

Belfast

+ SCHOOL PASTORS *

Friendship Safety Care

2018 Report



School Pastors are volunteers from local churches who care for and support a school community. For the last two years, **School Pastors** have been going in pairs twice a week at lunchtime into Malone Integrated College - the first school in Ireland to have School Pastors.

The Malone College staff work very hard to provide a caring environment in what is probably the most diverse school in Northern Ireland. Sometimes students appreciate talking to a responsible adult who is outside family and the normal structures of school. We provide a listening ear and a positive role model, adding an additional layer of support to school. By spending time in the canteen and playground, we build rapport, and make ourselves available to chat about anything pupils want to talk about.

In **2018** we went into the school on **44** occasions and had **467** conversations on an amazingly wide range of topics (see overleaf). Occasionally we pick up something we are able to refer to a member of staff for additional support.

It's a wonderful opportunity to be a positive influence on young people from many different backgrounds.



Some of the topics discussed at lunchtime...

- Support & Encouragement
- Relationships
- Suicide
- Languages & how students mix in school
- Family
- Football
- Knife crime
- Sport
- Holidays
- Ballet
- GAA
- Summer School
- Survey on School Pastors
- Ordination into priesthood
- Judaism
- Helping reconcile friends
- Teenage pregnancy
- Atheism
- School Trip
- Cancer
- Sleepovers
- Superheroes
- Music & Concerts
- Boxing
- Different Cultures
- Job success for a student
- Ramadan & fasting
- School Pastors & Christianity
- Drama club
- Christmas
- Countries
- Boyfriends
- Politics

Could you be a School Pastor?

If we had more School Pastors, we could go in more often to the school and engage with more young people. ***Could you do the training and give a lunchtime or two every month?*** We will have training starting soon - contact us for more details.

School Pastors for your area?

There are now 30 School Pastor schemes in Britain and Ireland with over 300 volunteers. We have had enquiries in two other areas in N. Ireland and have presentations we can share with churches and schools. Contact us if you are interested.



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Belfast School Pastors operates under the umbrella of Belfast Street Pastors (both are initiatives of Ascension Trust) NI Charity Number: NIC 105299, Company Ltd: NI 631556 Printed Feb 2019

the church in action: caring, listening, helping