

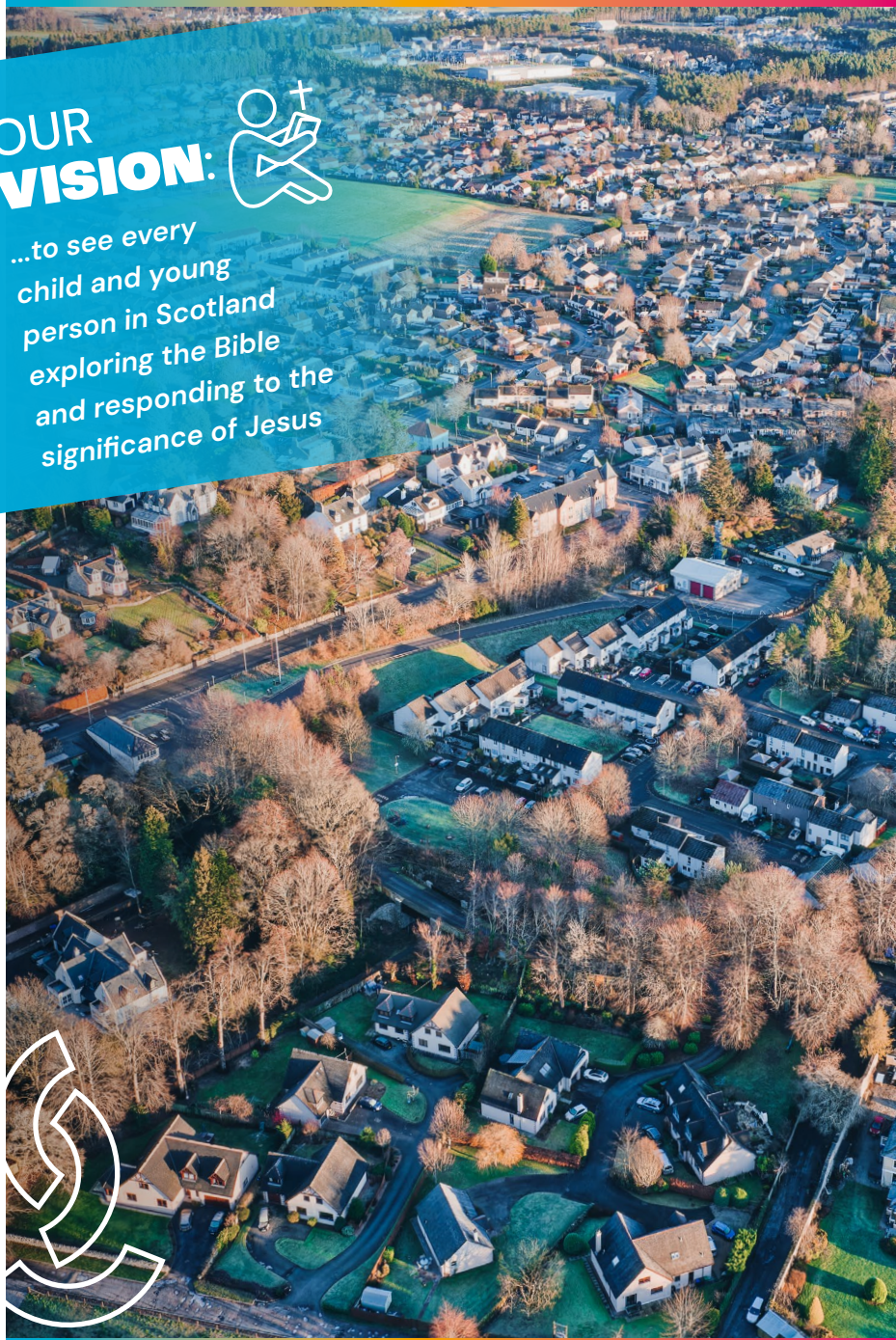


**SU SCOTLAND
STRATEGY
2024-2027**

OUR VISION:



...to see every child and young person in Scotland exploring the Bible and responding to the significance of Jesus



A WARM WELCOME

Hello and welcome to this summary of Scripture Union Scotland's strategy for 2024 to 2027.

As a voluntary organisation, Scripture Union ('SU') traces its roots back to 1867, and now has a local presence in over 100 countries around the world. We are excited to be part of that global story of lives being transformed by the good news of God's love.

Our vision within that is to see every child and young person in Scotland exploring the Bible and responding to the significance of Jesus. This strategy outlines our approach to seeing the vision become an increasing reality.

We believe that God's Word, the Bible, has the power to bring light and life to the lives of people of all ages. As we create fun, safe spaces for children and young people to discover, explore, respond and flourish, we light up Scotland, one young life at a time!

During this strategy season, our new emphasis on developing local ministry hubs is set to be a transformative approach to mobilising and connecting volunteers, churches and ministry partners.

We are committed to investing even more than before in connecting with and supporting the many children and young people in Scotland experiencing life at the margins through local projects, especially in priority communities.

Join us in this life-changing mission if you can!



Robin MacLellan
CEO, SU Scotland

Stephen Bell
Chair of the Board

OUR VALUES:

- ✓ dependence on God
- ✓ deepening relationships

DEPENDENCE ON GOD

We will express dependence on God in everything we do, believing him to be the one who supplies all our needs. We commit ourselves to pray about every aspect of our work and to root our thinking, planning and decision-making in the Bible. We believe that God, by his Holy Spirit, is the one who brings transformation so we trust in him to do what only he can do.

DEEPENING RELATIONSHIPS

God made us to live in relationship with him and in community with other people. We are committed to ensuring that every child and young person encountering SU Scotland activities feels valued, welcomed and able to participate regardless of their beliefs, gender, sexuality, ethnicity, ability or disability; and that all volunteers, supporters and staff are treated with love, grace and respect. In all our work, we will seek to ensure the physical, emotional and spiritual wellbeing and development of each child or young person.

OUR MISSION:

Lighting up Scotland, one young life at a time



705,000 children and young people



1 IN 4 living in poverty



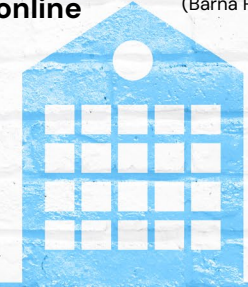
60% gaming online



OPEN generation
(Barna Report, 2023)

1 IN 3 has an ASN additional support need

2,500 schools



360 high school clusters



OUR LIFE-CHANGING OUTCOMES FOR YOUNG PEOPLE ON THEIR FAITH JOURNEY



discover



explore



respond



flourish

- ✓ Discover God's LOVE, WORLD, GOODNESS
- ✓ Explore CHRISTIAN FAITH, the BIBLE, its BIG STORY
- ✓ Respond by REFLECTING; choose to follow JESUS
- ✓ Flourish in CONFIDENCE, GROWTH, LEADERSHIP and DISCIPLING OTHERS

OUR CORE ACTIVITIES



- » SCHOOL SU GROUPS
- » BIBLE ALIVE
- » CHRISTMAS & EASTER PRESENTATIONS
- » HOLIDAY CLUBS
- » EQUIP EVENTS
- » SCHOOL RESIDENTIALS
- » SU HOLIDAYS & WEEKENDS
- » MAGNITUDE FESTIVAL
- » DIGITAL RESOURCES
- » YOUTH COMMS
- » GAMING MINISTRY
- » YOUNG LEADER TRAINING
- » SU GAP YEAR & INTERNSHIPS
- » SU INTERNATIONAL PARTNERSHIPS



suscotland.org.uk/what-we-do

OUR
ANCHORS
are a FRESH
expression of
how we work ...



BIBLES OPEN

We are passionate about helping children, young people and adults encounter God's love through engaging with the Bible.

PRAYER CENTRAL

Everything we do is rooted in dependence on God through prayer.

MINISTRY AT THE MARGINS PRIORITISED

Our heart is to be able to welcome and connect with every child and young person in Scotland, regardless of their circumstances.

DISCIPLES MAKING DISCIPLES

We equip young people to flourish in faith and in their ability to share it.

VOLUNTEER-FIRST APPROACH

We are a movement with many volunteers who are supported by a smaller number of staff.

SERVING THE CHURCHES

We exist to partner with and serve local churches in ministry with children and young people.

RESIDENTIALS TRANSFORM LIVES

Residential stays away create life-changing moments of faith and community.

**WHAT'S NEW
& EVOLVING?**
Well, we're going to
be simultaneously...



... more
... more
... more

**LOCAL
NATIONAL
PERSONAL**

... more **LOCAL**

- ✓ We will develop and strengthen connections with local churches, schools and Christians, serving every high school cluster in Scotland.
- ✓ We will strengthen our team of regional and schools workers and the volunteer base they support.
- ✓ We will expand Associate Worker Trust schemes, recognising the need to work from the ground up.
- ✓ We will incubate and release new local youth projects in priority communities, in the style of Ferrywell and Junction 12, with Glasgow a priority.
- ✓ We will increase the number of local, church-based SU Holiday Clubs that we support.

... more **NATIONAL**

- ✓ We will develop Bible-based curriculum resources (videos and supporting classroom materials) for use in schools, churches and centres, supported by effective marketing and distribution approaches.
- ✓ We will create a library of digital Bible content for young people to access online, including short-form video explainers and longer episodic content on key Bible themes.
- ✓ We will launch a large-scale Bible engagement project, including a daily Bible reading plan, with the goal of seeing people of all ages reading the Bible regularly, on their own and in community with others.



... more **PERSONAL**

We will invest in skills training and discipleship programmes for all involved in the ministry—young leaders, volunteers and staff—to help us be as effective and fruitful as possible.

'Our young leaders want a deeper connection with God and new opportunities for service.'

—Young Leaders'
Development Co-ordinator

FOCUS ON LOCAL MINISTRY HUBS




IMAGINE... 360 local ministry communities across Scotland, each formed around a high school cluster and populated with church partnerships, volunteers, other youth organisations, Christian parents and teachers, prayer supporters and pupil leaders.

IMAGINE... the growth that could take place as each school in the country is prayed for regularly.

IMAGINE... the opportunities that could open up, as local knowledge of individuals in the group leads to new volunteers and more opportunities for ministry and partnership.

IMAGINE... the new Missions that could start in some of these local communities, with opportunities for families to re-engage with the local church.

 **high school cluster** (n.)
1. A secondary school with its feeder primary schools



Regional Workers across the country are aiming to bring together as many of these local ministry communities as they can in the next few years. Susie Ford, Regional Worker for Dundee and Angus, has held two cluster meetings in recent months, connected with Baldrigon and Grove Academies.

Susie says, 'In both cases we were a mixed group including children's and youth workers, parents, ministers and those praying faithfully for the schools. I found out about Christian ministry already taking place in schools and was encouraged by meeting women from a prayer group who pray for me regularly.'


'Our time together was helpful, as I was able to share with local prayer partners, and it means I don't duplicate work others are already doing! Knowing more about what's happening also gives opportunities to increase ministry by partnering, and both of these meetings have led to such opportunities.'

'The best part for me though is praying together for the advance of God's kingdom. We know around 97% of children in our local areas don't come from Christian families,

so praying for God to reach them through our joint work is both essential and exciting. I look forward to meeting again with these groups.'

'Local' in the Highlands, where COOL Trust works, will look very different to 'local' in Cambuslang with the Reachout Trust or in south Edinburgh. But the aim is the same—to have local communities around each of the 360 or so high school clusters in Scotland.

Pray with us as we seek to have meaningful Christian contact with every school, whether through prayer, an SU Group or an RME lesson; as we partner with local churches, SU Ambassadors, local believers and other youth organisations; and as we give every child and young person the opportunity to explore the Bible and respond to the significance of Jesus.

 Zonya Bewick
Director of Local Ministries

We would love to hear from you if you are interested in helping to build a local ministry hub around your local high school cluster with its associated feeder primary schools. Contact regional@suscotland.org.uk

FOCUS ON MINISTRY AT THE MARGINS



We know from the Bible that God's heart is especially for those living at the margins—children whose life experiences or circumstances often mean fewer choices, resources and opportunities to discover, explore, respond and flourish in faith.

At the heart of our 2024–27 strategy is a focus on growing SU Scotland's ministry, especially in priority communities and with priority schools and children, removing barriers and partnering with local churches.

Building on the experience and impact of Ferrywell Youth Project in Edinburgh and Junction 12 in Glasgow, a key focus for the next period is planting more local Christian youth projects in priority communities to share the love of Jesus with children and young people and their families.

We will also be expanding our provision of specialist ASN training and equipping.



✓ SU Scotland has identified priority communities, priority schools and priority young people across the country, giving specific attention to:



Additional Support Needs

37% of pupils in Scottish schools have a noted ASN.



Poverty

25% of children and young people in Scotland live in relative poverty, with a projected rise to 38% by 2030.



Affected by imprisonment

20,000 children and young people in Scotland have a parent in prison.



Displaced

Around 20,000 refugees, asylum seekers and other vulnerable people live in Scotland.



Care-experienced

Over 12,000 children and young people are in the care system.



Ethnic minority

Children and young people from ethnic minority backgrounds may experience marginalisation based on their cultural identity, heritage or appearance.

Is not this the kind of fasting I have chosen: to loose the chains of injustice and untie the cords of the yoke, to set the oppressed free and break every yoke?

Is it not to share your food with the hungry and to provide the poor wanderer with shelter—when you see the naked, to clothe them, and not to turn away from your own flesh and blood?

Then your light will break forth like the dawn, and your healing will quickly appear; then your righteousness will go before you, and the glory of the Lord will be your rear guard. Then you will call, and the Lord will answer; you will cry for help, and he will say: Here am I.

If you do away with the yoke of oppression, with the pointing finger and malicious talk, and if you spend yourselves in behalf of the hungry and satisfy the needs of the oppressed, then your light will rise in the darkness, and your night will become like the noonday.

The Lord will guide you always; he will satisfy your needs in a sun-scorched land and will strengthen your frame. You will be like a well-watered garden, like a spring whose waters never fail.

Your people will rebuild the ancient ruins and will raise up the age-old foundations; you will be called Repairer of Broken Walls, Restorer of Streets with Dwellings.

Isaiah 58:6–12 (NIV)

As God's grace reaches more and more people, there will be great thanksgiving, and God will receive more and more glory.
2 Corinthians 4:15 (NLT)



WHERE WILL WE BE IN **THREE YEARS?**



- » **Local ministry hubs will be established across Scotland.** Working with local churches and partners, many more volunteers will be engaged in serving their local schools.
- » **Ministry at the Margins activities will be growing,** with our care and concern for priority children and young people always to the fore. Churches will be seeking our expertise on Additional Support Needs (ASNs)—and we will be ready to help.
- » **New local youth projects** will have started in priority communities.
- » **Bible engagement will be featuring prominently** in all of our activities, with groups and individuals benefiting from our new resources.
- » **New video content** will be helping young people in schools to explore the Bible in the classroom, especially at Christmas and Easter.
- » **Staff and volunteers will be benefiting from new training** with flexible learning options, including online formats.
- » **Additional staff** and many more volunteers will be enabling growth across our ministries.
- » **Our residential centres will be thriving,** with significant investment in accommodation and central facilities.
- » **Connecting with >10% of Scotland's children and young people,** up from ~5% in 2024



AND WHERE WILL **YOU** BE? JOIN OUR LIFE-SAVING MISSION!



SU Scotland

SU Scotland, New Olympia House,
13 Olympia Street, Glasgow, G40 3TA
0141 332 1162 | info@suscotland.org.uk
suscotland.org.uk

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YOU BELONG HERE