

Scripture Union In Schools

Scripture Union has been supporting Christian groups in schools at both primary and secondary level throughout Northern Ireland for many years. The following information is for principals who may be approached for permission to run Scripture Union groups in their schools.

Background

Scripture Union Northern Ireland is an interdenominational Christian movement which is linked to similar movements in more than 100 countries worldwide. As well as supporting Christian groups in schools, we organise holiday activities for children and young people and promote resources including Bible reading aids for people of all ages.

Aims

In school groups, our aims are to encourage children and young people to follow Jesus and to apply the teaching of the Bible to their lives. The need to demonstrate Christian faith in daily living, especially at school, whether in the classroom or on the sports field, is emphasised.

Beliefs

Our Statement of Belief affirms the historic truths of the Christian faith and conforms to the statements of faith of all the main churches. Copies are available for inspection on request.

Affiliation

We encourage all Christian groups in schools to consider affiliating to Scripture Union. Affiliated groups benefit from the support of SU staff and links with other groups. Groups which are not affiliated may not use the name or logo of Scripture Union.

Leaders

In order to be affiliated, our policy is that the coordinator of the group must first be approved both by the school principal and by Scripture Union.

In order to be approved by Scripture Union, coordinators are asked to submit an application form and one written reference. Applicants are informed in writing when their applications have been approved and a group may not be started until this approval has been given.

It is the responsibility of the school principal to ensure that all the adults regularly involved in the group either as members of staff or as volunteers have been approved in accordance with the Department of Education's child protection policy.

At secondary level pupils are often encouraged to take a greater share of the responsibility for planning and running the group where this is appropriate. Some groups may appoint a pupil committee to assist the adult leader(s) in the running of the group.

Finance

School groups have no financial obligation to Scripture Union which is funded by voluntary gifts from the Christian community.

Activities

Within the school, groups meet before school, during lunch time or after school for Bible study and other activities under the supervision of at least one adult leader.

School groups may conduct other activities outside of school hours at the discretion of the coordinator. Group members will also be invited to participate in activities, including holiday activities, organised centrally by Scripture Union.

Scripture Union groups operate as voluntary groups within the school. Their educational rationale is similar to that of all other voluntary clubs which exist within the school.

Scripture Union Staff Members

Scripture Union staff members oversee the operation of groups in schools and act as resource people. They confer with principals and with leaders as appropriate, visit groups regularly and seek to maintain good relationships within schools and with local churches.

If you have any queries or concerns at any time please contact the Schools Development Manager at the address below.

Scripture Union seeks and values the goodwill and esteem of parents and of school authorities and invites their co-operation in this vital Christian enterprise.

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Scripture Union Groups in Schools

A Guide for Principals