

Prayer Appeal



'Lift up your hands to the Lord for the lives of your children, who faint with hunger at the head of every street.'

LAMENTATIONS 2:19

Our vision: Prayer for every school in Scotland

I want to urge you to join us in praying with renewed fervour for the 750,000 children and young people of Scotland. But how do we set about praying for so many?

I want to present the vision of praying for them by seeing every one of the 2,700 schools in Scotland becoming the focus for regular, sustained prayer. The vision is for every school to have a group committed to pray for that school, its pupils, teachers and ancillary staff, and for God's blessing on all of them.

Almost all of us have some contact with schools: we live somewhere near a school; our children and grandchildren attend a local school; we pass one going to work; young people crowd us out on the bus or slow us down when we're driving home. We want to share Jesus' heart of compassion and to demonstrate that concern by praying and caring for our schools.

We are very grateful for the numerous groups across Scotland who have already registered with the **Schools Prayer Network (SPN)** and are dedicated to praying for around 700 Scottish schools. We have included stories of answered prayer on the reverse side of this letter and you can find out more about the SPN by visiting our website at www.suscotland.org.uk/prayer.

Will you consider joining the Schools Prayer Network? Simply complete the attached response form and commit yourself to pray on your own, or by joining with others, for the needs of a school near you. Together we can see every one of Scotland's 2,700 schools become a focus for prayer.

Yours sincerely,

Andy Bathgate, Scripture Union Scotland Chief Executive

A non-Christian teacher in a school in north Glasgow says:

“ The ethos of the school is beginning to improve - it must be the power of prayer, as I know there is a group in the community praying for us. ”

Around 700 Scottish schools are currently being covered in prayer by the Schools Prayer Network.

Please join us to pray for one of the 2,000 schools not yet covered by this network.

For more information please turn over the page.



The **Schools Prayer Network (SPN)** was started by Michael Philip, a Glasgow teacher, in 1997. SU Scotland took over its administration and promotion in 2006 with the unchanged aim of supporting and encouraging people who pray for their local school.

Of course you can pray without registering on the SPN, but there is great encouragement in joining with others to pray.

www.suscotland.org.uk/prayer

A Christian teacher in South Lanarkshire says:

“ I wish there was a local SPN group - I would just love to be supported in that way and know I could phone up someone with specific prayer requests. ”

A Christian teacher in a text to their local SPN group said:

“ So grateful for prayers. Answers to prayers evident - class much calmer than expected. Please keep praying. ”

One SPN group emailed us this story of answered prayer:

“ We were praying for a 2nd year boy who really struggles with many social aspects of school life. The next morning, quite out of the blue, a boy in his year, with whom he'd had no real contact before, called to see if he could walk to school with him. That continued for the rest of the week! It has done so much for his self-esteem. ”

Another SPN group shared with us:

“ We've been regularly praying for our local school's Head Teacher. They've had a complete change of mind and are now allowing SU into their school - all as a result of our prayer. ”



God answers prayer

Schools Prayer Network (SPN) groups have seen God answer prayer, as you'll see from the stories on this page.

Scotland's children and young people desperately need our prayers:

- 1 in 10 Scottish young people find life meaningless according to a survey by the Prince's Trust.
- 20% of our teenagers when asked said they felt depressed.
- One boy at an SU event told a leader he was 'allergic to the Bible'; most have little or no knowledge of the one story that can bring them hope.

We believe God is in the business of bringing hope out of bleakness.

Please partner with us in praying for similar stories of transformation to be repeated time and again across Scotland, by completing the attached response form and registering with the SPN.

You will be linked with others praying for schools and receive regular SPN updates - but most of all you will be expressing God's heart of compassion for the children and young people of Scotland.