

Working Principles of Scripture Union Ireland

We seek to exercise the ministries God has given us in obedience to our Lord Jesus Christ and in reliance on the Holy Spirit, following Biblical principles in all that we do.

We approach our work in the following ways:

Evangelism and Teaching

- We are committed to teaching basic Christian truths as an essential part of evangelism.
- We aim to express God's good news to children, young people, and families, by building caring relationships.
- We make every effort to communicate the gospel in contemporary language and in ways appropriate to the context.
- We emphasise that faith should always lead to action and to growth in Christian character and service.
- We acknowledge that the gospel has social dimensions that require a commitment to social justice and service to others. In view of our specific aims, we have a special responsibility for people under 18 who are poor, deprived or exploited.
- We encourage children to follow Christ in ways that are appropriate to their age, culture, and background, taking special account of their home and family situation and level of maturity.
- We believe that the new birth is a profound supernatural experience, brought about by the Holy Spirit. We invite people to respond to what He is doing in their lives and guard against calling for pressured responses.
- We are committed to working in ways that reflect our beliefs, in appropriate cooperation with organisations and institutions, such as schools, that welcome us.

Bible Ministries

- In encouraging people to meet God through the Bible, both the New and Old Testament.
- We encourage people to read the Bible so that they come to faith, repentance, and obedience to God.
- We prepare programmes and materials for children, young people, and adults, appropriate to their age and situation.
- We are committed to Bible reading, which is thoughtful, prayerful, and regular.
- We encourage children and young people to respond to the message of the whole Bible. Showing them that the Bible is as relevant today as the day it was written.

Churches

- We recognise we are part of God's church and we are committed to working alongside Christian Churches worldwide.
- We encourage people who come to faith through our ministries to seek out a church in their local area.

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Equality and Unity

- We believe that all human beings are of equal worth in the sight of God and that all those who put their faith in Christ are one in Him.
- We are committed to exercising our ministries without discrimination as to race, colour, gender, disability, language, or social position.
- We recognise that Scripture Union worldwide is a family of national movements in which resources can be shared in a responsible way on a basis of trust.
- We express our Christian commitment in varied and creative ways since we are drawn from diverse backgrounds.

Volunteers and Staff

- We work with a relatively small number of staff, that recruit, motivate, train, equip and support a larger number of volunteers.
- We believe that the Holy Spirit confers gifts of leadership on Christians of all nations without discrimination.
- SU staff and volunteers, from a variety of backgrounds, are united in their commitment to the aims, beliefs and working principles of Scripture Union.
- SU staff and volunteers involved in Scripture Union activities, we will handle controversial issues, such as baptism, spiritual gifts, and church order, in ways that promote harmony.

Biblical Standards

- We aim to follow Biblical principles in all that we do. This includes our administration, our publicity, and the way we care for our staff and volunteers.
- We seek to honour God in carrying out our ministries. By combining prayerful reliance, with the use of the best available means, and maintaining the highest standards possible.
- We believe in praying for financial support, in dependence on God, and telling the Christian public of our needs, without distorting the truth or using undue pressure.