

just one thing

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Welcome

Hello and welcome to this project, we hope that you find this document useful, informative, and inspirational in helping you get your church community to support your schools' community.

just one thing is an initiative developed by NISCU to help church communities engage with children and young people primarily in a school's context. Please remember that while you are in this process of supporting your school, you should respect your schools views and policies at every stage and level, and as it says further down, knowing what your school wants and helping them in that can be much more beneficial than just telling them that you are going to do 'this'.

It should be noted straight away that there are obvious safeguarding issues around adults and the access that they have with young people, and whilst this should not be a barrier for many entering schools, it should be appreciated and respected.

The rest of this document provides a potential model for getting involved, and also is full of many ideas of how you can get involved.

It follows the NISCU pattern of how to get involved, namely:



A: Ask and receive ...getting involved in praying for your schools communities.



B: Beautiful feet ...practically being in schools alongside children and staff.



C: Cheerful givers ...supporting the financial burden of getting into schools.

Finally, just to say that involving your local area NISCU workers from an early stage can save lots of time and effort on your part. They are generally the people who know what the school would like from a local community, and can help link you with the school in a really positive way.

So, enjoy your journey back to school, and get on and do 'Just One Thing'.

Getting started

Here is a suggested model of getting started on your 'Just One Thing' journey.

Step 1:

Pray, and find others to pray. Always a good place to start! Meet with others in your church(es) community (it doesn't have to be a 'big' thing!) and pray, start by saying 'God what can we do for our children and young people!'



Step 2:

Find others in your church who also want to be involved. Having a group of people who are working together will help to make, and keep this 'thing' sustainable. They don't all have to be in school, they could be prayers, helpers, people who drive you to school, bakers, etc...

Step 3:

Make sure you **include your church leadership** in this 'thing'. Talk and involve your church leaders as soon as you can, in fact get them on your support group helping and praying for your children and young people's communities!!

Step 4:

Let us know! As soon as you can, let your NISCU worker know that you would like to get involved...they might already know what your school really needs...or will have a good enough relationship with the head teacher to go and ask. This can save you lots of time and energy providing something that you know will help the school, and is what they want!

Step 5:

Training. Some of the 'thing's you do you may need specific training, if necessary talk to us again about that. I would suggest that anybody going in to a school should be told the 'do's and don'ts' of being in school, undergo some safeguarding training and meet with the local school to see if they need further policy training from them. Whilst this sounds like heavy going, it isn't and it will help whoever goes in to school feel more confident about the role that they are to play within that community.

Step 6:

Let others know... I am presuming that you will have your support team with you, praying and helping you every step of the way. But now is a good time to let the whole church(es) know and get them excited about the task. Also let us know when you want to start and we can support you through our prayer networks.

Step 7:

Get going. The moment is here to get in to school...Whoohooooooo!!! Again let us all know and we can pray for you.

Step 8:

Ongoing support. If you include NISCU on your journey this far, then we will include you on our journey together, and will give you further training, support and an ear to talk to (and maybe a shoulder to cry on too!).

So, what do you want to do?

Ask & Receive

Here are some ideas to help get you started!

Feel free to go outside the box with this one...but remember the emphasis is on praying!

1: Start a prayer group in your church.

2: Get your 'mothers and toddlers' adults praying together for what happens next.

3: Start a Pray 4 schools group.

visit www.prayforschools.org



4: Ask if there are any NISCU prayer groups going on that you can join with.

5: Ask NISCU staff for prayer pointers from your area, and your local school.

6: Pray whenever you pass a school. Pray for their staff, governors, head teachers, pupils, support staff, parents, etc...

7: Meet the head and ask them if they have prayer items for their school.



Beautiful Feet - in church

We have separated 'Beautiful Feet' out into two areas, this page has things that you can do in your church, and the next page has things that you can do in school. Again, there will be loads more things than on this list, so let us know if you try something that isn't here so it can be shared.

- 1: Offer your church as a place of worship for a class visit from your local school.
 - 2: If the local school does 'shoe boxes' or similar in October/November time, offer the church as a place to have 'packing sessions' for children to come to. Provide juice and biscuits and tell them a story about Jesus caring for the less privileged after they have finished packing them.
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- 3: Provide breakfast before the service for local children (juice and toast is fine). This is particularly useful if you are in an area with schools that have a lot of children getting a free school breakfast every week day.
 - 4: Run an internet cafe for children who don't have access at home. Provide after school space for youth to hang out, do homework etc (with snacks).
 - 5: Start Messy Church and ask if it can be advertised in your local school. Run your messy church in a school!
 - 6: Make your Sunday services child friendly and relevant to children.
 - 7: Provide learning opportunities for young people eg learn an instrument; the PA desk, etc...
 - 8: Provide mentoring for all of your youth – Ask about NISCU's Discipleship and Leadership Programmes to support you in this.
 - 9: Run a family activity day during the holidays in the church.
 - 10: Contact people from other churches and ask them for an outline of what they actually do for each age group. Produce leaflets that advertise their activities, so NISCU workers can circulate in school with permission.
 - 11: Put together a booklet of testimonies (child friendly) and give it to your local school to assist with their RE lessons, again ask the school if they need specific stories for their curriculum.

Beautiful Feet - in school

These are all things that you could do in your local school. We do advise you to contact us first before you go into your local school, as we can help support you and the school in making it work.

- 1: Tell your story in school – let our staff team know that you are prepared to come and let children ‘Meet a Christian’ ...ps they don’t bite!!
- 2: Support a ‘Big Questions’ club – let our staff know that you are happy to help them answer children’s questions in a club setting.
- 3: Help at a ‘Grill a Christian’ session (often on the curriculum ... but not on the bbq, that was 17th Century...)
- 4: Reading with children who need support.
- 5: Let children read to you.
- 6: Become a 121 School Listener, and simply listen to children in school.
- 7: Provide refreshments for Yr 6/7 induction evenings in a local secondary school.
- 8: Bake cakes for the staffroom at the end of each term and for OFSTED.
- 9: Start or help at a school sports club, dance club, art club, photography club, musical clubs, choir, whatever you are good at!!
- 10: Help with lunchtime playground duty.



Cheerful Givers

Below are some specific ways that you can support your local school community, and some generic ones. Also, just so that you know, any money given to NISCU will be allocated to the area nearest your postcode, unless you specify it to go to something specific.

- 1:** Do a 'supermarket sweep' in your children/youth group. Everyone brings £1, each team gets a list of food items and fastest team wins. Items are then donated to food bank.
- 2:** Donate creme eggs for our creme egg quests. Include a personal message of encouragement or a bible verse with every sponsored creme egg.
- 3:** Sponsor a Bible for children and young people who are searching for the truth, then they can be given by NISCU staff. Don't forget to write a note/bible verse to make it really individual. Could include a card with dates and times of regular things that happen at the church that the young person may like to attend.....
- 4:** Sponsor SU's It's your move transition booklets for the Year 6's moving up to Secondary School.

Did you know that...?

£30 one - off payment

can train a volunteer to become a

121 School Listener.



acorn
wholeness for all

£30 one - off payment

can buy a class of year 6 pupils the 'It's your move' transition booklet from Scripture Union.



Scripture Union

£200 one - off payment

can pay for a volunteer to be trained in

'Walk through the Bible'



WALK THRU THE BIBLE

£250 one - off payment

can support a school to have Understanding Christianity staff training for a year, delivered by NISCU.



£1,000 per year

can pay for a school's worker to be in your local school for 2 hours per week throughout the school year.

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Finally...

There are so many things that could help your schools and your church to continue building a meaningful support relationship for your children and young people.

But just a few more things to remember!!!

- 1: Building a sustainable relationship with your school will take a long time, and a lot of effort to maintain. but it is worth every minute - your children and young people need to know that there are a group of people who genuinely care for them and their well being regardless of their age, size, phone, clothes or gender.
- 2: Keeping this 'One Thing' going can be tiring...that is why it is very important to get as many people you can in your church to help you...it really will make a difference to you and your children/young people.
- 3: Schools are not usually the place to proselytise...so take a different approach of showing the children, young people, teachers and your community that you really care by helping them where they are at. You might not see an immediate increase in people coming to your church, but I can almost guarantee that you will make a huge difference to the life of your community in the long term.
- 4: Let us know how you are getting on, and we can share your good practice, as well as getting others to pray for you!!



For more information either visit the area pages at www.niscu.org.uk/areas

or email:

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