

A Simple Act of Prayer and Commissioning for Use 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 lecturers, our support staff and administrators, our chaplains and clergy, all school volunteers and any others who support the work of education.

We acknowledge that through our education system and institutions important foundations are laid for future life. We recognise that the ethos of our schools and the values that are lived out, play a key part in forming young lives.

We pray for our schools that they would be safe and nurturing environments where all would be supported and encouraged to grow and flourish as individuals and to find a sense of belonging and community.

Prayer

God of life, we thank you for the universities, colleges, schools and early years' settings we are involved in through the members of this church. We pray that they would be positive learning environments for all who work and study in them. Today especially, we ask your blessing on all who work in education and we pray that our schools would be places where children and young people enjoy their time and really thrive. We ask that through the education they 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. Amen.

Act of Rededication and Commissioning

The prayers below have a response that the congregation can join in with. This is:

Leader: Fill them afresh with your spirit

All: **and inspire them to walk in your ways**

Invite teachers in nurseries, schools and academies to stand

Leader: Lord God we thank you for our teachers, for their hard work and enthusiasm and for all they invest in the children and young people in their care. Help them to build strong relationships with those they teach and to engage them positively in their learning. Give them creativity and patience as they work with children and young people day by day and give them a genuine desire to see their pupils grow and develop into the people you have created them to be.

Fill them afresh with your spirit

and inspire them to walk in your ways

Invite those who work in nurseries, schools and academies in other capacities to stand – teaching assistants, meal supervisors, office staff etc

Leader: Lord God we thank you for the many people who enable schools to run smoothly and efficiently and who provide a nurturing environment for our children. Help them to know their value and to enjoy the work they do.

Fill them afresh with your spirit
and inspire them to walk in your ways

Invite school leaders and governors to stand

Leader: Lord God we thank you for our school leaders and governors and those who make decisions about how our schools are run. Plant in them a clear vision of what a full and rounded education should look like and help them to build their schools on values that are rooted in your kingdom. Give to all leaders wisdom in their decision making and strength to cope with the challenges that come along. Help governors as critical friends of the school to know when to affirm and when to ask questions.

Fill them afresh with your spirit
and inspire them to walk in your ways

Invite those involved in further and higher education to stand, both students and lecturers

Leader: Lord God we thank you for all those who attend colleges and universities. Guide both those who lecture and those who learn in them. Help them to be salt and light in the places where they study and work enable them to point others to you through what they do and say.

Fill them afresh with your spirit
and inspire them to walk in your ways

Invite parents and carers to stand

Leader: Lord God we thank you for those among us, who as parents and carers nurture the next generation. Help them to love without condition, to set boundaries with wisdom and to share their faith in you. Be close to them and give them the gifts they need to care for their children and to support them as they grow and mature into adults.

Fill them afresh with your spirit
and inspire them to walk in your ways

Invite children and young people to stand

Leader: Lord God we thank you for these children and young people who attend nurseries, schools and academies. Help them to make the most of the opportunities they have, to build great friendships, to work hard and play creatively. Help them to know your presence with them day by day in the joys and struggles that are part of school life. We pray above all that as they grow up they will come to know you in a deeper and deeper way.

Fill them afresh with your spirit
and inspire them to walk in your ways

Final Prayer

Lord God we thank you for the education we have been privileged to receive. We give you thanks and praise for the people in our lives who have taught us and supported us and helped us to take steps forward in our journey with you. Help us to encourage and support all those who work in education and to appreciate the important work they do. Empower them by your Holy Spirit, as they seek to live out their calling and serve you in this way. In Jesus name.

Amen.