



Prayer spaces in schools

We would like as many schools as possible to take part in creating a prayer space for the Jubilee – reflecting on issues such as celebration, justice and blessing. This is part of a larger initiative where prayer spaces will be created in community spaces such as churches, workplaces, pubs and at jubilee celebrations across the county.

What is a prayer space?

A prayer space could be a classroom-sized area, section of a classroom or a small room that is transformed for a few days or a week. The space could offer students a range of creative activities that encourage personal reflection on contemporary issues.

How to create a prayer space?

Teachers could create the space or students and teachers could create the space together. It could be decorated with resources that help students to explore your chosen topics.

Teachers could invite students to the prayer space for subject-lessons or they could be invited to visit the prayer space voluntarily, during their breaks and lunchtimes and maybe after the school day with parents.

Why prayer spaces in a school?

Children and young people are innately curious about life. Many have an interest in the non-material aspects of life, the spirit or soul, and want to explore how these ideas and experiences help them to develop their own sense of identity, self-worth, personal insight, meaning and purpose.

Taking a broadly Christian perspective as a starting point, prayer spaces give children and young people an opportunity to develop skills of personal reflection. The approach does not proselytise but purposefully allows pupils, of all faiths and none, to explore life questions, spirituality and faith in a safe, creative and interactive way. Enabling them to make their own meaning and to draw their own conclusions.

Prayer spaces can also be a valuable contribution to schools' statutory responsibility to support the spiritual, moral, social and cultural development of the pupils.

Help and support

Your local church will probably be delighted to help you with your prayer space, but if you need help to find support, please email suffolkinprayer@cofesuffolk.org. Overleaf there are some ideas for creating your prayer space and more ideas can be found at www.suffolkinprayer.org. You can also find some great ideas at www.prayerspacesinschools.com

We would love if you could register your prayer space at www.suffolkinprayer.org

Idea one:

SUFFOLK JUBILEE PRAYER

FESTIVAL
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*Gracious God,
We give you heartfelt thanks for our Queen as we celebrate this year of her
platinum jubilee.*

*We thank you for her life of faithful service to you, to the people of this
nation, and to the Commonwealth.*

Help us, the people of Suffolk, to live lives of faithful service.

Bless all who live and work in our beautiful county

Bless our communities, our villages and towns

Bless our land, our rivers and our coast

Bless our Queen, and all who call upon your name,

And help us to be a blessing to others.

In the name of Jesus Christ we pray

Amen

Create a prayer space using the Suffolk Jubilee prayer:

The Church of England in Suffolk is encouraging everyone to take part in the #suffolkblessing and as part of this have written a special Suffolk Jubilee Prayer.

You could share the prayer at assemblies and during Jubilee events you are holding such as street parties.

You could display the prayer in your prayer space and encourage your students to think about what the prayer means to them. They could express their feelings through drawings, writing or music. Students could also make their own Jubilee bunting by writing key words describing their feelings on reading the prayer. The bunting could be displayed in the prayer space and students could add to it voluntarily.



Idea two:

Create a prayer space using the Lord's Prayer with activities for each line.



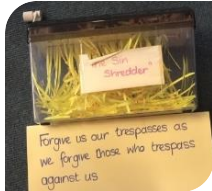
Our Father who art in heaven, hallowed by Thy Name - Children can make flags for bunting with names or descriptions for God on them.



Thy Kingdom come, Thy will be done - Place a crown in the centre of a large sheet of paper. Children can draw an arrow from the crown representing God's Kingdom to the situation or place they want to think about or pray for such as Friends, Family, School or the Queen.



Give us this day our daily bread - Provide some different kinds of bread and offer children the chance to taste the bread - as they eat it, they can think about the country.



Forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us - A trespass is something we have done wrong. Children can write down something they feel sorry about. If they want to, they can say a sorry prayer before shredding the paper as a sign of being forgiven.



Do not lead us to temptation but deliver us from evil – Provide a picture or example of a big boat and some little figures in a choppy sea. In this scene the sea represents some of the "evil" or bad things which people need to be rescued or "delivered" from. The boat represents safety and rescue.

Children can think of situations where they could need to be rescued, from bullying, lying etc. They could share ideas of how to lift the figures out of the sea and put them into the safety of the boat. They may want to pray for the people or situations, they have thought of.

Printable instructions for each of these ideas above can be found at www.suffolkinprayer.org/prayerspaces

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community
Prayer
spaces