



Background

In 2018 Equipping for Life (Efl) began an education support initiative in the Greater Shankill, initially making contact with those already involved in church and community work, along with school principals. Support with reading commenced in 4 local primary schools during the winter and spring of 2018-19, and we are now working with more than 23 primary schools across NI.

Efl is both thankful and privileged to have Archbishop Robin Eames, Sir Nigel Hamilton, Rev Jim Rea and Rev Ruth Patterson as its Patrons.

Mission: to equip people for a better future.

Vision: lives transformed and communities revitalised.

Values: faith based; hope; integrity; equality; volunteer based one-to-one support.

Prayer

Prayer is the foundation of the work of Equipping for Life. Each reading session opens with a short prayer of blessing with each of the children. It is humbling to see the large number of committed volunteers who give so generously of their time to pray for the work we do.

Reading with Children

A child's ability to read is the cornerstone of a successful and rewarding life and our volunteers are passionately committed to helping primary-aged children to improve this vital life skill. The children our volunteers work with come from P2 to P7 and the volunteers are encouraged to use a flexible approach to each session. In consultation with the schools the volunteers may use other resources such as mini whiteboard or educational games to help build self confidence and communication skills.

Tennis Programme

Equipping for Life began to offer free tennis coaching into schools in the Shankill area in June 2021, beginning in Forth River Primary School. Using professional coaches, we provide a basic but fun tennis course to all ages in the primary schools using sponge balls and shortened racquets.

Efl volunteers start the sessions by praying for the children followed by 30 to 40 minutes of coaching. At the end 8 to 10 week of the programme each child receives a certificate. Over the last two years we have coached hundreds of children in seven of the Shankill schools.

Inspire Programme

Inspire, Equipping for Life's most recent innovative programme, established in September 2022, has the vision of inspiring the children of the Shankill to unlock their enormous potential and help shape their future working lives. For the 2022/23 programme we have involved over 850 children with our inaugural events at Wheatfield Primary School followed by Forth River and Glenwood. Our hope is that a seed will be planted in the lives of these young children, the next generation on the Shankill Road, and that these seeds will come to fruition as the children progress in life to achieve their full potential.

Like Efl's other programmes, volunteers are central to the work of Inspire and we are grateful to the growing group of volunteers (Inspire Facilitators), from a wide range of careers, who introduce the jobs they do to the children and their routes to achieving success.

Prayer

Equipping for Life has a large group of dedicated and faithful supporters who consistently pray for all aspects of the work of Equipping for Life. We issue regular Prayer Emails to our supporters. We invite you to join us: pat@equippingforlife.org.uk for information.

Reading with Children - teacher feedback

The volunteers are fabulous with the children, they are warm, welcoming and encouraging. It is quite obvious that the feeling is reciprocal and that everyone enjoys the sessions and gets a lot out of them. After speaking to the children, they all enjoy having an adult all to themselves for half an hour without interruption, which in this busy technological world is a godsend.

Why not consider volunteering for the Reading Programme and make a significant difference to the lives of children!
For information:
pat@equippingforlife.org.uk 07889572800

Tennis Programme - teacher and pupil comments

Teachers: 'The tennis coaching met precisely the key elements of the PE curriculum. developing both tennis skills ...and wider physical skills.'

"...offered elements of team-work, co-operation and healthy competition.."

Pupils: "It was great to get the chance to do something different."

"It was fun to have a proper tennis coach teaching us."

"I just loved all of it, it was brilliant."

Inspire Programme - comments from the Efl Team

We were blessed that Brother David, Founder of Equipping for Life, opened our first Inspire day in prayer and we would like to thank the doctor, optician, lawyer, hair dresser, beautician, author, banker, fireman, baker, accountant, engineer, coding author/teacher, actor, outdoor pursuits leaders, clothes-maker, florist, headmaster and, last but not least, Mr David Jeffery MBE who was our guest speaker.

What an inspiring life story David has as he shared with the children overcoming the crushing news when he was told "you're not good enough" to play for Manchester United to going on to receive an MBE. It was a lovely moment when he was presented with his MBE in the Inspire assembly by a P1 girl on her birthday! We were also privileged to welcome Mr David Healy and some of the Linfield squad who took time out of their rest day to INSPIRE.

If you would like to be involved as an Inspire Facilitator at future events contact karen@equippingforlife.org.uk



Equipping for Life is Going Places!

Since the birth of Equipping for Life, we have had very positive feedback from pupils, parents, schools, volunteers and the wider community. The encouraging response to our work has led to interest being expressed in Equipping for Life developing local Equipping for Life groups in various towns across Northern Ireland.

Ways Of Donating

There are a number of different ways in which you can help us make a difference to the lives of the children that we work with.

Donate to our Stewardship

EfL have setup a special Stewardship which you can use to donate money to our charity, see the website link : <https://equippingforlife.org.uk/how-to-help/donate/>

Direct Bank Transfer

Alternatively you can transfer funds directly to use via our bank account details below:

Sort Code: 95-06-79 Account Number: 00183695

Donate with JustGiving

We gratefully accept donations via our Just Giving page which can be accessed by clicking the website link.

Donate by Cheque

As a final option you can send us a cheque made payable to **"Equipping for Life Limited"**. Cheques can be sent to:

Pat Hutchinson MBE Office Manager ,
Equipping for Life,
Unit 9c , Reception Block;
Argyle Business Centre,
39 North Howard St,
BELFAST
BT13 2AP.

Website Link: equippingforlife.org.uk



Unlocking Potential Shaping Futures

At Equipping for Life (EfL) we believe that when children feel valued and supported their potential is unlocked and their futures shaped for good. We are a Belfast faith-based charity, established in 2018 by **Brother David Jardine**, and we seek to offer people of Christian faith volunteering opportunities to support children in primary schools.

"With this help we know our children can be life-long readers and that is a wonderful gift to bestow upon a child."

*Genevieve McSorley
Principal, Malvern School*

"Point your kids in the right direction - when they're old they won't be lost."

Proverbs 22:6, Msg

Website Link: equippingforlife.org.uk