



*Representing the Church of Ireland, Presbyterian Church in Ireland
and Methodist Church in Ireland*

Charter for Churches and Christian Organisations in Schools

As Churches and Christian organisations invited into schools in Northern Ireland to support the delivery of Religious Education, collective worship and other curricular or non-curricular activities, we recognise the unique privilege and responsibility of engaging with children and young people in an educational setting. This Charter outlines our shared commitment to working respectfully and constructively within school communities.

Purpose of Engagement

We believe the Christian message, grounded in the Bible and rooted in love, hope, and service, offers meaningful insight into life and faith. In some settings, we may be invited to share this message through activities such as Religious Education or collective worship. In other contexts, we may serve the school community in ways that reflect our Christian ethos without direct reference to faith. When invited to do so, we seek to share our message clearly and positively.

Shared Values

We affirm that our values – such as compassion, respect, honesty, and care for others – are broadly aligned with those promoted by schools across Northern Ireland.

School Policies and Ethos

We will respect and adhere to the policies, ethos, and expectations of the host school and its leadership, recognising that we are guests within their community.

Sharing Without Expectation

Our role is to present and explain our faith, not to exert undue influence over the beliefs of pupils, nor to expect agreement. We offer our perspective as a contribution to the broader educational experience.

Commitment to Respect

We acknowledge and respect that pupils, staff and families come from a wide range of faiths and beliefs, including those with no religious belief. We will always engage with sensitivity and humility, endeavouring to ensure that all individuals feel valued and respected, regardless of their worldview.



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Language

This respect will be evident in our use of language, as we speak in ways that affirm our faith, whilst being careful to ensure that our words do not intentionally exclude, isolate or undermine others.

Age-Appropriate Delivery

All materials and methods of communication will be age-appropriate, accessible, and suitable for the developmental stage of the pupils.

Support for the School Community

We are committed to supporting the educational, pastoral, spiritual and moral development goals of the school and will seek to work in partnership with staff in a spirit of service.

We offer this Charter as a public affirmation of our intent to contribute positively and respectfully to the life of schools across Northern Ireland.