

Sunday 7th February 2021 is Schools Work Sunday!!



What's it for?

This is an opportunity in our local churches to:

1. celebrate & give thanks for...
2. pray for...
3. raise awareness of...

the work that Christians and the local church do to reach out and serve our local schools.

Why February?

Schools Work Sunday has been going for several years as an initiative of the Brentwood Schools Christian Worker Trust (BSCWT). It was prompted by the fact that, in 2017, the national celebration of *Education Sunday* (which has been marked in England and Wales for over 100 years) officially moved from February to September to coincide with the start of the school year (in many local churches, this has been celebrated for many years as *Back to School Sunday*).

The beginning of February is about half way through the school year, so it is a good time to remind ourselves in our local churches of the importance of reaching out to, and praying for, the children, young people and adults in our local schools. Some churches might have decided to continue marking *Education Sunday* at this time, but for others, *Schools Work Sunday* is our suggestion to fill the gap!



What can you do?

This year's *Schools Work Sunday* is likely to look rather different, due to the current pandemic and restrictions, but please don't let that put you off doing something! Here are a few ideas:

1. Plan to offer something to be included in your church service(s), whether in person or online, on Sunday 7th February (or a nearby Sunday). We have created a 4-minute presentation video which you could use, but alternatively (or additionally) you could:
 - Do a short interview with one or more people in your church who serve in a local school. Questions could include:
 - ❖ Which school are you involved with & what do you do?
 - ❖ What do you enjoy most about it & what do you find challenging?
 - ❖ What opportunities are there to express your faith in words or actions?
 - ❖ How can we (the church) pray for you?
 - Lead a time of prayer for the Christian work going on in local schools (including the work of groups like BSCWT, *Good News for Everyone* (formerly Gideons UK), *Open the Book* teams, church schools and others, as well as Christian staff and students in schools)
2. Put a notice in your church news bulletin/email to make people aware of *Schools Work Sunday*.
3. Contact your church leader and others in your church who are connected with schools ministry to discuss what else you could do on *Schools Work Sunday*.

We hope you'll find a way to mark *Schools Work Sunday* in your church. We'd also love to hear what you did and how it went so we can build on this for the next *Schools Work Sunday* which will be on 6th February 2022!!

Thank you for your support for Christian work in our local schools.

The BSCWT staff team.