



EDUCATION  
CENTRES

A photograph of two young women sitting at a wooden desk in a classroom. The woman on the left is wearing glasses and a striped t-shirt, smiling as she looks at the other woman. The woman on the right is wearing a black t-shirt and is writing in a notebook with a yellow pencil. They appear to be in a collaborative learning environment.

Getting you  
started.

# Offering second chances

With over 20 years' experience, TLG Education Centres enable churches like yours to bring vital support for disadvantaged and excluded young people at crisis point in their education.

In your community, there are children facing issues such as family breakdown, bereavement, drug and alcohol abuse, bullying, poverty, gang culture, mental or other illness, lack of parental support and many other distressing circumstances. It's seldom possible for a young person to battle through any of these without it taking a damaging toll on their education.

TLG offers you a unique and exciting opportunity to reach out and support some of the most vulnerable young people in your community, through a TLG Education Centre at your church.

By opening an Education Centre with TLG, your church will offer a safe and nurturing place for struggling young people to learn. We are unique, fusing formal and

The current struggle:

- Over 460,000 children were excluded from school in the UK last year.
- Children who have been taken into care are twice as likely to be excluded as those who have not.
- Pupils known to be eligible for and claiming free school meals are four times more likely to be excluded than those who aren't.
- Only 1% of excluded pupils get the 5 good GCSEs needed to access the workforce.



informal elements of education, alongside mentoring, pastoral support and a highly intentional therapeutic environment. TLG is all about being mainstream but missional. We're serious about returning young people to school, college or employment and at the heart of everything we do

is a vibrant passion to see local churches bring hope and a future to struggling children and families.

A partnership with TLG will enable you to sow deeper into your community and see lives transformed in an incredible way.

## What church leaders say...

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The church is called to be transformative in our society. Having a TLG Education Centre means you have the opportunity of seeing the lives of students and their families change as they are loved by the TLG staff team and the wider church family.

- Gareth Owen, Senior Leader,  
The Gate Church Reading

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# How a TLG Education Centre works

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Our Education Centres are run fully in partnership with your church. Because of this, our model offers an effective fusion that brings together the understanding you have of your community's context and the expertise and professional support of TLG.

At the heart of each TLG Education Centre you'll find a team of Christian staff. With your help, we will recruit a head teacher to lead the centre, who is ideally a qualified teacher, and they'll be supported by an assistant teacher. Some centres also employ a third member of staff.

Your church's Education Centre will support between 6 and 12 young people through an educational programme which is carefully structured over nearly 6 hours of individualised learning a day.

The young people follow a curriculum that focuses on English, Maths and ICT. It also includes Science, Personal & Social Education and a range of other subject areas that allows the students to gain vital qualifications in Functional Skills, which enables them to progress to further education or employment.

TLG Education Centres have a high staff to pupil ratio (1 staff to

3 young people) enabling the young people to receive the crucial pastoral and therapeutic support they need.

Your congregation will play an active and crucial role in the pastoral governance of the centre, which will include the unique opportunity to take ownership of the missional outreach that is provided to both the pupils and their families, enabling them to be embraced by the wider church community and all that can offer. Each centre needs to be boosted by volunteers, who can support in many different ways.

Your church can also run activities outside of the school day in order to see transformation in the lives of young people beyond education. In addition to this, TLG provides opportunities for young people from your centre to explore faith through one of our residentials.



# Explore

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If you're ready to take your church on an exciting journey and are looking to dig your roots deep into your community, then we'd love to help you fully explore opening a TLG Education Centre.

Before committing to opening your own TLG Education Centre, there are several opportunities to find out more about how it all works day to day.

We'll arrange an opportunity to meet your church leadership team, during which we will inform you about what partnership entails, including: the role of TLG, your church's role, finances, referrals, as well as providing you with an opportunity to ask all the questions that you will have.

Finally, you will of course have a chance to see one of our Education Centres in action where you'll be able to witness the tremendous difference an existing TLG partner church is making.



## What families say...

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Our family want to say many thanks to all the staff at TLG for your kind attention, support and care towards our grandson over these past weeks. It is our belief that you all took great care to welcome him at TLG where he felt included and part of the ethos of the centre. You have all done a great job in settling his mind and the minds of his family.

- Grandmother of student,  
West London

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# The crucial role of your church

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As discussions develop and deepen the role of the church within the partnership will be considered to a greater extent.

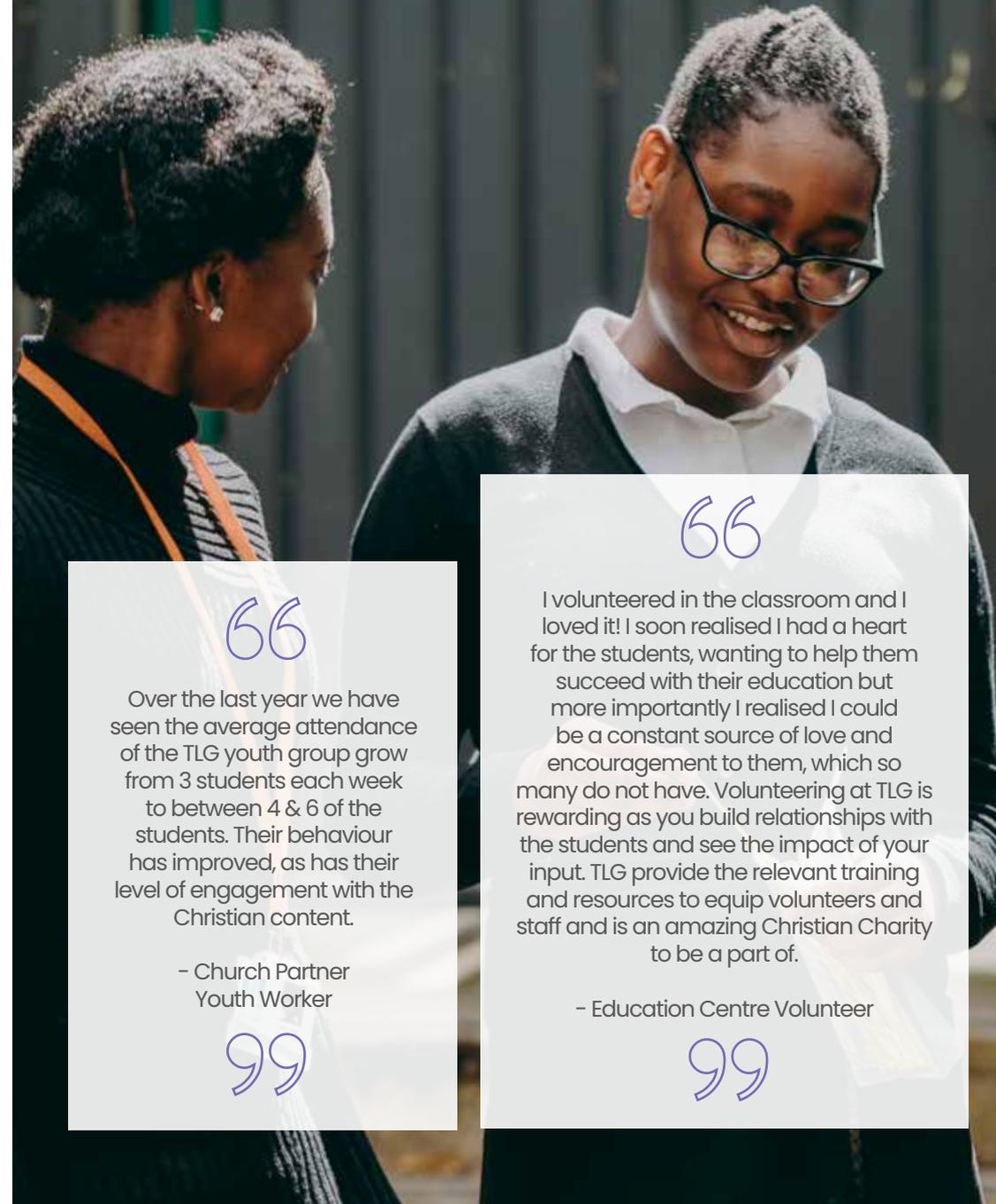
It's important to remember that an education centre will be an outreach arm for the church and so having a governance team that acts as a bridge between the centre and the church congregation is essential. This group of around 3-6 individuals from the church congregation are at first called the Initial Action Group. When the centre is up and running this group then changes to being called the Centre Support Team and a leader is appointed. Simply put, the Centre Support Team are the bridge between your Church and your Education Centre and are the team who target the outreach opportunities which are then formalised on a termly basis in the Joint Outreach Plan.

The Church will also employ a Pupil and Family Champion, who will work directly with the students and their families, for a minimum of 10 hours a week. TLG provides a yearly grant for this role because we want to support the church as it engages with missional outreach!\*

*\* please note that the Pupil and Family Champion grant is only released once an individual from the church is recruited and active in the role. Should the position be vacant for a period (e.g. in-between employment) then the grant funding will reflect the period of time when no one is fulfilling the duties of the role. TLG will provide recruitment support for this role if needed.*



# The church making a real difference...



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I volunteered in the classroom and I loved it! I soon realised I had a heart for the students, wanting to help them succeed with their education but more importantly I realised I could be a constant source of love and encouragement to them, which so many do not have. Volunteering at TLG is rewarding as you build relationships with the students and see the impact of your input. TLG provide the relevant training and resources to equip volunteers and staff and is an amazing Christian Charity to be a part of.

- Education Centre Volunteer

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Over the last year we have seen the average attendance of the TLG youth group grow from 3 students each week to between 4 & 6 of the students. Their behaviour has improved, as has their level of engagement with the Christian content.

- Church Partner Youth Worker

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# Getting going

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If your church leadership team and wider congregation are ready to commit then TLG will conduct a thorough feasibility review, whereby we ascertain whether the local schools and authorities would refer students if an education centre were to be set up in your locality.

Once we have the green light from this then we can really get things going and help you get everything ready before you open your doors. This includes:

- guidance on your building so that you are compliant with DfE and Independent School Standards
- recruiting and equipping the teaching staff that the centre will need
- continuing to work with local schools and the local authorities to generate referral routes



## Case Study:

# Getting started with a TLG Education Centre

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*“Our church undertook a major project where we looked at how we would engage with our community going forward. One of the strong themes to emerge from the work we did was a desire to have a positive impact on the lives of vulnerable children.*

*We were impressed by how seriously TLG took our enquiry – they fielded 3 senior and experienced members of their staff to talk to us. We liked the enthusiasm and the high level of professionalism that was immediately displayed and by the end of the discussion we had a plan of action how to explore various options further. It was clear that we would potentially be grasping a wonderful missional opportunity through opening a TLG Education Centre.*

*Once the church leadership had given their support to the project going forward, we needed to present the idea to the church body and TLG helped with the provision of the essential information every step of the way.*

*At this point we formed an Initial Action Group, with 6 members of the church, to provide the link between TLG and our church. Having a strong Initial Action Group is critically important to the successful implementation of the various tasks that need to be done. Additionally, this group will develop into the Centre Support Team from the church when the school opens.*

*We received overwhelming backing of the church and the next step was to undertake a viability study. This involved engaging with all the relevant key players engaged in Education in our area. This process was led by TLG with support from the Initial Action Group so that the church was fully involved in surveying the local landscape. The response from the senior players in the local authority and key referrers in the secondary schools was very positive and the message was that a TLG Education Centre would be welcomed – a green light!”*

Church Governance Trustee  
and Initial Action Group member

# Launch

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We love working in partnership with churches and a church is, of course, made up of many more people than the leadership team.

That's why we always make time for one of TLG's senior leaders to present to your congregation prior to the centre opening. It's a really special time of inspiring the church about TLG and how they can get involved, but also an important time to give thanks to God for all the lives that the centre will touch.

Before the centre opens the education staff will be equipped for all aspects of their role through a thorough initial two-week induction process, through both face to face time in Bradford and online courses. With a wealth of experience supporting some of the most hard-to-reach young people, our Education Centre Development team (ECD) will continue to equip the staff to make a life-transforming difference to the students that walk through your doors.

## Ongoing Support

Education staff continue to be supported and developed after their induction with 6 days of the

academic year being allocated for the Teacher Training Track (TTT) and 7 modules worth of sessions for TLG's Leadership Track. Headteachers have three further days of support as part of the termly Headteacher Forum.

The church's pastoral governance team and volunteers receive an induction that enables them to hit the ground running when they support staff and students in the centre. This includes training from TLG's Therapeutic Practice Team, having access to a host of online resources on Educare and joining the wider TLG team and volunteers at TLG's Connected Conferences events.

The Centre Support Team Leader will have a unique opportunity to meet their counterparts once a year where great practice will be discussed, encouragements and stories of transformation will be shared and wider equipping will take place.

## What students say...

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Before TLG, I just kept getting excluded and it really knocked my confidence. TLG helped me to be a new person. Now I'm back in mainstream school and I've planned out my future. I've come so far and I think it was part of God's plan for my life that I went to TLG.

- Millie-Rae, student, TLG Bolton

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I used to be one of those tricky students, not obeying teachers. But when I came to TLG I decided I wasn't going to be typical Rory anymore. At TLG, it felt like a family and they really helped me. I think TLG has transformed my life for good.

- Rory, student, TLG West London

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# Costs

TLG cover staffing costs (we employ them too), as well as teaching and learning and most day to day costs, which includes IT hardware and software.

For the church the cost of setting up a TLG Education Centre broadly comprises two distinct areas:

- The first cost covers building modifications to meet DfE standards
- The second cost covers the equipping of the centre (tables, chairs, sofas etc)

Costs will vary from church to church, e.g. depending on the suitability of your building. However, we'll be able to give you an estimate early on when we visit your premises and begin our journey together.

TLG recommends that you consider how your space could be multi-functional, as the students and staff only use the space from 8am-4pm during the week.

Once your centre is up and running the fees paid by schools and local authorities will enable TLG to cover the day to day running costs of the school. Your church will receive 5% of this income which will enable your utility bills to be paid.



Students from your Education Centre will be able to attend our Faith Residentials – opportunities to have a trip away at an activity centre and discover more about the Christian faith – at no extra cost to you!

## A TLG partnership offers you...

- Leading on Department for Education registration and on going Ofsted-readiness from our highly experienced Education Centre Development team
- Project management of the process, from initial conversation with a potential church partner to being opened and inspected by Ofsted, with everything in between!
- Guidance in fundraising for capital work and centre equipment costs
- Professional & educational line management support to the Head Teacher and other Education Staff
- Initial and ongoing advice regarding student referrals from the local authority and surrounding schools
- Learning & development opportunities for the teaching staff and volunteers, including continuous professional development
- Rigorous 'safer recruitment' process for all Education Centre staff
- Advice and supervision from the Education Centre Development team in developing an effective curriculum for our students, including on-going training for teaching staff
- ICT installation and on-going technical maintenance, including emergency support
- Financial services and support, including 5% of referral fees, £6000 grant for you Pupil and Family Champion as well as invoicing and chasing up of referral payments
- Our Fast Track Intern programme, an 11-month leadership development programme for interns working with the church partner
- Equipping of the Pupil and Family Champion, Centre Support Team and church volunteers through TLG's induction process and ongoing training opportunities
- A unique outreach opportunity as young people and their families connect with your church community
- Continued outreach support and guidance through the Joint Outreach Plan and the grant for the Pupil and Family Champion

# Partnering with TLG: your next steps...

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Our Church Partnerships team would love to begin a conversation with you. With hundreds of church partners, we've helped churches of all shapes and sizes find the right TLG programme for them and their community.



You can call us on **01274 900377** or just drop us an email at **[partnerships@tlg.org.uk](mailto:partnerships@tlg.org.uk)**



Alternatively, visit **[tlg.org.uk/your-church](http://tlg.org.uk/your-church)** to explore the options further.



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