

Prayer requests for schools/education across the UK



Praise: for all the dedicated school staff – teaching, pastoral, admin and support - who work so hard, had to surmount Covid related challenges and still pull out all the stops to give students the best school experience possible.

Leadership: Prayer for wisdom and resilience for Heads/school leaders to do all they would want for the children and young people in their schools. It's not an easy job with more expected, often without the resources (financial, people...)

Vulnerable learners: Lock-down was particularly difficult for vulnerable learners and many have fallen behind their peers as a result. Please pray:

- That they will settle back well into school
- That they will get the support they need to catch up in their education.

SEND (Special Educational Needs and Disabilities): Pray for the system locally and nationally. The system is in crisis locally (OCC has significant staffing as well as finance issues) and schools have increasing numbers of students with complex needs. Staff are doing all they can, but the pressure is high and heart breaking where they see children failing to have needs met.

Relationships and Sex Education: Pray for God honouring content in the RSHE curriculum

- Pray for wisdom for the Christians in schools – staff, students, governors, parents – to speak biblical wisdom into the complex issues of sexuality
- Pray for wisdom and guidance in responding to gender ideology issues and advocating to improve teaching on these matters

Teacher recruitment & retention: 'Volume of workload' and 'seeking better work/life balance' are two top issues causing teachers to consider leaving - pray for these to be addressed.

- Pray for churches and wider society to prioritise the need for better conditions for all in the education profession

Raising standards nationally: Pray that all schools offer outstanding education and a child's life chances are not determined by the proximity of their home to a good school

Prayer requests from students across the city



Please thank God for:

- the amazing education we receive;
- hard working teachers;
- Christian representation in teachers;
- For CUs, the student leaders and teachers/volunteers who support them;

Please pray for:

- people doing exams and for GCSE and A level students who are finishing or have finished their exams after this stressed time;
- for teachers struggling to complete busy syllabuses;
- for a safe community for all, for people to be kind to each other;
- for students who struggle in lessons;
- for students who use harmful drugs, cigarettes or vapes;
- us, to stand out when others are gossiping or complaining
- for a good rest and for protection over the summer holidays for all of our students, but particularly those awaiting exam results;

Prayer request from parents. Please pray for

- Praise God for our CUs which give students a safe place to think about the Christian faith within the school;
- For all students taking exams and wisdom for parents in supporting students through this difficult time;
- For young people and their parents negotiating the opportunities and risks of the internet together ;
- children and young people experiencing mental health distress and gender distress and for families and young people impacted by these issues;
- For Christian students to know that their identity does not lie in exam results or sporting success but in the person God created them to be, the person He loves and guides each day.

Prayer requests for OSC's work. Please join us to pray for:



- continued wisdom & discernment with God's guidance in OSC's work.
- future chaplaincy opportunities and supporting young people;
- the 95%+ of students who do not attend church, that through scripture, through school friends, Christian teachers and Christian groups in school they will find an introduction to faith, and the means to explore it further;
- the continued development of mental health support in our schools through the (Kintsugi Hope) Youth Wellbeing sessions and mentoring programmes with which we are involved.
- forthcoming OSC lessons

Please join us in giving thanks for:

- the appointment of Rev Kay Blackwell in September – Chaplaincy Team Leader at TOA. Continue to pray for her role being a Christian presence in school.
- our contacts in schools who make it possible for us to take in assemblies, lessons and volunteers to run lunchclubs and Christian Unions;
- the freedom to discuss faith in our city's schools, and for partnership with local churches and other Christian groups: Good News for All (formerly Gideons UK), Thrive Leys, BeSpace
- for active CUs in Gosford Hill School, Cherwell School, Swan School, and the Oxford Academy; pray for Cheney CU which is about to start up again, and for Spires School, St Gregs, Meadowbrook;
- all OSC volunteers, church & individual supporters, donors, trustees.

This year there are common themes to many of the **prayer requests from all of our schools.** Please join us in praying for:



- all students affected by anxiety or depression and all of those waiting for emotional and mental health support;
- wisdom and energy for pastoral staff and for the leadership at school, tackling an increase in in the load and complexity of pastoral care;
- all students moving from primary to secondary, for those awaiting exam results and those moving onwards to college and University;
- all students, including refugees, for whom school is a safe space in an uncertain world, and for wisdom for staff supporting them;
- all staff – may the Lord provide protection and guidance as they finish out this school year and plan for the next one;
- God's guidance in the appointment of all new members of staff; for all staff moving to new posts, and those arriving to fill posts too.
- senior leadership and headteachers, for wisdom for them and reassurance as they make difficult decisions in guiding their schools to be more successful, inclusive and safe places for all;
- wisdom and inspiration in preparing assemblies and chapel talks

and in giving thanks for

- staff who attend churches in and around Oxford;
- Senior Leaders in schools who understand the pressures on teachers, and are able to balance future planning for their school along with being supportive of staff in their everyday work;
- All of the hard work put in by teachers in encouraging young people and opening up opportunities for learning and engagement;
- Teachers who are aware of those who are struggling and are able to offer a smile, extra encouragement, support, hope and prayer.
- Thanks that school life is returning to normal after the disruption of COVID

Thank you so much for your prayers for OSC and your local schools, throughout the year.

Please do join us in person or online for OSC prayers – we pray each week at St Andrew’s Church, Tuesday morning from 10.30 – 11.00, or please do email us to receive weekly prayer points:

Email: info@oxfordschoolschaplaincy.org

Web: www.oxfordschoolschaplaincy.org

School staff: if we can pray for you at any time, please do email us on the above address at any time.

Every blessing,

Paul, Kay, Jo and the OSC team