

From: d.w.howlett55@hotmail.co.uk
To: katy.staples@bristoldiocese.org; slawrence@swindon.gov.uk
Subject: SACRE Gideons International Visits to Swindon Schools
Date: Wed, 4 Feb 2015 11:07:27 +0000



email: d.w.howlett55@hotmail.co.uk

3rd February 2015

Ms K Staples
Advisor for Religious Education and SACRE member
Swindon Borough Council.

Dear Ms Staples,

May I introduce myself as chairman of the Swindon branch of Gideons International and coordinator of bible placement in Swindon Secondary Schools. I wonder if you might be of assistance to a query that I address in the final paragraph of this letter. I have copied this letter also to the Clerk to SACRE.

You may be aware that we are a world wide organisation with branches in 200 countries and our aim is to place free bibles in schools, colleges, hotels, homes for the elderly, hospitals, prisons, police, armed forces etc.

Our local branch covers the area of Swindon, Royal Wotton Bassett, Highworth, Purton and south to Marlborough and Pewsey and as such we have visited all secondary schools annually in this area; distributing each year approximately 2,500 free testaments to year 7 students.

Our branch is conscious of the difficulty of schools giving us time in an already busy timetable and as such we have been ever so thankful of any limited time offered for our presentations. We do not force pupils to accept the testaments that we offer nor do we preach. Rather we hope that after the presentation they have an idea of the bible and how by recourse to the help section at the front of each testament they may find help with the issues and choices they encounter in life.

We are aware of timetable demands and wondered if we could work with Swindon SACRE to discuss how we could tailor our presentations to offer presentations which would fit into the requirements of the national curriculum for R.E. / Social Studies / Humanities / Health and Social Education etc.

Yours sincerely,
David Howlett,
Chairman
Swindon Branch
Gideons International