**EATING AND HEATING**

***A growing number of families that we work with are facing food and fuel poverty and are having to make the difficult decision between eating and heating. As ethos teams embedded in schools, we are uniquely placed to help people directly, work with and signpost to other organisations and partner with the local church.***

**There are a number of organisations who are able to help. Here are some of the organisations that we can work with:**

***Government Support***

There are a number of government schemes that have been set up to help people with fuel poverty in the following ways:

* Support through installers
* Support through your local authority
* Support through your energy company

<https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/find-energy-grants-for-you-home-help-to-heat>

***Trussell Trust***

“We support a nationwide network of food banks and together we provide emergency food and support to people locked in poverty, and campaign for change to end the need for food banks in the UK. In the UK, more than 14 million people are living in poverty – including 4.5 million children. We support more than 1,200 food bank centres in the UK to provide a minimum of three days’ nutritionally balanced emergency food to people who have been referred in crisis, as well as support to help people resolve the crises they face.”

<https://www.trusselltrust.org/get-help/find-a-foodbank/>

***Groundwork-Green Doctor***

“Our team of friendly Green Doctors are trained energy-efficiency experts. We offer free, impartial advice to help you take control of your bills, save energy where possible in the home, and access other services and initiatives available. We can provide different kinds of support, whether that’s advice on paying off debt with energy or water companies or spotting other concerns for a referral to other services.”

<https://www.groundwork.org.uk/GreenDoctor/>

***Warm Spaces***

With the rise in the cost of living, we understand that this winter will be challenging. That’s why we’re creating a map where you can find warm and welcoming spaces.

<https://warmspaces.org/>

**HELPING THOSE IN FINANCIAL CRISIS**

*It isn’t just the difficult choice between eating and heating. There is a much wider cost of living crisis that we are all facing. Here is a reminder of some of the things that we can offer to the families that we work with:*

**Acts 435**

“Acts 435 is an online giving charity, directly connecting those who want to give with those who are in genuine need of their help, through a network of local churches and charities. They help people meet the basic demands of housing and associated needs such as heating bills, furniture and clothing.”

Grace Foundation are registered members with Acts 435 and over the last 2 years we have had more than a dozen successful applications. I am the contact person, and all applications have to come to me to me to be added to their Crowd Funding website . It really is easy to apply. Everything you need is on the tool kit:

<https://www.grace-foundation.org.uk/resource/family-support-worker/>

**Emergency Fund**

Grace Foundation has a certain amount of money to be used as an Emergency Fund for students and their families. If you would like more information on this fund and how to apply, please contact reception and ask for Tina Brogan, Ethos Family Support Worker.

***There is an abundance of advice online. Here are few links to get you started:***

* *Money saving advice* [*https://www.moneysavingexpert.com/*](https://www.moneysavingexpert.com/)
* *Cost of living help and debt advice* [*https://capuk.org/money-and-debt-advice/support-with-the-cost-of-living*](https://capuk.org/money-and-debt-advice/support-with-the-cost-of-living)
* *Uniform help* [*https://www.gov.uk/help-school-clothing-costs*](https://www.gov.uk/help-school-clothing-costs)