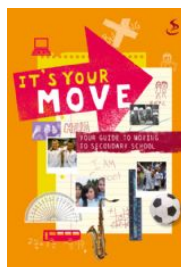


# *It's Your Move*

## Guidance on use in Scottish Schools



### Introduction

1. *It's Your Move* is designed and published by SU England & Wales. Now in its 6<sup>th</sup> edition, over a million copies have been distributed to pupils across the UK in their final year of primary school. It is designed to be a fun and friendly guide to support pupils as they look to move up to secondary school and allay any fears they may have. It is a resource which has been used in many schools in Scotland. These notes offer best practice guidance on how to use *It's Your Move* in your community.
2. *It's Your Move* is a magazine style booklet. The content includes:
  - a. Notes, tips & information on what secondary school might be like.
  - b. Articles on fears and bullying etc.
  - c. Quizzes, puzzles, sketches, fill-in sections.
  - d. Stories from other children about their experiences.
  - e. Stories based on Bible passages<sup>1</sup>.

### Planning

3. *It's Your Move* can be a helpful resource for young people, and an opportunity for local Christians to serve the school. It should be used as part of a church's wider strategy in developing their relationship with the local school, rather than merely a stand-alone item.
4. *It's Your Move* includes a number of references to the Christian faith and the Bible and is therefore most appropriately used as part of a Religious Observance<sup>2</sup> (RO) activity. For someone unfamiliar with RO guidelines it would be strongly advised to find a partner with greater expertise and experience. Any RO activity is best planned along with school chaplains, local schoolworkers or neighbouring churches.
5. The purpose of any *It's Your Move* event should be to support all pupils, those of any faith and of none, as they embark upon their move to secondary school. As part of an RO event, pupils are encouraged to reflect on their own developing values and beliefs. Using such an opportunity for proselytising would always be wholly inappropriate.
6. As part of an event, the church would buy sufficient copies of the *It's Your Move* book in order to make them freely available to pupils. This should be offered as something which pupils can choose, if they wish, rather than being handed out to every pupil which could

---

<sup>1</sup> Including: The first 12 verses of Psalm 139, presented as a Bible Poem, with some comments on David's faith. A narrative story based on the account of Acts 23. A narrative story based on Joseph from Genesis 37.

<sup>2</sup> Government guidance on RO can be found here: <http://www.gov.scot/Publications/2005/03/20778/53820>

be construed as compulsory distribution of “religious” material. Most educational authorities would have a policy against that type of distribution.

## Delivery

7. Any RO event should utilise the RO template<sup>3</sup> and a copy of this should be handed to the headteacher, or teacher responsible for RO, in advance of the event. The template encourages proper links to be made into RO outcomes and to ensure there is space to allow pupils to reflect upon deeper issues they face. It would also be good to give the headteacher a copy of the *It's Your Move* booklet in advance.
8. The Reachout Trust in Cambuslang & Rutherglen has been using *Its Your Move* for many years and has developed an excellent resource which encompasses a number of interactive learning styles to engage pupils with the issues they may face in their forthcoming move. The resource includes preparatory classwork, opening activities, video links, discussions, scripts for a Bible story, reflection activities and an evaluation. It also has a summary which can be presented to the headteacher, and suggested information that the school may wish to share with parents. The latter encourages transparency and supports schools in delivering the opportunity for RO opt-out should parents wish to exercise this. This resource can be downloaded at [www.suscotland.org.uk/sugroups](http://www.suscotland.org.uk/sugroups).
9. SU England & Wales also has a resource booklet with lots of ideas for assemblies, lesson plans and half-day events. Do bear in mind that there will need to be some adaptation for the Scottish context, but the basic ideas are easily transferable<sup>4</sup>.
10. If there is an SU Group in the secondary school, or there is contact with Christian teenagers there, consider asking 4<sup>th</sup>, 5<sup>th</sup> or 6<sup>th</sup> years to help deliver the event. Schedule it for a day in June after they've finished their exams, and explain to senior management of the secondary school how their participation in the local primary school will help them develop skills in presentation and leadership.

Plan the day with the young people – allowing them to make decisions and give input to the event. On the day, allow them to lead as much of the lesson as possible. Primary 7's appreciate and benefit from hearing the experiences of older pupils about the move they are about to make themselves.

---

<sup>3</sup>[http://www.educationscotland.gov.uk/resources/c/genericresource\\_tcm4650443.asp?strReferringChannel=learningandteaching&strReferringPageID=tcm:4-852122-64&class=l6+d218734](http://www.educationscotland.gov.uk/resources/c/genericresource_tcm4650443.asp?strReferringChannel=learningandteaching&strReferringPageID=tcm:4-852122-64&class=l6+d218734)

<sup>4</sup><http://www.scriptureunion.org.uk/Uploads/Documents/IYM%20Resource%20Booklet%202015.pdf>