young people on the estate in a deprived area of Chesham, Buckinghamshire where the church is located. Anti-social behaviour was rife with nothing for the young people to do. Within two months Sam had successfully applied for a Mission Project grant to get some games equipment and a Nintendo Wii so they could start a youth club. The youth club now has been running over a year and has over 30 young people attending. Thirty-four teenagers attend a separate football academy run by the church that is recognised by the Football Association. The church has received praise from the police as anti-social behaviour has been reduced on the estate as a result. “Our aim is to provide these youngsters with something to give them motivation, confidence, to give them hope,” says Sam

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All over Scotland, churches contribute positively to the life of their local schools, seeing it as a vital way of serving their community.

Church leaders may act as chaplains, youth workers are involved in extra-curricular activities, parents and other church members volunteer to help in a host of practical ways.

CARE For Scotland has produced a DVD which presents examples of how some churches have developed innovative and constructive partnerships with schools in their local area and illustrates the benefits the schools derive from these relationships.





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http://youtu.be/Op8_ySiLxBM