

Dear Friends and Supporters

We hope you are well and that 2025 has got off to a good start. Later this year we will celebrate the 10th birthday of Bristol Schools Connection! We are thankful to you all for being a part of this incredible journey. Many of you have supported us through prayer, encouragement and financial giving – we couldn't have done this without you. And many of you have joined in the story of connecting with your local school(s) and being part of our network – we have loved journeying with you.

Most of our work continues to be under the radar, working with people from churches of all denominations – encouraging and supporting, training and resourcing. We are so thankful to God for all that he has done through our charity over the last 10 years and the financial provision to keep going. In this update we have included some of the highlights from 2024. There are now many churches across Bristol prioritising connecting with schools, but we want to see every school in the Bristol area having a good connection, so we plough on!

We would love you to take some time to read this update and prayerfully consider your part in this ongoing story in 2025.

With our love and prayers
Jane and The BSC Trustees

Could you give a gift to support our work?

We continue to very much rely on the gifts from our friends and supporters. As we look forward to 2025 and the plans to build on this work, we need to increase our level of financial support to ensure that the deficit we potentially face is fully met. We would love you to prayerfully consider giving to the work of BSC.

Click [here](#) to give.

Thank you to those who have faithfully given over the years. If you would be able to increase your giving, please get in touch.

BSC is a registered charity – no. 1162067

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Main things to pray for:

- The growing network of people from churches, who are connecting with their local school(s).
- Easter Connections with schools
- Jesus Out of the Box – to be used in lots of schools
- The growth of Chaplaincy
- BrumSC
- Training – Prayer Spaces, Jesus Out of the Box, Easter in a Box – The Movie
- The growth of Chaplaincy
- Financial provision for 2025 and beyond
- Celebrating 10 years! – we will be in touch with a date!

Jesus Out of the Box



In 2024 we launched 'Jesus Out of the Box' - the third set in our box set series of resources. There have been various pilots, and we are pleased to say that it works! The young people have loved it!

“The young people have loved it!”



Jesus Out of the Box is an interactive resource which seeks to 'unpack' the person of Jesus by focussing on 5 surprising stories from his life. There is plenty of space to wonder together, 'press pause' and reflect on these stories in a creative way. It is aimed at young people in Years 5-8. One child described the resource as 'an amazing way to learn about Jesus, with stories we hadn't heard before!' Click [here](#) to find out more about the resource.

Several churches are planning to host 'Jesus Out of the Box' sessions in 2025. If you are in the Bristol area, we have 2 x box sets available for you to borrow. We will be running various training sessions for Jesus Out of the Box, Christmas in a Box, and Easter in a Box – The Movie throughout the year. Click [here](#) to book a place on one of our training sessions.

Christmas Connections



WOW is the word that comes to mind when we think of all the ways that churches across the Bristol area engaged with their local school(s) during the Christmas period. This included leading and hosting: Christmas Trails; Christmas in a Box; whole school special services and Christingles; assemblies; Advent Prayer Spaces; RE lessons, Carols round the tree, and Messy Church in School. We enjoyed praying and encouraging the people in our network on the days they were leading and hosting.



In the run up to Christmas, we had the privilege of praying for and encouraging people in our network who were hosting/leading events each day. The number of children impacted by the events we prayed for amounted to 1400 children taking part in 'Christmas in a Box' sessions, and 7500 children taking part in other Christmas connections. There were many more connections that happened outside of our network too, which is fantastic. For those of you who were involved – a HUGE well done from us.

Birmingham Schools Connection (BrumSC)



In the middle of the busy Christmas period, one of the most exciting things of the year happened - Birmingham Schools Connection had a launch party! We have been in conversation with our friends in Birmingham for a while now. In a nutshell, they love the model of Bristol Schools Connection and are replicating it in Birmingham. They will operate as a separate charity, but with lots of synergy and opportunities to work together. We are over the moon about this! Click [here](#) to find out more.

Prayer Spaces in Schools



During 2024 we ran several Prayer Spaces in Schools training sessions, which resulted in new prayer spaces happening in the Bristol area. It was a joy to journey with a couple of newly formed teams as they piloted their first prayer/reflective space. We helped to facilitate two prayer spaces in Secondary Schools, which is a definite area for growth. Two primary school have also set up permanent prayer spaces this year – click [here](#) to find out more about one of them. We have been excited to see more Christian school parents getting involved to facilitate these spaces. Prayer Spaces continue to be incredible spaces to support children and young people as they explore spirituality.

Chaplaincy



We have many people in our network who spend time 'being' in school. They allow plenty of time to walk through the school, stopping to listen to young people, staff and parents, and speaking words of encouragement. In effect these people are informal, volunteer chaplains in their school community. This is precious and Jesus shaped work.

“This is precious and Jesus shaped work.”

Across the UK we are seeing a growing number of employed chaplains (by churches and schools), who then form chaplaincy teams from local churches to serve in the school(s). This is starting to happen in our area too. Jane Gillis has recently started a part-time role at the Diocese of Bristol as the Under 18s Chaplaincy Adviser. This will involve networking chaplains, forming a learning community, and helping to develop chaplaincy for under 18s in the Diocese of Bristol. All of us at BSC are excited about this trend and looking forward to playing our part in supporting chaplains through training and resourcing in 2025.