

# Tips and Idea to Introduce your Expression to local schools

## Who to meet with

- Principal
- Social Justice/Service-Learning Coordinator
- Wellbeing Lead
- Faith Lead (where appropriate)
- Parents & Friends Committee (P&F)
- Fundraising Committee
- Student Representative Council

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*Rich schools engagement builds a healthy community of students, families, school staff that come alongside The Salvation Army to live out our mission*

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## Securing a meeting

- Address written communications to a specific school contact
- Time your communications or meetings to occur within the school term and well in advance of campaigns, as schools plan their calendar early. (*RSA Invitations should be made in October for RSA the following year*)
- Visit the school reception to drop off some flyers and ask if anyone is available for a meeting. If school staff can't meet with you then, book in a meeting for the future. (Bringing along some home baked cookies/chocolates optional)
- Have a strong call to action in your written communications. This might be a request to hear from them and confirmation of a date you will follow up; or it might be an invitation to meet for coffee etc
- Are there parents with school aged children in your Corps? Consider how they could help such as introducing you to the school, managing the relationships of certain schools, taking on the role of schools engagement for your Corps etc
- Consider joining the P&F of local school/s
- Invite school leadership/fundraising committee/P&F for a tour of your site

## Conversation Hints

- Read the "Engaging schools – face-to-face conversation points" section of the conversation RSA Schools Engagement Guide on Toolkit.
- Orient your conversation around how involvement benefits the school and students
- Offer your support to the school first. Can you or a Corps member help to cook the sports day BBQ, or help with weekly reading time or homework club? Consider building your relationship on a school volunteer basis first.
- Ask:
  - What are the schools needs?
  - Are they experiencing challenges at the moment? What could TSA do to support the school, eg. assist with homework club or offer student volunteering opportunities