

# BCM Bibles for Primary Schools Appeal

**Would you like to see the Bible being read by children from every family background across Birmingham?**

The RE syllabus used by most Birmingham Primary schools\* encourages pupils to read the Bible. It comes with a set of exemplar lesson plans for use in primary schools. One of the great things about those lesson plans is that, when the pupils study Christianity they read Bible stories. For many children in our city today, this may be the only opportunity they have to hold and read a Bible.

Ideally, we would like to see every child holding their own Bible, but schools are daunted by the cost.

School books need to be hardbacked to survive the use. The specific versions required by the RE syllabus cost £9.99 each for KS1 (infants) and £16.99 for KS2 (juniors).

## **KS1 – Infants – Lion First Bible – RRP £9.99**

- One 'class set' of Bibles (enough for each child to have a bible in front of them ) = 30.
- Each year group (in most Birmingham schools) has two or three classes = 60 or 90
- The key stage is made up of two year groups = 120 or 180
- Therefore, in the smallest schools 60 pupils may need to study RE at the same time, and in bigger schools it may be 120 or 180.
- Even sharing, that's a cost of between £300 and £900 depending on the size of the school.

## **KS2 – Juniors – International Children's Bible – RRP £16.99**

- The key stage is made up of four year groups = 120 or 180
- Therefore, in the smallest schools 120 pupils may need to study RE at the same time, and in bigger schools it may be 240 or 360.
- Even sharing, that's a cost of between £1020 and £3,060 depending on the size of the school.

Schools are actively seeking sponsors of Bibles.

Sponsors can be individuals or churches.

Sponsoring churches can be 'put in touch' with a school by BCM to donate one or more class sets directly.

Sponsors can make a specific purchase of Bibles to be donated to a local school, or to an 'inner city' school.

Sponsors can donate any amount of money via BCM - to be used by us to purchase Bibles for schools

The gift label inside the cover can say that the Bible has been donated by Birmingham City Mission.

The gift label inside the cover can say that the Bible has been donated by a named local church.

## **BCM price offers**

You may want to source the Bibles yourself... but why not from BCM bookshop?

By taking advantage of bulk offers open to us we can bring down the unit cost considerably. And, should there be any remaining few pence of profit, it will be ploughed back into our work.

- KS1 – Lion First Bible - £7 each (unit price when bought in bulk)
- KS1 – class set (30) - £210
- KS1 – key stage set (90) - £630
- KS2 – International Children's Bible - £8 each (unit price when bought in bulk)
- KS2 – class set (30) - £240
- KS2 – key stage set (180) - £1440

PLEASE don't just buy *any* Bible. See over for details of which Bibles are needed and why.

For more information please contact Sue Fearon: [childrensteam@birminghamcitymission.co.uk](mailto:childrensteam@birminghamcitymission.co.uk)

Cheques (to cover the cost of one or more bibles) should be made payable to 'Birmingham City Mission', with 'Bibles for Schools' on either the back of the cheque or in an accompanying note.

**Please don't buy just any version... (more information)**

The Birmingham RE Syllabus directs teachers to two specific versions:

For those in key stage one (KS1), The Lion First Bible; and

for those in key stage two (KS2), The international Children's Bible.

These versions have been chosen because of the balance between biblical clarity and the appropriateness of the language to the age and reading abilities of the children.

To see this for yourself, compare the Bible verse in the box below with the same verse in a translation you are more familiar with. The minor grammar changes and shorter sentence length make a huge difference to children, but the impact of the biblical message remains the same.

***For God loved the world so much that he gave his only Son. God gave his Son so that whoever believes in him may not be lost, but have eternal life.***

John 3:16

International Children's Bible (ICB)

**Please don't buy just any edition...**

It is really important that the schools are given hard backed copies. Paperbacks will become scruffy very quickly.

Also, we are aware that there is an organisation offering free ICB Bibles. We consider these Bibles to be inappropriate for Birmingham schools for two reasons:

- 1) The scheme requires each Bible to be given as the sole possession of an individual child - a condition unacceptable to a large percentage of Birmingham parents, mainly those of other faiths or none;
- 2) The additional editorial content may be viewed as a direct attempt to incite children to convert to Christianity, ie to abandon the faith of their upbringing, or to believe in God despite their parents being atheists. This goes beyond what is allowed in school, by law. We are obliged to leave God's word to speak for itself.

\* The 2007 Birmingham Agreed Syllabus for Religious Education

NOTE on book prices:

International Children's Bible: usual retail £17 (£16.99)

ICB's discount varies

100+ £7 each; 50+ £8 each; 25+ £9 each; 10+ £10 each

Our price £8 each reflects the fact that BCM will usually buy in 50's or 100's

Lion First Bible: usual retail £9.99

Our price £7 each reflects the fact that BCM will usually buy 30+