

Scripture Union In Schools

Scripture Union has been running voluntary 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 is an interdenominational Christian movement, which operates in more than 100 countries worldwide. In Northern Ireland, as well as running SU groups in schools we organise holiday activities for children and young people and promote resources including Bible reading aids for people of all ages.

Statement Of Belief

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.

What Is An SU Group?

An SU group is a voluntary group, which meets regularly on school premises and is designed to help pupils explore the teaching of the Bible and to encourage them to live it out in daily life at school, whether in the classroom, in the playground or on the sports field.

Registration

We encourage all who run Christian groups in schools to consider registering with Scripture Union. Registered groups benefit from the support of SU staff and links with other groups. Groups that are not registered may not use the name or logo of Scripture Union.

Leaders

In order for a group to be registered with us, each of the adults involved as leaders must be approved by Scripture Union.

Anyone wishing to be involved as a leader is required to apply for this approval online. Applicants are informed in writing when their applications have been approved and may not be involved in the group until this approval has been given.

As part of the application process, principals are asked to confirm that applicants have been approved by the school in accordance with the DENI policy on child protection.

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 during lunchtime 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 residential 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 that 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 Team Leader at the address below.

Scripture Union seeks and values the goodwill of parents and of school authorities and invites their co-operation in its work with children and young people in schools.

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SCHOOLS

Scripture Union
Northern Ireland

Scripture Union Groups in Schools

A Guide for Principals