

Endorsements



“GOOD NEWS for Everyone! are welcome visitors to our school every year. I admire the open-hearted, no-strings-attached generosity which they bring, offering every child the gift of wisdom, in the form of the New Testament, Psalms and Proverbs; Scriptures which lie at the very foundation of our western society.

Ed Pawson, Head of RE at a secondary school in Devon and Chair of NATRE 2008-2014

“A free gift of such a best seller book, which has moulded much in our culture and functions as a guidebook for life for so many millions of people, is something I happily endorse.

Alison Brown, Deputy Director and Schools' Adviser, Derby Anglican Diocese



“My school serves a diverse community where the majority come from Muslim family backgrounds. We opt for Islam and New Testament Studies at A level and the generous donation by GOOD NEWS for Everyone! of a free “New Testament, Psalms and Proverbs” means each student can take a copy home to aid their studies.

Deborah Weston, Mulberry School for Girls, Tower Hamlets

“Putting a copy of the New Testament, Psalms and Proverbs into the hands of every pupil releases a great potential to improve the religious literacy of this country. It is up to parents and teachers to help realise this.

John Keast OBE, Chair of the RE Council, 2008-2013



“**The Madani Federation has commented:**

GOOD NEWS for Everyone! have been one of the many organisations whom we have dealt with and have always proved to be a joy to work with. The insight and knowledge that they have shared has been very well received amongst students and staff. We hope to continue working with GOOD NEWS for Everyone! in the future.

“**Lat Blaylock, Editor of RE Today magazine says:**

The generous offer GOOD NEWS for Everyone! make to every pupil in the country is of a free copy of the New Testament, Psalms and Proverbs, ancient wisdom which millions find relevant today. I warmly welcome their visits to schools and the free gift they make to pupils, a spur to the spiritual in an open hearted way.



Additional copies of this leaflet can be obtained from GOOD NEWS for Everyone!.

Your local GOOD NEWS for Everyone! contact:

GOOD NEWS for Everyone!

24, Western House, George Street, Lutterworth
Leicestershire, LE17 4EE

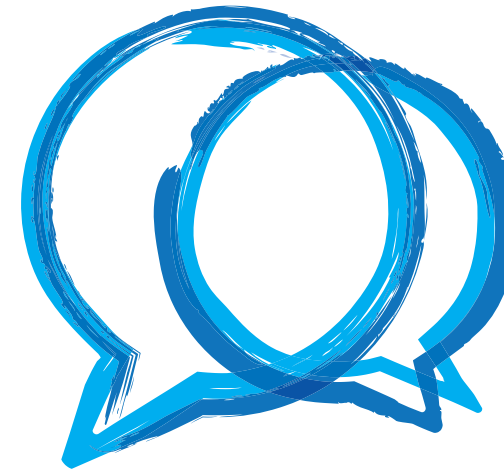
Tel: 01455 554241

Email: info@goodnewsuk.com

Website: www.goodnewsuk.com

GoodNewsForEvery1 @_goodnewsforeveryone

@good_news_for_everyone @_GoodNewsUK



Visits to Schools by GOOD NEWS for Everyone! a generous offer

GOOD NEWS for Everyone! is an international charity whose members distribute copies of the Christian Scriptures completely free of charge. For many decades, in the UK, GOOD NEWS for Everyone! members have given copies of the Bible or the New Testament, Psalms and Proverbs to students in schools, universities and colleges; by the bedside in hotels, guest houses, ships, hospitals and residential homes; HM Prisons; to members of HM Forces, the Police, Fire and Ambulance Services; nurses and other similar avenues of distribution. This short leaflet explains the work of the charity for those who may consider welcoming GOOD NEWS for Everyone! into school.

If the Christian Scriptures contain wisdom for life, then this small but generous gift can support schools in their work for pupils' spiritual, moral, social and cultural development, and give young people a choice for themselves, an opportunity to investigate what these words of ancient wisdom might hold that is valuable to them. The offer of a free copy of the New Testament, Psalms and Proverbs, for every pupil in a school, is widely welcomed, not just by Christians but often also by members of other religions and people of no religion.

How do members of GOOD NEWS for Everyone! work in schools?

GOOD NEWS for Everyone! have consulted with NATRE, the National Association of Teachers of RE, to develop their approach to visiting schools. GOOD NEWS for Everyone! do not come to preach or to coerce pupils in any way. Our volunteers seek instead to make a simple and generous offer of a free copy of Christian Scriptures to all pupils who would like to receive it. In the light of NATRE's advice, GOOD NEWS for Everyone! volunteers seek to:

- ✓ be willing to share their own experiences, beliefs and insights, but avoid criticising the experience and insights of others or imposing their views upon pupils in any way;
- ✓ be familiar with the school's aims, ethos and policies, and plan their involvement in the light of the aims of the curriculum at the school;
- ✓ make clear to pupils who they are, who they represent, and what their aims are. Nothing is done in an underhand way;
- ✓ respect the right of the pupils and adults in the school to hold views that may be different from their own;
- ✓ develop ways of speaking to pupils that communicate their open approach, avoiding any hidden agenda to 'convert' or to proselytise.

What are our ways of planning a visit together with the school?

Members of GOOD NEWS for Everyone! who visit schools are Christian people, volunteers, often from the local business community. They believe that the Christian Scriptures are valuable and worth reading, containing the Word of God. They are pleased to visit a school, and often give out copies of the New Testament, Psalms and Proverbs to a full year group, typically 11-12 year olds. Pupils are free to accept or decline the offer, of course. GOOD NEWS for Everyone! visit thousands of schools on an annual basis.

If school head teachers, governors and teachers receive a visit from GOOD NEWS for Everyone!, you can be sure that volunteers will do their best to provide an interesting assembly – or lesson – which fits in well with the schools' values and ethos, promoting a broad minded and open hearted engagement with spiritual and moral values. GOOD NEWS for Everyone! volunteers are pleased to be of service to schools in this way, and no charges are made.

In addition to arranging a suitable date and time for the GOOD NEWS for Everyone! visit, it is good practice for schools and visitors to liaise carefully in advance of any visit to ensure success in these intentions.

GOOD NEWS
for Everyone!

What educational aims and outcomes can GOOD NEWS for Everyone! help you to meet?

In a number of ways the offer of free copies of Christian Scriptures to all pupils fits in well with the aims of many schools, and relates to curricular work in RE. The 2013 RE Council’s National Framework for RE, endorsed by the Secretary of State for Education, sets out the three-fold aim for RE. Here’s how GOOD NEWS for Everyone! offer can help.

RE aims to ensure that all pupils know about and understand a range of religions and beliefs;	Hearing about the Christian Scriptures and exploring the book for themselves increases pupils’ knowledge and understanding;
RE aims to enable all pupils to express ideas and insights about the nature, significance and impact of religions;	Investigating what the Scriptures mean to Christian people, and how they can provide guidance, wisdom, comfort or points of reflection, enables pupils to respond with thoughts and ideas of their own;
RE aims to give pupils opportunities to gain and deploy the skills needed to engage seriously with religions.	Through discussion, questioning, exploration, encounter and debate, pupils are encouraged to think about key questions of life in the light of the teachings of Scripture.



How do GOOD NEWS for Everyone! endeavour to communicate effectively with children and young people?

GOOD NEWS for Everyone! members know that when believers who visit schools are ineffective it is usually because their presentations are too difficult or too easy for the children they address. To be an effective visitor, the level of the presentations needs to match carefully the aptitudes and age of the group they work with. Going ‘over the pupils’ heads’ or ‘talking down’ to them is all too easy, therefore, as those who intend to communicate effectively, GOOD NEWS for Everyone! volunteers commit themselves to:

- ✓ plan carefully;
- ✓ discuss their input with teachers in advance, and be open to teachers’ suggestions;
- ✓ take account of the different abilities of the pupils;
- ✓ use a variety of learning methods and styles, including those which elicit a response from all the pupils;
- ✓ select content carefully, to be appropriate for the group;
- ✓ ensuring the information and insight they are delivering fits with the school’s planned programme of learning.

GOOD NEWS for Everyone! and the Prevent Duty Guidance

The ‘Prevent Strategy’ is a government policy designed to safeguard children in schools from the views of violent extremists, and to promote pupils’ awareness of British values and their spiritual and moral development. The Government’s Prevent Duty Guidance issued under s.29 of the Counter-Terrorism and Security Act 2015 (Act) is explained in this online briefing: 3799_Revised_Prevent_Duty_Guidance__England_Wales_V2-Interactive.pdf

The policy states: “All publicly-funded schools in England are required by law to teach a broad and balanced curriculum which promotes the spiritual, moral, cultural, mental and physical development of pupils and prepares them for the opportunities, responsibilities and experiences of life.”

GOOD NEWS for Everyone! are pleased to recognise that “schools should be safe spaces in which children and young people can understand and discuss sensitive topics, including terrorism and the extremist ideas that are part of terrorist ideology, and learn how to challenge these ideas. The Prevent duty is not intended to limit discussion of these issues.”

The contribution GOOD NEWS for Everyone! make to school assemblies and lessons can include highlighting teachings about human dignity and positive values, which are part of what Christians value in the Bible. By offering copies of the New Testament, Psalms and Proverbs to pupils, we are offering each school an opportunity to open up questions about respect for all and individual liberty. Members of GOOD NEWS for Everyone! are happy to be guided by the Prevent Guidance appointee in schools they visit.



Can you help us to evaluate and improve our work?

Members of GOOD NEWS for Everyone! welcome feedback from their visits to schools, and leave a feedback form with members of staff at the schools they visit. As we hope to develop long term relationships with schools, evaluation of ‘how we got on’ helps us to improve the ways we relate to schools and pupils from year to year. We are always pleased to receive suggestions from schools about how to improve the offer we make to pupils.

How do GOOD NEWS for Everyone! work in different contexts in school?

Members of GOOD NEWS for Everyone! who visit schools recognise that there are three main contexts in which visitors from religious communities participate in school life:

- ✓ collective worship or school assembly
- ✓ the curriculum (including RE lessons for example)
- ✓ voluntary groups, such as a lunchtime or after school Christian Union groups.

Each context is distinct, and requires a suitable approach.

In collective worship pupils are offered opportunities for spiritual and moral development. A visitor from GOOD NEWS for Everyone! might explain with a story or personal experience why the Christian Scriptures have proved so valuable to so many, and ask pupils to think about the ideas presented from their own point of view. The invitation to receive a copy of the Scriptures always respects the right of the pupil to say ‘no’ politely!

In lessons, including RE lessons, pupils are engaged in the task of learning. Most GOOD NEWS for Everyone! visitors are not teachers, but are pleased to work with teachers to contribute to lessons in which the wisdom of the Bible is explored in interesting ways. Such lessons can build on the free gift of copies of the Scriptures, aiming to be informative, to help develop pupils’ understanding, and maybe also challenge pupils to reflect on their own commitments. Visitors will want to think carefully about the educational aims of the session(s) or contributions that they offer so careful shared planning is always welcome.

In voluntary extra-curricular groups such as a Christian Union in a school some pupils may wish to share their belief through a regular meeting or club outside curriculum time. Pupils, teachers, parents or visitors may take a lead in organising this. Visitors to such groups from GOOD NEWS for Everyone! are pleased to participate in the life of the community of religion or belief, on school premises. This special opportunity is taken seriously, and GOOD NEWS for Everyone! members seek appropriate liaison between staff and pupils in the school.

