

NISCU Furness: Outline of Activity

The work in schools by NISCU in the Furness area was restarted in 2017 by Charlie Day. Charlie was based in Coniston and predominantly worked in the secondary schools in Coniston (John Ruskin), Ulverston (UVHS), Millom, as well as an occasional assembly or lesson in Dallam.

The work now is looking to focus more on providing support for other schools' work organisations (mainly in Coniston and Ulverston) as well as developing the work in Millom. Regarding the immediate future, discussions on how to develop the work across the area is always under review and will always be developed alongside the skills we have within our employed and wider team.

We aim to work closely with local churches and their leadership to maximise outreach to, and support for, children and young people. We seek to build a relationship of trust with schools, working with churches to encourage their members to support their local schools.

Key skills are communication and relationship building, with young people but also with school heads, teaching and other staff, church and youth leaders, volunteers and outside organisations.

We do not proselytise in schools but offer opportunity for all to explore the Christian faith, supporting those who wish to grow in their faith. We work with churches to offer further opportunities to explore the faith outside of the school environment. Therefore, we are available to speak at churches, inter church youth events and residential events. The current Furness work supports the Deanery Network Youth Church outdoor events when possible and promotes church children's events when possible, and liaises with church leaders regarding availability to help if needed.

In the Furness area, we are still looking to develop our Area Support Group who provide insight and support to our workers at a local level, it is a team of local church representatives who support the schools' workers and work with them and the central NISCU office to set priorities, develop the working strategy for the area, to create and maintain funding through events and marketing, and to encourage prayer support.

