

## Investing in Spaces That Help Children Pause and Grow

This Advent, twelve chaplaincy leaders from one of our primary schools created and led six Christmas-themed “Soul Spaces” – inclusive, reflective environments where the whole school were invited to pause, reflect, and engage spiritually in a calm and meaningful way.

Designed with great care and attention to detail, each Soul Space gently explored the heart of the Christmas story while remaining accessible to children from all faith backgrounds and none. The impact was clear: excitement built across the school ahead of the day, engagement was deep, and feedback from both pupils and staff highlighted just how valuable these moments of stillness and reflection are in an increasingly busy world.



What made this day particularly special was the leadership shown by the children themselves. These young leaders planned, resourced and facilitated each space with wisdom, sensitivity and compassion — growing as pastoral and faith leaders while serving their peers.

*"It is amazing to be part of the chaplaincy team, and one of the highlights is leading Soul Spaces. I really enjoyed taking part when I was younger and always wanted to lead younger children in their spiritual journey. It has also inspired me on my faith journey and brought me closer to God"*

Student Chaplaincy Team Member

Soul Spaces offer something increasingly rare for children: time to pause, reflect, and make sense of life, faith and meaning. We know the value of these spaces, and we want to offer them more widely and more often across our schools. To do that well, we need continued financial support — for resources and the development of more pupil chaplains.

Your support enables us to create spaces that help children flourish — emotionally, spiritually and socially. With your help, we can reach more schools, support more young leaders, and offer more children the gift of wonder.

*"Soul Spaces are a vital part of our Catholic school community, offering students a sacred space to pause, pray, and reflect in the presence of God. We value how they nurture students' spiritual wellbeing, encourage compassion and empathy, and help young people recognise God's love at work in their own lives and in the lives of others. Over the years Soul Spaces have inspired teachers and children in their own practice of delivering prayer and liturgy in school."*

Noreen Hall Deputy Head Teacher

## Please Pray:

- That the student chaplaincy team would feel refreshed over Christmas after a time of self-giving.
- That the 220 or so students who experienced Soul Space would remember the important messages of hope, faith and love that were shared with them.
- That all our Primary school students, staff and the whole school community would find rest, joy and peace over the Christmas holidays.

