

An Act of Prayer and Commissioning for School Leaders and Others Involved in the Life and Ministry of Church Schools on Education Sunday

Opening words

Today we celebrate the gifts and opportunities given to us all by education and schools. We hold up for God's blessing our children and young people, our governors and school leaders, our teachers and support staff, our chaplains and clergy, all school volunteers and any others who support the work of education.

We recognise that our shared Christian values and ethos help lay foundations for our future lives and help us grow as confident, responsible, generous, and forgiving people.

We pray that our school will be a safe and nurturing environment where all will be encouraged and supported to grow in faith and as individuals and to find a sense of belonging and community. We reaffirm that as our church and school work together we will strive for it to be a place of healing and forgiveness; valuing and guiding the whole person - mind, body and spirit – and directing us to look to the love of God, the source of life.

Prayer

God of life, we thank you for our school, for the people who built it, the people who look after it, the people who clean it and help to keep it a positive environment, and for all the staff who teach in it. We thank you for all the people in the church who are involved in education, for those in the past who believed education was important and began building schools and those who continue to support schools today. Lord, we thank you for all those people who are helping us to build strong foundations and roots in our lives today and for the future, in Jesus' name. Amen

The Act of Rededication and Commitment

Here the school ethos or vision statement can be read out – this could be done by the head teacher or member of staff or children/students.

Representatives from the governors, school leaders, teachers, support staff, pupils, parents and carers renew their commitment to the aims of the school

Invite governors to stand, all reply

Leader: Members of the governing body, to you is entrusted the wellbeing of our school. Will you do all you can, to ensure that the aims of the school are met and achieved and to uphold our Christian values and ethos? As critical friends of the school will you consider carefully when to affirm and when to ask questions and try to be a good example for all?

Answer: We will, the Lord being our helper.

Invite the Head Teacher and School Leaders to stand, all reply

Leader: School leaders to you is entrusted the responsibility of running our school and the managing of it on a day to day basis. In the decisions you make, will you do your best to hold a clear vision of what a full and rounded education looks like and to promote and develop our Christian ethos? Will you seek to build our school on values that are rooted in your kingdom and make it a safe and joyful place where all pupils grow and flourish?

Answer: We will, the Lord being our helper

Invite the teachers to stand, all reply

Leader: Teachers, to you is entrusted the responsibility of encouraging, supporting and instructing our children and young people to help them develop and progress in their learning. Will you do all you can to form strong relationships with your pupils and to engage them positively in their learning?

Answer: We will, the Lord being our helper.

Invite support staff to stand e.g. teaching assistants, meal supervisors, office staff etc all reply

Leader: Support staff you do so many types of work that enable our school to run smoothly and efficiently and to help us provide a nurturing environment for our children. Will you do your best to undertake this work diligently as you assist others and contribute to the life of the school?

Answer: We will, the Lord being our helper.

Invite parents / carers to stand, all reply

Leader: Parents and carers you have responsibility for nurturing and guiding our next generation and encouraging your children as they grow and develop into adulthood. Your children's school plays a significant part in their education and development. Will you do your best to support the school and your child with their learning in any way you can?

Answer: We will, the Lord being our helper.

Invite children / young people to stand, all reply

Leader: Children, you are the heart of our school. Will you do all you can, to ensure that you try hard with your learning, respond positively to your teachers and the other adults that look after you and make the most of all the opportunities offered to you at school?

Answer: We will, the Lord being our helper.

“Let us say together the words of the Lord’s Prayer ...”

**Our Father in heaven,
hallowed be your name,
your kingdom come,
your will be done,
on earth as in heaven.
Give us today our daily bread.
Forgive us our sins
as we forgive those who sin against us.
Lead us not into temptation
but deliver us from evil.
For the kingdom, the power,
and the glory are yours
now and forever
Amen**

Final Prayer

Lord we thank you for our school. We pray that it will be a positive learning environment for all who work and study there and that it will be a place where children enjoy their time and really thrive. We ask that through the education children receive, they will be equipped not only with the qualifications and skills they need but that they will also develop the personal qualities, attitudes and character to lead happy and fulfilled lives. We thank you for the relationship between this church and the school and we pray that we would be able to truly resource and support one another.

And finally, we ask your blessing on our school over the coming academic year and pray for the continuing engagement of our children with the Christian story.

In Jesus name. **Amen**