

Lunchtime / After School Christian Clubs in Primary Schools

We are hearing of an increasing number of extra-curricular Christian clubs starting in schools in the diocese. Some are run by school staff, others by visitors from the local Christian community. They have a variety of names such as, Prayer Club, Faith Club, Big Questions Club.

These clubs are different to a church group such as a Sunday Club, or Messy Church because of the school setting. While they are explicitly Christian the children participating may come from homes of other faiths and beliefs, or none, so the material should be less confessional than in a church group.

These clubs are different to school collective worship or RE lessons because the children have chosen to be there, and they are run outside the formal curriculum time. The content may include songs, prayers and activities that are more confessional than is appropriate in collective worship.

We recommend these guiding principles

The school safeguarding requirements and procedures must be followed.

Parents should be made aware of the Christian nature of the content.

Parents should give written permission for their child to attend such a club.

The school leadership should be aware of the content.

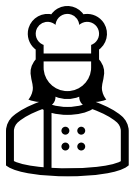
Children should be *invited* to join in with activities such as prayers and singing and given the option to observe if they wish.

Leaders should avoid the language of 'we believe' and use the language 'Christians believe' 'I am a Christian and I believe'.

Below are a few suggestions for the content of these extra-curricular clubs.

Please note that we have not read every session in the resources below, leaders must use their knowledge of their children to decide what is appropriate for their school club.

Bake Through the Bible A book of 20 cooking activities to explore Bible stories. There is a seasonal book as well. [Bake through the Bible](#)



Flame Creative Kids BlogSpot Ideas for crafts, reflective colouring prayer stations to go with a wide variety of Bible stories. Lots here for the youngest children
[Flame: Creative Children's Ministry](#)



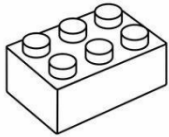
Cheeky Pandas for 5-7 year olds, these are too confessional for curricular time. The ones linked to the Jesus Storybook Bible could be useful [Christian cartoons](#), [worship songs](#), and [free resources](#).



Muddy Church Ideas for activities linked to Bible stories to be done outside. These could work well if the school already has a forest school area.
[Community | Muddy Church](#)



Lego (or Brick) Church Be aware that Lego are protective of their tradename name being used, so we advise using the words 'Brick' or 'Block' in the name of your club.



Use a video or images made of Lego to tell the Bible story. Then build scenes to create the story. You could then do your own stop-go animation of the story to share with others. Here are a few useful resources. Do watch any video right to the end before showing it to children, occasionally the content is not suitable
[Bible Builders](#) Plenty of videos and an outline of how to run a session
[Bricktime Studios - YouTube](#) lots of videos including how he made some of the sets.
[Lego - Go Chatter](#) Videos mainly for festivals currently free to download
[The Brick Testament](#) Images made of Lego to tell Bible stories. However, some of the images are not suitable for children, so you must check before you show them.

The Prayer Experiment Notebook you can read about how this was used in after school club [here](#).



[The Prayer Experiment Notebook](#)

Prayer Spaces in Schools Some people take in one or two reflective prayer activities for a lunchtime club each week. [Prayer Spaces In Schools](#)



You can find over 100 ideas for prayer activities in the resources area. The videos of the prayer spaces sessions are full of useful tips as are the interviews.



Scripture Union Materials

Diary of a Disciple materials based on the book for 8-11 years olds. There are activity books and journal club and more [Diary of a Disciple | Scripture Union](#)

Rooted Junior for 8-11 year olds ideas for sessions and groups [Rooted Junior | Scripture Union](#)

Seasonal Pathway 5-11 year olds this is a heading for a variety of resources [Children's Seasonal Pathway | Scripture Union](#)

Bible Storybags by Margaret Cooling



Only available in hard copy. A reflective story telling of a Bible story with suggested activities to do alongside.

[Bible Storybags](#)

Soul Space for parents



You may wish to invite families to join with a short reflection when they collect their children. This material would work well [here](#).