

NISCU Eden: Outline of Activity

There are currently two part-time permanent members of staff. There are some co-workers, (local church or deanery staff) with whom we work together in some schools. There are independent 'Open the Book' teams with whom the current worker has worked for one-off events. The work is across Primary and Secondary schools, state and independent.

The area staff seek 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. The current vacancy is to continue/expand the current work in and around the Penrith area, mainly focussing on the work in a Primary school context, but also continuing to maintain and develop relationships with our Secondary schools and pupils.

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.

The NISCU Schools Worker role is varied and may include running clubs/CUs, assemblies for year groups or whole school; RE and other lessons according to the curriculum requirements of the schools, prayer spaces, transition work with Year 6/7, and other work according to staff skills available.

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 Eden worker 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.

There is a half termly prayer meeting held on Zoom (currently Monday evenings) to which supporters from across the Eden valley (and beyond) attend, and at which updates are given. A weekly prayer bulletin and 'thought for the week' is sent to supporters.

The Area Support Group is a team of local church representatives who support the schools' workers and work with them to set priorities and a strategy for the area, and to encourage prayer support.