

For immediate release

BACK TO SCHOOL: NEW BIRMINGHAM-PRODUCED DVD HELPS CHILDREN MAKE KEY MOVE FROM PRIMARY TO SECONDARY

(BIRMINGHAM -- 2.9.10) -- THE TRANSITION from primary to secondary education can be a difficult time for young people - but a new DVD produced in Birmingham is already helping hundreds of local children do that this week.

Re:Connect with Education, a Spurgeons project, offers support to nine to 13-year-olds finding it difficult to engage with education.

'Just as young people feel they belong in one environment, they have to make it in another, bigger world,' explains Jeanette Mulcare, manager of Stepping Stones Spurgeons Family Project. 'Our short film, made by year 7 pupils, sensitively captures their early experiences in secondary school and provides insight into challenges facing newcomers. It also provides advice to help them cope.'

Hundreds of children have already benefitted.

'The DVD showed me that secondary school is not that bad and it could be quite fun,' said one 11-year-old. 'I learned that teachers can be very helpful and if you need help you can always tell one,' said another.

'Statistics show that if we do not take transition seriously, problems occur,' said Jeanette Mulcare. 'We need to help young people make the best of secondary school. We can give them the skills, confidence and resilience to overcome anxieties. This can only be beneficial to their long-term emotional, social and economical well-being.'

Ends.

Notes for editors

* Spurgeons was founded in 1867 when Anne Hillyard, a London widow, read an article by famous Baptist preacher Charles Haddon Spurgeon and donated £20,000 to found an orphanage for fatherless boys.

* Spurgeons maintains a distinctly Christian ethos with numerous projects working with vulnerable children and young people across the UK and more in a number of locations internationally.

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