

## Engage! Youth Mentoring

### Information for parents

LICHFIELD CHRISTIAN  
**Schools Work Trust**  
engaging and supporting young people

Charity number: 1056734  
[lcswt.co.uk](http://lcswt.co.uk)

### Who are we? A Brief History!

Engage! Youth Mentoring is a project under the umbrella of registered charity, Lichfield Christian School's Work Trust. Engage! started with one school's worker in 2013 employed to support schools through mentoring. As a response to growing interest, we began to recruit volunteers from the community in 2015, facilitating placements at secondary schools and primary schools in and around Lichfield. Since then, hundreds of students have had a chance to speak to a mentor; some for a few weeks, others for many months. Students are typically supported on a weekly basis by their individual mentor whose task it is to be a role model and build a positive relationship with the student. This provides opportunities for raising self-esteem, aspirations and confidence as they tackle life and school together.

### Why the Emphasis on Positive Relationships?

Positive relationships are what almost all of us can credit with making the difference in our lives at one time or another. Whilst there is sometimes no substitute for professional services when needed, a mentor can sometimes be an early alternative. Our focus is long-term rather than quick fixes; empowering, offering support or just allowing space for growth in a non-judgemental way. This is particularly valuable in building life-skills.

### The Volunteer Mentors

Volunteers go through an application process to become mentors. Whether they happen to be university student, a retired police officer, a grandparent or all three, each is carefully vetted before completing a mentor training program with us. They are also supervised by us for the duration of their placement. We have a small number of younger mentors and many more who are retired or semi-retired. All bring with them differing degrees of life and professional experience, humour and perspective! They give their own time and seem to really enjoy it! Some have been with us since 2015.

### What to Expect

If your child has been selected to work with one of our mentors, our mentor will spend time each week getting to know them with a view to addressing any concerns and supporting them effectively. Sessions are 1:1 and your child will be taken out of a lesson for between 30 mins to 1 hour. Mentors are encouraged to keep sessions informal and enjoyable whether that be over simple, 'getting to know you' exercises or just chatting together. At primary school it may be that a board game or doing some drawing together is a more appropriate way to elicit a conversation.

### Can I contact you?

As will be explained to your child, sessions are confidential. However, if you are worried about anything, would like to give us feedback or have any questions, please feel free to contact us at: [engageyouthmentoring@yahoo.com](mailto:engageyouthmentoring@yahoo.com)