Lord, thank you for the sound of children’s voices as they pass my door on the way to school or to the park or the shops. I pray for my local school; may it be a place of safety and somewhere children want to be. Bless the teaching staff with patience and understanding. Give them courage and tenacity when dealing with problems and difficulties and keep them safe. Amen.

Teachers open the door, but you must enter by yourself.

*Chinese Proverb*

Father God, studies have shown that anxiety levels among young teenagers dropped during the coronavirus pandemic. Schools should be places of light and enjoyment; but many pupils feel pressure in the school environment, while teachers and other staff face increasingly difficult workloads and targets. We ask you to shine your light in our schools and colleges; and bring your peace to any children or staff who are worried.

Amen.

Living God, may schools be places of safety, equality, growth and truth; places of joy, faith, hope and love.

Bless children and young people, teachers and other staff, parents, families and communities.

Amen.

Prayers and Readings on the theme of Education

As pre-schools, schools, colleges and universities start a new school year, here is a selection of prayers and readings on the theme of education.

Take my instruction instead of silver,  
and knowledge rather than choice gold;  
for wisdom is better than jewels,  
and all that you may desire cannot compare with her.

*Proverbs chapter 8 verses 10 and 11*

Loving Lord, we think of the children and young people close to our hearts and know that they are precious in your sight, fearfully and wonderfully made; and so we place them into your hands today.

Strengthen and nurture them. Be with them in their coming in and going out, at home, at school, at college, at university; in their sports, activities and clubs, their friendships and their quiet times.

Mould them in your image, forming and reforming, through the positive influence of those whose lives cross theirs; through the love and example of those who care for them; and through the constant love of your Son, Jesus, who walks alongside them each step of their lives, known or unknown. Amen.

The beautiful thing about learning is that no one can take it away from you.

*B.B. King*

Always remember what you have learned. Your education is your life - guard it well.

*Proverbs chapter 4 verse 13*

Almighty God, thank you for the children and young people in our communities. Thank you that you love them and that you have given each of them unique gifts and talents. We pray that they would have opportunities to flourish and to know true joy and love.

Thank you for those who work with children and young people: for teachers, youth workers, volunteers, parents, carers and community workers; thank you for their sacrifice, generosity and patience. Restore them and give them new life where they feel weary and weak. Provide all that they need to care and support young people to develop into healthy, compassionate and strong people both physically and spiritually.

We pray for head teachers and others in senior leadership roles; give them the wisdom they need when making important decisions. Where there is stress and pressure may they experience your peace.

We pray for pupils affected by bullying. Bring healing and restoration where they are hurt and broken. Guide schools in pastoral care and in creating policies that protect and support children and young people.

As a new school year begins and children and young people move into a new class or a new school, college or university, take any anxiety away from them and give them all they need to do well.

In Jesus name we pray. Amen.

A candle is like a teacher, who first provides the spark  
that kindles love of learning, in children’s minds and hearts.  
Like a burning candle, teachers light the mind,  
enriching lives and futures, by the sharing of their time.  
So when you light a candle, may its glow convey to you  
warm appreciation for all the things they do.

*Author unknown*

What we learn with pleasure we never forget.

*Alfred Mercier*

Holy Spirit, we pray that you will be with teachers everywhere who are responsible for our children’s education. Put your righteousness in their hearts and your words on their lips to share with the children in their daily care. May classrooms not only fill students with knowledge but also with wisdom, discernment and integrity. Amen.

I like a teacher who gives you something to take home to think about besides homework.

*Lily Tomlin*