



How to ...

Host a Prayer Space in a School

Prayer Spaces in Schools (PSIS) is a growing movement across the UK and the world. Well over a million children and young people in over 30 countries have had the opportunity to explore prayer, faith and life's big questions during their school day.

What is a Prayer Space in School?

A prayer space is a room in a school with multi-sensory prayer activities, set up by local Christians. These activities allow children and young people to explore how they might relate to a God they may not even know yet, in a safe, creative and interactive way.



Prayer spaces can last a day, two days or even a week. They take place in primary and secondary schools, Sixth Forms and FE colleges. A classroom, library or perhaps a corridor space is transformed into a creative prayer zone which enables children and young people to engage with God if they want to, or simply to pause and reflect.

Before you start planning...

It's important to familiarize yourself with the aims, values and ethos of Prayer Spaces in Schools before you begin to plan. Prayer spaces are a missional opportunity to provide a safe space for prayer and reflection for pupils of all world views. The pupils have agency and make their own meaning from the prayer activities. Prayer spaces are most effective when they happen as part of a long-term relationship between church and school. They can enrich learning in Religious Education, focus on a school's values, celebrate a season or festival or support the spiritual development or pastoral care of pupils. However they are offered, it is vital that the church provides an opportunity that is appropriate and relevant to the pupils' learning. You can find out more about the values of PSIS here: www.prayerspacesinschools.com/values and more about how PSIS cover the school agenda and curriculum in the Resources/Education Guides section of the website.



What next?

If you have a connection with a school, why not gather a few people to pray about whether it would be appropriate to offer to host a prayer space in the school? Arrange a meeting with your school contact – perhaps the head teacher/RE Co-Ordinator in a primary school, the RE Head of Department or Learning Support Team at a secondary school – and make sure you prepare well! Rehearse how you will explain what a prayer space is, making sure you reassure them that pupils will be free to use it for prayer or simply to reflect and think. Depending on the type of school, sometimes staff can be nervous about pupils being coerced into doing something they or their parents may not want. You can reassure them that the themes of the prayer activities will be common to all people – saying thank you, saying sorry, seeking forgiveness, hopes and dreams, justice, celebrating gifts and talents and so on.



It's booked!

Once you have a room and a date booked you can:

- Register your prayer space on the PSIS website – it's quick and easy and it helps the PSIS team to map what's going on and link up local people
- Choose your prayer activities – there are tons of tried and tested ideas of the PSIS website
- Gather a team of people (church members, parents, grandparents, youth workers...) who will work sensitively and appropriately in school – train them up!
- Publicize your prayer space with parents, pupils, staff and local churches
- Host your space – support your team during the event, notice what works well and what doesn't – get feedback from pupils, staff and your team
- After your prayer space – report on how it went to the school and host a reflection session with your team to consider how you might continue to be a presence in the school

Further Information

If you would like to find out more about hosting a prayer space in your local school, please visit the website: www.prayerspacesinschools.com or contact Liz Ogborne from the PSIS team: liz@prayerspacesinschools.com

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