

## **The Cambuslang and Rutherglen Reachout Trust SCIO(CRRT)**

CRRT has been operating in partnership with local churches and in association with Scripture Union Scotland for the past 28 years. We seek to engage young people where they are, help increase their understanding of the Christian faith, and to support and facilitate young people who are willing to put their faith into action. The trust currently has a Senior youth and schools worker, a youth and schools worker and a part time administrator who are involved in work across Cambuslang and Rutherglen. The trust also aims to support churches in delivering their youth work and provide training and resources for volunteers. Each year the trust is involved in several residential events including two SU weekends and a week on the sunny Island of Arran.

### **Ross Murray**

I grew up in Rutherglen and am a former Stonelaw pupil. I have been a youth worker for 22 years and have worked for The Cambuslang and Rutherglen Reachout Trust for almost 14 years. I am married with two daughters and am the senior youth and schools worker for the Reachout Trust. As well as supporting and enabling our small team I aim to encourage ministers and volunteers that work alongside us. I work with chaplains to deliver RO events and help schools to support pupils by running lunch time groups, a transition programme, Internet safety lessons and more in schools across Rutherglen and Cambuslang.

### **Chaplaincy teams.**

The function and role of Chaplains in a school can be defined under the following headings...

- ☐ To be a pastoral support to staff and pupils.
- ☐ To be part of the religious observance team.
- ☐ To deliver religious observance events if and when appropriate.
- ☐ To be a resource to the RME department if required.
- ☐ To be involved in the wider life of the school community.
- ☐ To be available at times of extreme crisis and tragedy.

Our vision for Chaplaincy teams in our area, is that we would be part of the school community, getting to know both staff and pupils, enabling us to provide support both in Religious Observance events and also in other areas of need within the school.

We aim to achieve this by:

- ☐ Regularly praying for the school and situations which exists within it.
- ☐ Supporting the school community in any way we can.
- ☐ Exploring and implementing ways by which we can build up relationships with those who are part of the school community.
- ☐ Making ourselves available to any member of the school community who wishes to speak with us.
- ☐ Assisting the primary 7 pupils with the transition to secondary.

- Contributing to the R.M.E. as and when required.
- Assisting in the running of Scripture Union or other groups.
- Delivering Religious Observance(RO)/Time for Reflection(TFR) events.

Religious Observance(RO)/Time For Reflection(TFR):

RO provides opportunities for the school community to express and celebrate values which are considered common human values; - gives the school community time to reflect upon a variety of traditions and viewpoints as well as other stimuli such as literature, art and music; and - provides opportunities for the community to reflect upon values, beliefs, commitments and hopes which are implicit in being human. Many non-denominational schools refer to RO as Time for Reflection. This helps to describe the type of experience that the learner can have through engaging with issues and events as part of RO. RO takes different forms and educational establishments are well placed to take account of their own particular contexts when planning RO.

**The aims of RO are:**

- To promote the spiritual development of all members of the school community
- To express and celebrate the shared values of the school community.
- To be relevant and meaningful for the whole school community.
- To contribute to children and young people's learning and personal development in engaging and creative ways.

**Assemblies:** These usually offer opportunities for the whole school to participate in an event which promotes the shared values of the whole school community and to take time and space to reflect. We deliver these in partnership with local chaplains as part of a chaplaincy team.

Assemblies aim to fulfil all of the aims of RO in a whole school setting.

**Christmas Unwrapped:** This is a two hour event designed to unpack the nativity, to look more deeply at the meaning of Christmas and as an authentic and age appropriate introduction to the theological theme of incarnation, of God's love coming to us in human form. We do this through Drama, Storytelling, Quizzes and other interactive activities including opening a series of presents containing items relating to Christmas which we then talk about throughout the event.

The Aims of Christmas unwrapped are:

- To Encourage Primary 6 pupils to learn about the meaning behind the Celebration of Christmas.
- To help pupils to better understand the situation into which Jesus was born and the expectations people had for him.
- To reflect both on what comprises the "fluff" of Christmas, and what is the central theme of Christmas.
- To see waiting and expectation as positive aspects of life.
- To personally reflect on what hopes and dreams we have for Christmas time.
- To foster and strengthen links between local primary schools and churches.

- To build better relationships with school staff.

**Easter Code:** This is a two hour event designed for Primary 7 pupils as a natural progression from "Christmas unwrapped", helping pupils to understand the repercussions of Jesus life, ministry and teaching.

The Aims of Easter Code are:

- To encourage Primary 7 pupils to learn about the meaning behind the celebration of Easter
- To connect the celebrations of Christmas and Easter, and to build on 'Christmas unwrapped'
- To help the pupils to better understand the background to the final events of Jesus life
- To give the pupils an opportunity to experience and participate in key events remembered during the Church's 'Holy Week'
- Through the Easter story to uncover five areas of personal experience and development.
- To foster and strengthen links between the local primary schools and churches.
  - To build better relationships with school staff

**It's Your Move:** *It's Your Move* is designed and published by Scripture Union England & Wales. Now in its 6<sup>th</sup> edition, over a million copies have been distributed to pupils across the UK in their final year of primary school. It is designed to be a fun and friendly guide to support pupils as they look to move up to secondary school and allay any fears they may have. It is a resource which has been used in many schools in Scotland.

This resource is a 2-hour lesson, using video clips, music, crafts, quizzes, storytelling and discussion to help give Primary 7's space to think and reflect on their forthcoming transition. This lesson can be used as part of the provision of Religious Observance as it seeks to promote the spiritual development of pupils and helps express and celebrate the shared values of the school community.

**Aims:**

- To encourage each pupil to reflect on how they are feeling about their transition.
- To give each pupil space to ask questions and discuss any concerns they may have.
- To support staff in primary schools as they prepare their pupils for this move.

### **Buddy Training Programme.**

This 2-hour session will help equip young people at the end of P6 to have the skills required to be the best 'Buddy' they can be to new P1 children.

Cambuslang & Rutherglen Reachout Trust in partnership with local churches offers a project specifically designed for P6 pupils who will be Buddies for Primary 1s when they start school. We have developed this resource to offer to the primary schools in our area which encompasses several interactive learning styles to engage pupils with the issues they may face in their new role.

The resource includes opening activities, video links, discussions, and workshops on different aspects of buddying.

We want to encourage transparency and support schools in delivering this project, there is a short bible story which we believe allows us to consider Christian characteristics and is modelled in our delivery and indeed in the way the children build relationships with their buddies.

### **Our Aims**

- Create a new mindset to where playtime becomes about someone else
- Enable them to have skills to identify/support more vulnerable children
- Allow them to reflect on what it was like when they were younger, allowing them to consider how the P1's may feel.
- Equip them to be good/responsible role models
- Encourage them to be positive about their new role.

**Boomerang:** *This programme* is designed to be used either in classrooms or via video link or pre-recorded by the Chaplaincy team to support health & wellbeing,

This resource is a 1.5 -2 hour lesson, using video clips, crafts, storytelling, drama and discussion to help give the pupils time & space to consider how they respond to and can bounce back from life's challenges. It is designed to be a fun and friendly programme to support pupils as they encounter challenging situations and in everyday life with the aim to help young people build resilience. This lesson can be used as part of the provision of Religious Observance and Health & Wellbeing as it seeks to promote the spiritual development of pupils and helps express the shared values of the school community and curriculum.

### **Why is resilience in children so important?**

- Children and young people can face a lot of different challenges throughout their childhood, including growing and changing friendships, the birth of siblings, moving home or school, academic pressures or changing family dynamics.
- It's important for children and young people to have good emotional resilience so they have the tools to both understand and talk about how they're feeling and successfully 'bounce back' from the challenges life throws at them.

- A resilient child is optimistic, flexible, physically healthy, emotionally aware, and learns from experience.
- Resilience is important for academic and social development and a protective factor for children and schools to deal effectively with times of change, high pressure and stress.
- Resilience isn't something you're born with – you can't have a fixed amount of it either. Resilience like a muscle you can train, develop and build.

**Aims:**

- Help children develop strong coping skills
- Develop healthy thinking habits
- Support children to adapt to challenging situations, changes and pressures
- Equip the children with skills to bounce back from life's challenges
- Enhance children's relationships with each other
- To provide support for the whole school community in response to the Coronavirus pandemic