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**Responsive Prayer**

Before the service, invite the following individuals to take part:

* A parent who will pray for pupils
* A pupil who will pray for school staff and headteachers
* A church member who will pray for the church and your relationship with local schools.

You will need to tell them in which order they are praying, and explain that after each person prays, the whole church will say together “Lord, show us your love as we put our trust in you. Amen.”

**LEADER** (*Mention names)* have been asked to lead us in praying for schools and their needs. As each one finishes praying, we will all take part by saying together, “**Lord, show us your love as we put our trust in you.**”

**Parent**Father God, we thank you today for every child and young person in our church fellowship. We pray for those who are starting nursery, primary, secondary, or home learning (*if you have a child in your fellowship who attends a school for additional support needs, mention them in particular)* for the first time – as well as our students just starting college and university. May they know you care for them and are with them. May knowing that they are going Back to School with God help them settle in quickly. We pray, Father, that our schools would be places of learning, creativity, encouragement, and discovery for our young people. We ask that your peace and joy would fill classrooms, playgrounds, and lessons. Help them with every difficulty. We also pray that extra-curricular activities might safely resume and that through them, pupils will grow in skills, understanding and friendship.

**Lord, show us your love as we put our trust in you.**

**Pupil**Father God, we pray for our Headteachers, teachers and support staff who work so hard to ensure that we thrive as pupils and reach our potential at school. We thank you for the support and encouragement they give us. We ask that you give them wisdom for the year ahead. Please remind them of the impact they have on the lives of so many pupils. We pray for those in our own church who work in schools. In challenging moments, please give them patience, energy, and a sense of your presence. Guide them by your Spirit. We pray that the staff room would be a place where words of encouragement and hope are spoken.

**Lord, show us your love as we put our trust in you.**

**Member** Father God, we thank you for our service this morning. You are trustworthy and faithful, generous, and kind. You are faithful, even when things don’t always turn out as we would want or imagine. Thank you for your incredible love. Forgive us when we doubt your goodness and wander far from you – for times we think we know best, and don’t listen to you. We are sorry, Lord. In our disappointments, failings, fears, and worries, draw us close to you.

 We pray for those involved in education. We pray for those in positions of leadership and influence, who make decisions at a local and government level. We pray especially for Christians who serve and work among them that you would protect them, that they would lead with integrity, that they would be influencers for good, and work in a way that reflects and honours you. We pray for those who serve on Parent Teacher Associations and Boards of Governors, who have important decisions to make. May your Holy Spirit guide them.

 Going forward, we pray that assemblies, SU groups and other Christian support might be allowed to continue, recognising their value as places where children and young people can wrestle with tough questions, explore the Bible, and find out who you are.

 We pray for wisdom for our own church family as we support our local schools. *(If appropriate, pray for some of the things that you have been doing or are planning to do in the term ahead).* Lord, please stir us to compassion, and stir us to action. Please help us bring encouragement to our children and teachers, both practically and through ongoing prayer.

**Lord, show us your love as we put our trust in you. Amen.**