

SCHOOL PASTORS

Friendship Safety Care



Autumn Term 10 November 2020

What we do

Gosport School Pastors are volunteers offering friendship, support and pastoral care to students and members of the school community—during, and at the end of the school day. Each pastor brings their own unique set of skills and experiences to the role.



Raine is one member of the team, and comes from Hong Kong where she trained as a social worker before moving to UK. A number of the students like to hear about Hong Kong and to practise speaking Mandarin with her. Here are some of her thoughts about being a School Pastor;

“I joined the school pastors in 2018 and started the patrol at Brune Park School after completing the training. This is an opportunity for me to listen to young people. Students come to me and share what they have learnt or are curious about where I come from. This starts interesting conversations.

Although our chats are short, their lovely faces reminded me of my young age. It is rewarding to be serving with the school pastor’s ministry.”

Future hopes

As we look to the future and plan things practically and financially, it is hoped that we’ll be able to add at least five more school pastors to those currently at work. Two pastors are due to be commissioned in January 2021.

Ideally we’d like more! Your giving already helps equip and train those who are currently at work and if there are further volunteers then we hope to expand the work accordingly, and as God wills.

Of course, more volunteers means people like you who are reading this page—it also involves extra costs.

Extra people necessarily also means extra financial support.

If you would like to know how you can help, please get in touch at gosport@schoolpastors.org.uk.



Follow us

Did you know that Gosport School Pastors has a Facebook page? Why not follow us on there and keep up to date with the latest news?

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Prayer—if you would like to receive regular news so that you can pray please contact us at gosport@schoolpastors.org.uk.

Please *pray* for an end to lockdown, and that when it eases, there would be good opportunities to talk to the students.

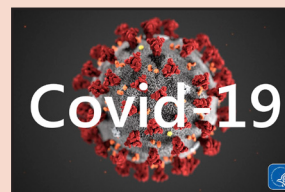
Christians—School pastors is a Christian organization, linked with Ascension Trust, aiming to help those in the school community to enhance the safety and social well-being of the students.



What the recent lockdown means for School Pastors

At a recent meeting of the Management team it was decided to suspend all School Pastor patrols to both Bay House and Brune Park School during this most recent lockdown.

The decision was not taken lightly—it sought to take into consideration the comments and concerns of those on



the Management Team and of the School Pastors themselves.

This decision was considered the best thing to do for the safety of

those patrolling especially in the light of Government advice about those over 60 taking particular care at this time of Covid.



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New Pastors

It was a time of celebration to welcome three new School Pastors into the fold at St Columba Church on the 16 January.

Ayshea, Brian and Helen were presented with certificates to mark the completion of their training and acknowledge them as fully fledged School Pastors. Both Brian and Ayshea had come through the last round of training and were new to the team, but Helen has been our Management Team Chair for the last 18 months.

The commissioning service was an in-house affair with Ayshea and the worship band from Lee Community Church providing the music, Karyl speaking about the role of School Pastors, Chris reading the greeting from Bejoy Pal, the national coordinator from Ascension Trust and presenting the certificates. It was all presided over by Karen the Co-ordinator.



Representatives from eight churches in Gosport were there to offer their prayers and support and to assist in devouring the chocolate biscuits afterwards.

16 months on—reflections on being a school pastor

I retired from full-time work in July 2018 and had been considering becoming a school/college pastor for some time. It was in November 2018 that I was commissioned as a school pastor on completion of my training and I have since patrolled with the teams in both Brune Park and Bay House Schools.

As a young person, my teenage years were troubled, my salvation (in more than one respect) was in becoming a member of a church youth fellowship which met for a fun night on Fridays, and worship and teaching on Sundays. Because of what I heard there I became a Christian aged thirteen and my life since then has been living and practicing as a Christian. Becoming a school pastor is a role I believe I was called and one I find incredibly rewarding.

Thinking back on my first patrols, there are some interactions that were very significant for me. On my first patrol, I came across a brief fight and in intervening, made a connection with a Yr 7 student who had become enraged and was clearly in some distress. The school were quick to manage the incident but I was concerned that the boy was ok and spoke with him. Since then, whenever we have seen each other we have acknowledged each other's presence.

On a patrol a couple of weeks on, I came across a female student in the cycle compound who had had a rather sticky chocolate cake thrown at her bike. It was a real mess. 'Pastor to the rescue!' Donned with gloves and wipes I cleaned up her bike.



At the time it seemed nothing at all but it just weeks later that I came across her again and she broke the ice by saying "Remember me? I was the person whose bike you cleaned off the chocolate cake!"

The third encounter was when I witnessed another School Pastor's intervention. A Yr 7 student had just started eating his pasta lunch when he accidentally dropped it on the floor. As this was his lunch he would have gone hungry so my colleague offered him a small amount of money so he could buy another lunch. The young lad burst into tears at my colleague's kindness. This moved me and the pastors around me at his response.

While these incidents were very small in content, they have had an impact on relationship forming which I believe is an essential part of the role. I have found being a school pastor very rewarding and have become more involved in curriculum studies in Religious Education and Citizenship lessons. Most memorable in December last, I was asked to be Santa Claus for one of school's Christmas Fayre. Great fun! *Andy Williams*