

Jesus Did Schools Work

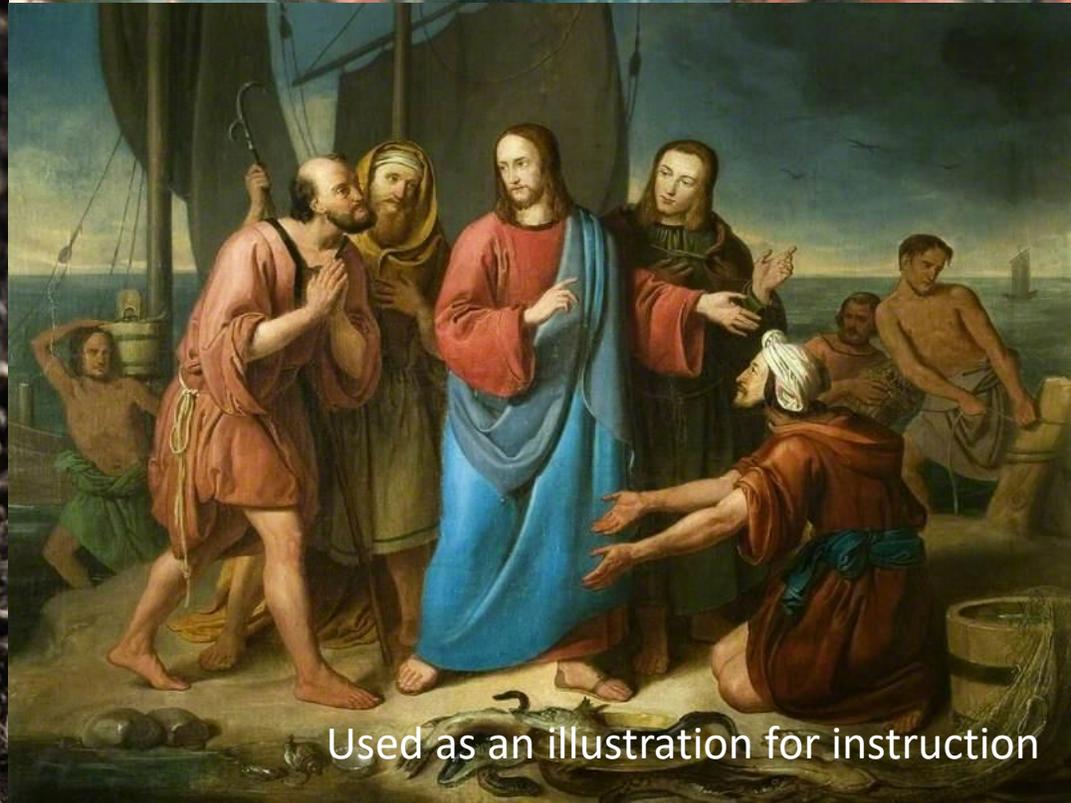
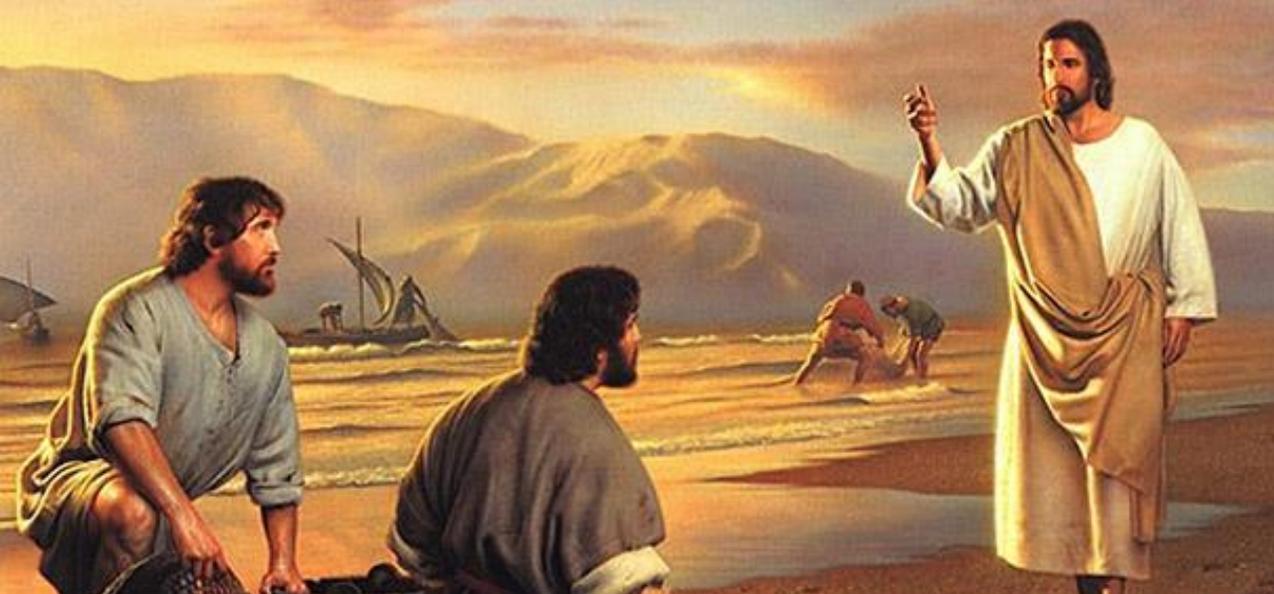
Rich Barton – FAITH IN SCHOOLS

Jesus Calls His First Disciples

¹⁸ As Jesus was walking beside the Sea of Galilee, he saw two brothers, Simon called Peter and his brother Andrew. They were casting a net into the lake, for **they were fishermen.**

¹⁹ **“Come, follow me,”** Jesus said, **“and I will send you out to fish for people.”** ²⁰ **At once they left** their nets and **followed him.**

²¹ Going on from there, he saw two other brothers, James son of Zebedee and his brother John. They were in a boat with their **father** Zebedee, preparing their nets. Jesus **called** them, ²² and immediately **they left** the boat and their **father** and **followed him.**



Used as an illustration for instruction

1st Century Education System

- Purpose of Jewish education - **know how to worship God**
- **Comprehensive and compulsory** system
- Neurology shows worldview **set by 13** (Manhood/Wives)
- Schools finished for most boys **at 15**
- **The Apostles likely under 20** (except for Peter - Mother-in-Law, Temple Tax)
- ‘Little Ones’ (Matt. 11:25), ‘Sons of Thunder’ - pushy mums!

76% followers of Christ **believed BEFORE they were adults**
More than **HALF (56%)** children @ Primary School age

Jesus Using The Education system

- A Rabbi called a student by saying, "*come follow me*"
 - A disciple would live to *imitate his Rabbi*
 - Each rabbi had own interpretation of the Scriptures called his "*yoke*"
 - A rabbi would begin teaching saying, "*You have heard it said, but I say unto you...*"
- = Jesus fits description of a 1stC rabbi!

1 st Century Schools System	Jesus' Life
<p>Elementary School (comprehensive) At 5 years old [one is fit] for the Scripture</p>	<p>"grew in wisdom" as a boy (Luke 2:52)</p>
<p>at 10 years the Mishnah (oral Torah, interpretations)</p>	
<p>Secondary at 13 for the fulfilling of the commandments, (girls usually married)</p>	<p>he reached the "fulfilling of the commandments" indicated by ones first Passover at age twelve (Luke 2:41)</p>
<p>College at 15 the 'Talmud' (Midrash - making Rabbinic interpretations),</p>	<p>then learned a trade (Matt. 13:55, Mark 6:3) and spent time with John the Baptist (Luke 3:21; John 3:22-26)</p>
<p>at 20 pursuing a vocation,</p>	
<p>at 30 for authority (able to teach others)</p>	<p>began his ministry at -about thirty- (Luke 3:23)</p>

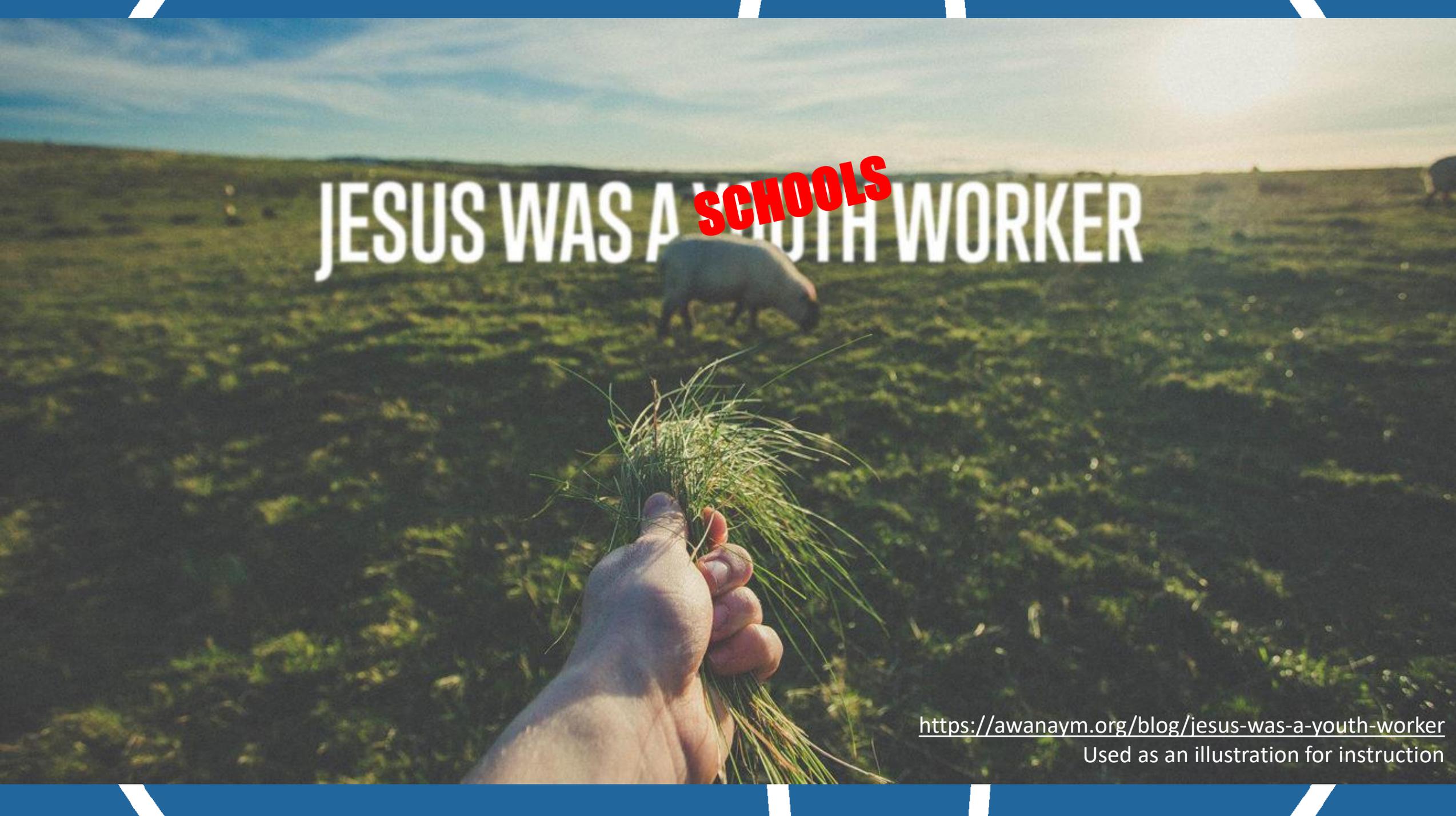
Jesus used the education system

"Jesus was born, grew up, and spent his ministry among people who knew Scripture by memory...[through the education system]"

*God prepared this environment carefully so that **Jesus would have exactly the context he needed** to present his message of "The kingdom of heaven"*

Ray Vander Laan

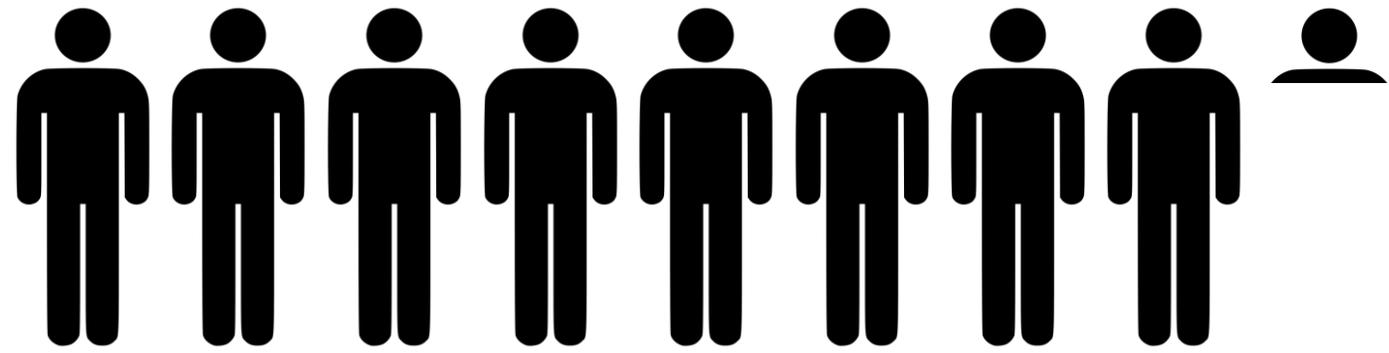
Q. Can God use OFSTED and school curriculum today?

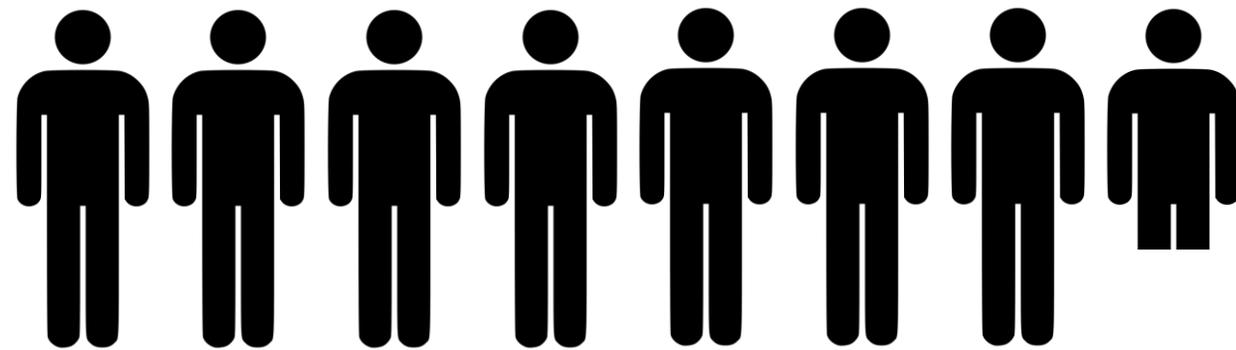
A hand holding a bundle of grass in a field with sheep grazing in the background. The scene is set in a vast, green field under a clear sky. In the foreground, a hand is shown holding a bundle of long, thin blades of grass. In the middle ground, a sheep is grazing. The background shows a flat horizon under a bright sky.

JESUS WAS A **SCHOOLS** YOUTH WORKER

<https://awanaym.org/blog/jesus-was-a-youth-worker>

Used as an illustration for instruction

 x 8.2m

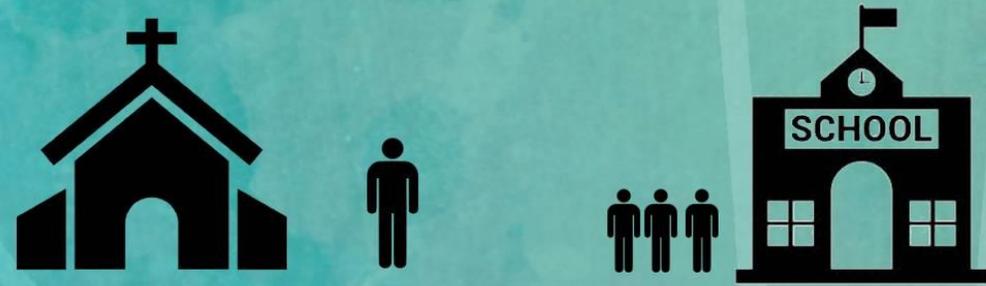
 x 7.8m

|| x 410,000

95% CHILDREN & YOUNG PEOPLE **DO NOT**
COME TO CHURCH*



CHRISTIANS **CAN GO** SHARE THEIR FAITH **IN**
LOCAL SCHOOLS



FIND OUT HOW - JOIN US NOW

Gen Z (1995-2012)

Analysis of the English Church Attendance Survey revealed that, on average, **churches are losing 140,000 young people** aged 14–16 **every single week**, and nearly half (48 percent) have fewer than five under-16-year-olds.

“Those churches with fewer than five young people can literally be said to have no future”.

Nick Shepherd

(former chief executive Institute for Children Youth and Mission)

Premier Christianity

Post-Millennial (Gen Z) Culture

VALUES

TURN OFFS

SKILLS

Post-Millennial (Gen Z) Culture

VALUES

Authenticity
Impact
Inclusion
Identity
Family
Justice
Saviour?

TURN OFFS

Hypocrisy
Patronising
Institutions
Modernist Narratives
Exclusion
Authority

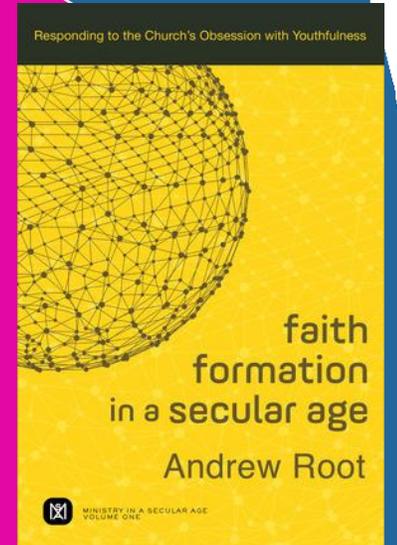
SKILLS

Self-starters
Independent Thinkers
Redemption
Connected
Passionate



Age of Authenticity (Andrew Root)

- Identity & Fluidity (Sexuality, Gender)
- “You are your desires” (Internal Authority)
- Relativistic Truth - ‘Be your truest self’
- Moral obligation to pursue and express #Livingmybestlife
- Labels = Bad
- Hero in own redemption story



Further Reading: **Faith Formation in a Secular Age - Responding to the Church's Obsession with Youthfulness** by Andrew Root ISBN 9780801098468

[Root explains] what we have lost is not the ability to keep people connected to our churches but an imagination for how and where God could be present in their lives. [Root] considers what faith is and what steps we can take to move into it, exploring a Pauline concept of faith as encounter with divine action'

Gen Z & Post-Christendom

- **Human** – truth, acceptance, purpose, identity, relationship, love, **saviour!**
- 1st Gen of church to take on this!
- *Biblically illiterate* **BUT** not *‘inoculated’* by religion
- Post-post Modernism is fulfilment of prophecy? (Heb 12:26-29)

²⁶ At that time his voice shook the earth, but now he has promised, “Once more I will shake not only the earth but also the heavens.”^[27] The words “once more” indicate the removing of what can be shaken—that is, created things—so that what cannot be shaken may remain.

²⁸ Therefore, since we are receiving a kingdom that cannot be shaken, let us be thankful, and so worship God acceptably with reverence and awe, ²⁹ for our “God is a consuming fire.”

“At best church has become irrelevant, unnecessary. At worst church is seen as bigoted, intolerant and hypocritical.”

Myles MacBean Scripture Union

“Gen Z don’t come with the hang-ups about Christianity – and Church in particular...We have a clean slate, an opportunity to communicate the true beauty of the gospel, untarnished by generational assumptions”

Rev Tim Alford

21st Century Education System

**To promote the spiritual, moral, cultural, social [SMSC]...
development of pupils and of society**

**To prepare pupils for the opportunities, responsibilities and experiences
of adult life***

Education Act 2002 Section 78

**To provide a basic curriculum (inc. RE, Relationships and Sex
Education) for all registered pupils at the school (including those in the
sixth form)**

RE in English schools: non-statutory guidance, DCSF 2010

*links to 'Fundamental British Values'

The Third Space - Community Hub

- Equal status
- Conversation
- Open - Accessible and accommodating
- The Regulars
- Playful
- A home away from home

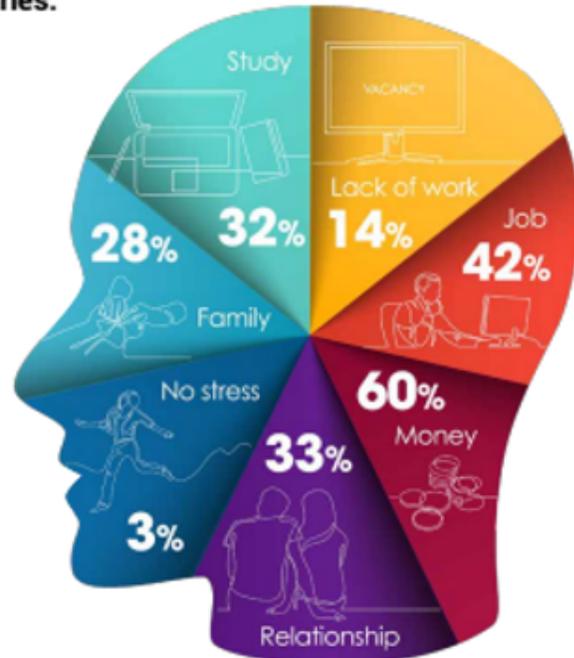
There's no place like home – Matthew Sleeman (Going Home: Essays, Articles, and Stories in Honour of the Andersons By Pete Myers) Oak Hill Theological College

Schools? As Teachers have less time for Pastoral Support over pupil targets and performance progress indicators - what could this look like for community relationships?

Children & Young People?
Parents?

Wider Issues: Child Mental Health

97% of under 25s feel stressed and state one or more of the below as the main source of their worries.



<https://www.themix.org.uk/news-and-research/news/97-of-young-people-feel-stressed>

- Most UK young people still report high levels of wellbeing BUT their happiness is at its lowest since 2010 with a significant gender gap between boys and girls.
- Fear of crime is the most common problem of all, affecting 2.2 million UK children.
- 1 million UK children (18%) report they have seven or more serious problems in their lives.

“The Good Childhood Report”, Children’s Society, 2017



Child Poverty
Action
Group, 2019

Beyond Education



Panorama
Inside the School Cuts Crisis

As schools reopen their doors this week, Panorama asks if we have reached a crisis point in education funding. The film follows staff and pupils at North Denes Primary in Great Yarmouth through a challenging summer term. To balance the books, the headteacher has to lose almost a fifth of her staff and cut services which help families in the wider community. Boris Johnson has pledged to boost school funding – but will it be enough, and will the extra money go to the schools that need it most? [Less ▲](#)

BBC Panorama on schools cuts and austerity Sept 2019

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/iplayer/episode/m00085fl/panorama-inside-the-school-cuts-crisis>

Wider Issues: Austerity & Schools

Funding and teacher shortage

ITV REPORT 5 July 2019 at 3:23pm

Hundreds protest against early school closure amid 'budget cuts'



Video report by ITV News Correspondent [Allegra Stratton](#)

Hundreds of parents, teachers and children are protesting over the number of schools forced to close early due to 'funding cuts'.

“The National Audit Office said that although overall spending on schools will increase between 2014/15 and 2019/20, increasing pupil numbers and staff costs mean they will need to spend 8% less per pupil.”

<https://fullfact.org/education/schools-will-have-less-spend-pupil-2020/>

- 70 per cent of MATs at risk of failure.
- £745 million spent on conversions

(DFE)

How can we help?

<https://www.itv.com/news/2019-07-05/education-protests-shorter-school-week-funding-cuts-jess-phillips-mp-downing-street/>

**UK 2020 – Multicultural,
Tolerant, Politically Correct,
Divided, Diverse, Woke.
Are we even able to talk about
Jesus in schools in England?**

Talking About Jesus in Schools

- RE provision is compulsory ['entitlement'] in all state-funded schools
- Parents have a right to withdraw [under discussion – 'reflection']
- Curriculum required to teach Christianity
- Law requires schools to provide daily act of **collective worship - 51% must be Christian**
- 'Broad Rich Curriculum' & SMSC requirement [now] limiting judgment

<https://religionmediacentre.org.uk/factsheets/religious-education/>

What does this mean for Schools Work?

- **Immediate Opportunities** - schools need to deal with this as of now
- Looking for '**Broad and Balanced**' curriculum partnerships
- **Quality of Teaching** - we are subject specialists
- Places of Worship Visits, RE Lessons
- **SMSC** (e.g. Prayer Spaces, CUs, Alpha compassion ministries – Mentoring)

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SHARING FAITH IN SCHOOLS



WWW.FAITHINSCHOOLS.CO.UK/SFIS

#SFIS

95% of children and youth aren't in church (SU, '17)

21% of 11-18 yrs are active followers of Jesus

45% don't know an active Christian (Talking Jesus Report, '16)

WHAT IS IT?

'Sharing Faith in Schools' is a pilot national project, offering you bespoke training and individual mentoring, and the opportunity for practical experience to realise your own vision for working in schools.

WHAT SUPPORT WILL I GET?

A combination of 3 training days, observations and reflections on your practice, and Hub Hangouts and 1-2-1s across the year, to understand what you want to do, how to communicate this to schools, and to develop your skills to do it even better. The training is worth £7,000 but we offer it FREE.*

WHO ARE WE?

Faith in Schools is a successful local Christian charity in Newham, East London. We regularly work with 30,000 pupils in over 42 schools to help them explore the Christian faith.

Apply through our website for a January 2020 start.



FISNewham



@Faithinschools

*£150 refundable deposit on completion of 12 months

1. Where're You?

Through our partnerships with other Schools Work organisations across the country, you will be able to see different projects in action and consider the possibilities for your church and schools. We will work with you to design the programme to be bespoke around your context

2. How To?

We will provide you with training to deepen your understanding of the opportunities available, and upskill your schools work practice. We will help you to develop a strategy and timeline to launch or deepen your own project.

3. We Go Do!

Now the Kingdom bit - we go and do the project. We equip you with resources, plan sessions with you, and observe your practice. We show you how to approach schools and support you through the process - even be in your meetings with school leaders!

4. Workers Are Few

We review. What impact have you had here? How do you capture this from the schools and build on the relationship and go deeper? How do you sustain this project and bring others along? How do you go from Pioneering to Partnership?

SHARING FAITH IN SCHOOLS

TIME LINE

CHOOSE
YOUR 2020
'ON POINT'
JANUARY
APRIL
SEPTEMBER

INITIAL PHASE

Month 1

Vision, outcomes and timeline for Schools Work project in your context. **Bespoke** - select the training content you want.

Create your **Video**

Introduction Task 1.

TRAINING PHASE

Month 1 - 3

Three intensive **Training Days**
1 in London, 2 in Regional Hubs

FIS Visit Reflection Task 2
Microteach Task 3

Skype **Mentor Meeting**

See a **variety of Schools Work** projects to decide what works for your church/school partnership

MENTORING PHASE

Month 3 - 12

Identify your local **Schools**

Need and create your **Project Strategy Task 4**

Organise **Placement Task 5**

Approach Schools Task 6

Organise **Mentor Visit Task 7**

LAUNCH PROJECT

Month 4 - 24

Stage 1: Building Trust

Stage 2: Relational

Stage 3: Sharing Faith in Schools

Your Project Launch windows are

September 2020,

January 2021, or April 2021

to establish a new or deepen an existing relationship across a

Multi-Stage Project Strategy
or **Launch Stage 3**

REVIEW PHASE

Month 12 - 24

Reflect on your project

Evaluation Task 8

Pioneer to partner **Sustainable Partnerships Task 9**

PARTNERSHIP

Month 24

Join our **National Network of**

Schools Work Partnerships