

Engaging creatively with schools is critical to the mission, growth, and witness of the local church. I was surprised by the limited attention given to this area during my time at 'vicar school' (i.e. theological college). I knew it was important, but when I first arrived at St Nicolas I didn't have the experience or all the necessary skills to step into the uncharted waters of primary education. Working with Julia and her team at REInspired has become one of the most significant aspects of my curacy.

REInspired not only confirmed for me the importance of schools for the mission of the church, but it has equipped me with excellent training, practical tools, and a community of support and encouragement.



REInspired's sessions are among the best resources I have found for breathing new life into religious education. Every session tailored for its context: age appropriate, engaging all learning styles, sensitive to multi-faith school environment. They are written with the current locally agreed RE syllabus in mind. This reinforces learning for children, but it is also recognised and greatly appreciated by teachers.

I have found REInspired to be a brilliant project to volunteer for. I can turn up, connect with the team, and help deliver a high-quality session knowing that I don't have to put in all the work of writing sessions, designing crafts, and gathering materials on my own. It's all there and ready to go!

My first week in the parish, I met with the head teacher of a local primary school. This wasn't a church school so I wasn't sure what to expect. In fact, I was met with incredible warmth and openness. The head and the teachers actively encouraged me to help bridge the gap into more spiritual matters by becoming more involved in the life of the school. I discovered later that this goodwill and trust and desire for greater collaboration between the school and the church was the fruit of a decade long relationship with REInspired! Christians from different denominations and traditions have been partnering together to share the Good News with young people in this school for years. It speaks volumes about the integrity and quality of REInspired that I experienced three years of wonderful and fruitful ministry at this primary school because of the doors REInspired helped open to the local church.



Finally, I have been genuinely inspired by the extent to which REInspired takes seriously the spirituality, insight, and questions of young people. This is not a project that seeks to simply download a bunch of religious information into the minds of students. Time and time again these sessions become something so much more ... a journey of discovery where I fully expect to learn from these young people, even as I am sharing stories and insights from my own experience.

These are the small seeds of faith, hope, and love we can offer – each one an act of trust that God will do the growing in his time.

Ben Kautzer

Curate, St Nicolas, Earley