

Life Education

Helping children come to life

The Life Education initiative is a targeted additional school activity for small groups of disadvantaged primary-aged children (4-11 year olds) who need additional support to engage with reading and school life.

Key features of the program

- Develops literacy and oracy skills through a targeted key worker system
- Links local community, school, families and church
- Loves people through addressing practical need, emotional wellbeing, support and care

What does it look like in practise?

A partnership between the local primary school and the church.

A team of in-house trained, committed key workers and volunteers from the church community.

Twice-weekly 40 minute sessions held in the church building, which include a welcome on arrival with opportunities to talk, a reading session (where children read with and to the key worker), and a craft activity or game.

Parents/carers welcomed at pick-up or drop-off; providing an opportunity to build relationships and signpost support and church activities.

The vision behind Life Education

We are instructed to love people (Matthew 22:39) and to meet practical need (Hebrews 13:16).

There is an ever widening gap in education between disadvantaged children and their peers, which has been further exacerbated by COVID.

Reading individually to and with an adult is a simple and highly effective input to build lifelong readers, develop confidence and decrease the attainment gap. (Department for Education July 2021)

There is a high correlation between a low reading age and permanent exclusion from schools.

Achieving well in reading is a strong indicator for future educational success and even happiness.

"It's having massive impact on our young people. We can't thank you enough!"

What are the key requirements to launch a Life Education program at my church?

- A group of key workers who are able to commit to one or both sessions every week (ideally, aim for 7 key workers and 7 children).
- At least two volunteers to welcome, and provide refreshments and support in the craft/game activity.
- A designated leader or staff member to liaise between the church and the school.
- An administrator to coordinate the sessions and practical details.
- A designated safeguarding lead on site during sessions, and all workers DBS-checked.
- Ideally, an educational professional who is part of the church community to make initial contact with the school.

What we can provide you with

- A training package for key workers and volunteers, which includes principles for reading, safeguarding and basic behaviour management
- A template service level agreement for use between the church and school
- A handbook with a guide to practical arrangements and strategies to implement
- Lessons learnt through our own experiences of setting up a project
- Model letters and surveys

To receive these, get in touch.

Contact

Rachel Thornberry and Jacqui Lound:
jacqui@wfcdereham.org

*Life Education is an initiative of
Life Church Sherringham*