

DBE Schools Bulletin

October 2022

Being deeply Christian and for the common good,
our schools will be communities which are:

LOVING
in relationships

AMBITIOUS
in aspirations

BOLD
in actions



Remembering the Queen

The start of the school year began with the sad and unexpected news of the Queen's death. The period of mourning that followed enabled our schools and churches to hold special collective worship services to commemorate the Queen's life and to acknowledge and give thanks for her long and dedicated service to the nation and God.

Only four months earlier, the country, including our schools, held their own events and celebrations for Her Majesty the Queen, as she became the first British Monarch to reign for 70 years and in doing so, celebrated her Platinum Jubilee. In the tributes that have been made since the Queen's death, there have been many that recognised and referenced her strong Christian faith. One recalled a Christmas Day message in which the Queen described how,

"the life of Jesus Christ... is an inspiration and an anchor in my life. A role model of reconciliation and forgiveness, he stretched out his hands in love, acceptance and healing. Christ's example has taught me to seek to respect and value all people, of whatever faith or none."

A message that I hope resonates for all who attend and work in our church schools, as we too can find our inspiration in the good news of Jesus, and the reassurance and ever constant we receive in his steadfast love and grace.

Together, we seek to build school communities on dignity and respect, in which every member has a sense of belonging and is valued for who they are. Our Queen, in her dedicated service to our nation, was a real example of someone who lived life in all its fullness and exemplified how to live well with one another.

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Headteacher & Senior Leaders Conference 2022

We would love for you to join us for the Headteacher and Senior Leaders Conference on 25th November 2022.

We will be exploring another strand of the Church of England's vision for education; Community and Living Well Together. Looking at many different aspects of this theme; we will begin the day with Nigel Genders (CEO of the CofE Education office) exploring the role of Church of England Schools in a new school system and how they can work effectively together to serve their communities.

In the middle of the day there will be a Marketplace where a number of schools will be presenting ways in which they have worked effectively with different types of communities. This is an opportunity to be inspired, get some ideas to take back to school but also to discuss with other leaders about how your school works with your communities.

Finally in the afternoon we hope you will be inspired by Pastor Mick and some of the amazing things he has done to support the vulnerable in his community. Already booked before the publication of his book, Pastor Mick is really looking forward to sharing his story with school leaders.

There will also be many opportunities for you to have time to explore this aspect either with your team or other school leaders attending on the day. If you are planning to attend as a team, discounts for group bookings are available.

For tickets go to: chesterdbe.co.uk/conference

Headteacher & Senior Leaders' Conference

Living Well Together

School • Church • Community

featuring keynote speakers

Rev Nigel Genders
Chief Education Officer
Church of England Education Office

Pastor Mick Fleming
Church on the Street

25 November 2022

The Park Royal Hotel
[Stretton WA4 4NS]

Ticket Cost £150
[additional tickets purchased at £100]

book now
chesterdbe.co.uk/conference

THE CHURCH OF ENGLAND
Chester Diocesan Board of Education

Governor Liability and Deferred Payment Changes

Following an audit and a resulting change in accounting practices the Board of Education is no longer able to cover any shortfall of either project costs or governors' 10% contribution as we have sometimes done in previous years for exceptional circumstances.

This means that the Board of Education (in line with other DBEs across the country) will now request the full amount of the governor's 10% contribution at the outset rather than half at the beginning and half at the end of the project. Unfortunately it also means that we are unable to allow schools to defer payments of projects.

Please ensure when you are discussing projects with your building consultants and governors that you have the finances available to cover both the costs of the project and the governor's 10% contribution.

Building consultants have been informed of the situation.

We are sorry that this comes at a time when we know costs are increasing but we must ensure we are compliant with modern accounting practices and the laws that govern them.

SIAMS 2023 – A National Update



All staff, governors, and clergy of Church of England and Methodist schools are invited to attend this national online session which will be led by the National Director of SIAMS.

Dr Margaret James will set out the

ways in which SIAMS will develop from September 2023, explaining what the developments will mean for schools.

Please register to attend either the morning or the early evening session, and encourage members of your school teams to join us.

To gain access to the session of your choice, please save and follow the links below:

Thursday 3 November 10am-11.30am Click [here](#) to join 10am meeting

Thursday 3 November 6pm-7.30pm Click [here](#) to join the 6pm meeting

For further information or any queries please email: siams@churchofengland.org

Admission Appeals – new code

The Department for Education have just published a new Admission Appeals code which came into force on 1st October.

The code can be found here:

[School Admission Appeals Code 2022](#)

The code allows for appeals to be heard in person or remotely.

As a reminder, appeal panels **must** be independent of the governing board and appropriately trained. VA schools/academies may choose to use an external provider such as the LA to manage the appeals process. LAs must give VA schools appropriate finance to cover appeals (academies receive this directly).



Department
for Education



World Mental Health Day is coming up on Monday 10th October, and schools all across the country will be marking the day in lots of different ways.

The theme for this year's day has been designated as 'make mental health and wellbeing for all a global priority'.

In this toolkit, we have included a number of resources to help you improve your pupils' understanding of mental health and get them talking about it on World Mental Health Day.

The resources are split into lessons for whole classes, and activities to do with smaller groups or individual children.

[Download the toolkit now](#)

Global Neighbours Scheme

From recycling, saving energy and walking to school pupils and staff at Bollington St John's Primary School have been working hard to take their place as global citizens.



Bollington St John's Church of England Primary School has achieved Bronze Award status in Christian Aid's [Global Neighbours scheme](#) in recognition of its wide-ranging steps to love their global neighbour.

The accreditation scheme celebrates schools that are helping pupils learn about global poverty and the Christian responsibility to tackle it, as well as giving them the tools to play a confident part in creating a fairer world.



Headteacher, Melanie Walker, said: *"We are thrilled to be recognised for the work we have done as a whole school community to raise awareness of the extreme inequalities across our globe and perhaps more importantly, the steps we can take to address these. The pupils learn about global issues regularly and gain an understanding of injustice in our world. Our Ethos Group and School Council have written to local shops including Tesco to question them on their policies and practice relating to exploitation and injustice, linked specifically to climate change."*

"We have a link with schools in Uganda, China and Romania. Pupils in Romania have worked with our pupils learning about the Sustainable Development Goals, making Plastic Pledges together. This work was shared with town councillors and the mayor who likewise made pledges. Pupils have been learning about examples of people who faced adversity and overcame this to be courageous advocates for change. These stories have challenged the whole school community to think about how each of us can make a difference in our local community and globally."

Alison Brown, Global Neighbours Schools Programme Officer at [Christian Aid](#), said: "The Global Neighbours Scheme was launched in partnership with the Church of England's Education Office with a vision of helping young people understand more about the inequalities in this world and helping them to become courageous advocates for those who have no voice.

It's wonderful to see how staff and pupils at Bollington St John's have taken this to heart and are seeking to tackle injustice.

“Christian Aid is also looking to recruit more volunteer teachers locally to go into schools to help us deliver the scheme. If you have experience of working with children and are excited about inspiring a new generation of agents of change, we would love to hear from you!”

Any primary school in England can join the Global Neighbours scheme. There are three levels of accreditation: bronze, silver and gold. These are verified by independent assessors, who look for evidence across five areas: school leadership, teaching and learning; collective worship and spiritual development; pupil participation; and community engagement.

Archbishops’ Young Leaders Award

‘Young Leaders Award’ is now the ‘Archbishops’ Young Leaders Award’

Over the summer, the Young Leaders Award became part of the Church of England’s National Education Office’s team. Over the coming months, the activities of the Archbishop of York Youth Trust will be wound up and it will no longer exist as an independent charity.

The Young Leaders Award (YLA) should now be referred to as the **Archbishops’ Young Leaders Award (AYLA)**.

Free Resource - Community Matters re-launched



With the cost-of-living crisis and climate crisis dominating the headlines and replacing Covid as the greatest threats to our communities, we are re-launching our free resource **Community Matters** this term.

The resource provides activities and ideas to help

KS1-KS3 pupils explore why community matters, looking at a range of **social and environmental issues**, and consider how children and young people can become courageous advocates and play their part in creating positive change. Find out more here: www.abyyt.com/communitymatters

Free Webinars

We will be running free after-school Zoom webinars throughout the autumn term for schools that wish to find out more about the Archbishops’ Young Leaders Award. The sessions explore the programme materials, the learning outcomes and curriculum links as well as providing examples of social action projects carried out by schools.

For more details and dates please see the [YLA Free Twilight Webinars leaflet](#)

Sign up here www.abyyt.com/events

highlights from the project and talk about work happening around the world to bring about climate justice. The aim is that the children leave feeling hopeful, inspired and proud of their School's exhibits. The ten participating schools will also be invited to provide some wording explaining their response to the project and how this links with their distinctive Christian vision.

To register your interest in this event or to find out further information, please contact: Jen Stratford, Education Officer, Chester Cathedral: jen.stratford@chestercathedral.com or Finola Jackson, Deputy Headteacher, Saighton CE Primary School and Pre School: fjackson@saighton.cheshire.sch.uk

The first ten schools to register their interest by Friday 22nd October will be chosen.

RE Cluster Leader Groups



Launched by the Diocese in 2019, our primary RE subject leader cluster groups give RE leaders from church schools opportunity to network, share good ideas and ensure sustained good practice in RE across our Diocese. Meetings are being arranged for the autumn, more details to follow. Groups and leader details below:

Name of Cluster Group	Group Leaders	Meeting & Venue
Cheshire West & Chester South (Chester & Ellesmere Port)	Rachel Inns (Hoole CE) Vicky Sewell (Christchurch Ellesmere Port)	Tues 15th November - 4:00pm for 4 :15 pm Hoole CE Primary CH2 3HB
Cheshire East South	Fiona Pulle (Brereton CE) Liz Taylor (Wybunbury Delves CE)	tbc
Cheshire East North & Cheshire West & Chester North (Northwich)	Carys Clark (St Johns the Evangelist, Macc.) Michael Heathcote (Whitegate)	Tuesday 8 th November
Cheshire West & Chester (Rural)	Finola Jackson (Saighton CE)	Tuesday 27 th September Saighton CE
Tameside & Stockport	Amelia Wassall (Hyde St Georges)	tbc
Trafford	Natalie McLoughlin (St Anne's Sale)	Tuesday 20 th October 3:40pm St Anne's Sale
Wirral	Charlotte Fenwick (Christchurch Birkenhead) Rachel Clark (St Andrews Bebington)	tbc

Please contact your RE Cluster Group Leader or charlotte.somers@chester.anglican.org for further information

Bringing the Bible to Life



Videos for schools

We have developed 10 punchy, interactive video sessions to walk your children through the storyline of the Old Testament exploring the origins of the Jewish and Christian faiths.

We also have 10 video sessions exploring the storyline of the New Testament and the birth of the early church. Each session lasts around 15-20mins, making our series very flexible. You could watch a session each day or several back to back. They are available via this link: www.Bible.org.uk/videos

Resources - Workmaps vs Activity Books

We have two written resources available for your children to use to consolidate their learning as they go through the series.

Workmaps - minimal writing, repetition of key storyline.

Activity Books - greater written evidence, even more fun.

Watch this short video to help you decide which to order for your children.

https://www.bible.org.uk/wtb_child_events.php#schools-resource-section

Cost

Nil. Nothing. Zero!

All costs for our OT and NT MINI videos, printed materials, postage and packing have already been covered by donations given to our charity.



BRINGING THE **BIBLE** TO LIFE

Walk Through the Bible are also hosting a one day training event with the DBE later next year:

Understanding the Big Picture - Wed 26 Apr 2023 [Book Here](#)

Beat - SPOT

Beat, the UK's eating disorder charity wants to share with you the details of our School Professionals Online Training (SPOT). SPOT is fully funded across the UK and is available to anyone who works within a primary or secondary school setting.



SPOT encompasses interactive e-learning modules where school staff can learn more about spotting the early signs of an eating disorder and how to talk to a pupil who may be exhibiting them. There are spaces to ask questions and get advice from eating disorder clinicians with weekly drop-ins and forums. Additionally, there are downloadable resources on SPOT, including PSHE lesson plans and resources to use within lessons on topics, such as eating disorders, body image, self-esteem, and social media. **On completion of the e-learning modules, a certificate is issued to the user to acknowledge their training!**

For more information please read this [Introducing SPOT leaflet](#)

To sign up to SPOT, follow the link [here](#).

Headteacher Cluster Meetings

Autumn			
Cluster Name	Chair / Agenda Contact	Date & Time	Venue
Chester		Mon 3 October 1.30pm	CANCELLED
Congleton/ Nantwich		Tue 15 November 10am	tbc
Macclesfield		Mon 10 October 1.30pm	tbc
Northwich	Caroline Mackenzie	Wed 12 October 1.30pm	Whitegate CE Primary
Rural Chester		Wed 16 November 1.30pm	tbc
Stockport/ Tameside	Vicki Hewitt-Lee	Thu 10 November 10am	Hyde St George
Trafford		Tue 1 November 1pm	Altrincham Primary
Warrington/ Halton		Mon 7 November 1.30pm	Runcorn All Saints
Wirral	Amanda Donelan	Friday 14 October	Leasowe Castle
Secondary Heads		Wed 9 November 9.30am	Bishop's Blue Coat CE High School

October & November 2022 CPD Courses.

Courses are listed on our [courses web page](#) and new [Ticket Tailor](#) site

Date	Month	Course	Location
5 th	Oct	Chairs clinic and networking group	Zoom
11 th	Oct	Collective Worship Leads network	Zoom
12 th	Oct	Preparing for Ofsted Inspection - A Governors' Guide	Zoom
17 th	Oct	Being a Governor of a Church School / Academy <i>Repeated 19th Jan & 25th Apr</i>	Zoom
19 th	Oct	Equality & Diversity in Education	Church House
19 th	Oct	Clergy with church schools network	Zoom
20 th	Oct	Help! I am a new Religious Education Subject Leader in a church school.	Church House
tbc	Nov	New Headteacher Support - 1 Year Programme - session 1	Church House
2 nd	Nov	Visionary Subject Leadership	Church House
2 nd	Nov	'Drop In' RE Surgery	Zoom
3 rd	Nov	RQT Development Programme 2022-23 - Day 1	
8 th	Nov	Stepping Into Headship - Two evening course	Zoom
8 th	Nov	Spiritual Development	
15 th	Nov	Stepping Into Headship - Two evening course	Zoom
16 th	Nov	Deputies & Assistant Headteachers' Briefing & Networking	Church House
17 th	Nov	SIAMS - a detailed view & SIAMS SEF Starter	
17 th	Nov	SIAMS - a detailed view: Morning Only	
17 th	Nov	Preparing for SIAMS - SIAMS SEF Starter: Afternoon only	
18 th	Nov	Headteachers Surgery	
23 rd	Nov	Religious Education & The SIAMS Evaluation Schedule	Church House
24 th	Nov	Chairs clinic and networking group	
25 th	Nov	Headteacher & Senior Leaders' Annual Conference*	Park Royal
29 th	Nov	Early Careers Teacher Support - 1 Year Programme 2022-23 - Day 2	Witton Church Walk
Other Courses & Events			
6 th	Oct	Christian Leadership Course Day 1	
13 th	Oct	RE Syllabus Pilot	Wrightington
11 th	Nov	Headteacher Wellbeing – Group 1	Foxhill
14 th	Nov	Christian Leadership Course School visit <i>(in the week commencing)</i>	
16 th	Nov	Headteacher Wellbeing – Group 2	Foxhill

Any enquires about courses, dates or further details please contact [Charlotte Somers](#).

Spring Dance Company

A Christmas Story: Refugee, The Easter Project, PARABLE and much more available from Springs Dance Company!

Springs is offering it's much loved **A Christmas Story: Refugee** workshops to schools. Inspired by Anne Booth's Christmas story Refuge. Click here for details: [Christmas Story leaflet](#).

Also available is Springs' sought after **Easter Project**. Delivering fun, engaging and thought-provoking dance workshops, **The Easter Project** provides a fresh and exciting way to explore the Easter story. Click here for details: [Easter Project Leaflet](#)

Returning in 2023 is **PARABLE! PARABLE** is an immersive dance theatre and integrated workshop experience, designed to help schools join the dots in pupil's knowledge of Christianity. Click here for details: [Parable Leaflet](#)

Further details on all of our work for schools can be found at: [Spring Dance School Workshops](#)
To book and to find out more please email: touring@springsdancecompany.org.uk
or call **07775 628 442**

DBE team contact details to enable schools to contact officers by phone or e-mail.

chris.penn@chester.anglican.org	Director of Education	07540 722667
sue.noakes@chester.anglican.org	Deputy Director of Education	07540 722668
mark.whitehill@chester.anglican.org	School Effectiveness Officer	07540 722669
jenny.mcilveen@chester.anglican.org	Christian Character & CPD Officer	07581 245812
simon.geddes@chester.anglican.org	Buildings & Finance Officer	07564 901986
sandra.jones@chester.anglican.org	School Assets Administrator	07549 109589
charlotte.somers@chester.anglican.org	Director's PA & Administrator	07549 109578
linda.boys@chester.anglican.org	DBE Administrator	07549 109590

News from Schools

Astbury St Mary

Astbury children walking love around the world: Local community work

Children in Years three and four went harvesting onto the school field. They collected boxes full of fruit; cooking and eating apples and pears. These were bagged up and given to families or offered for a small donation to school. The remainder of the apples were taken to The Old Saw Mill in Congleton for recycling. The apples will be crushed down and made into Congleton Apple Juice. All profits made are put back into the community. Over the years the project has planted more than 250 fruit trees in Congleton Schools so that each school now has its own mini orchard, a community orchard has been planted on Astbury Mere and now the profits go to fund our energy reduction projects such as the Sustainable Living in Congleton project.



Bishop Blue Coat High

Harvest Appeal: Save the Family

The community at Bishops' Blue Coat Church of England High School is working in partnership with St Luke's Church to support the Chester-based charity Save the Family. Save the Family provide residential care for families who are affected by crises such as domestic violence, addiction, debt and family break-up. It aims to support and keep families together and eventually help them get them back on their feet and into the community.

Congregants at St Luke's and students at Bishops' are currently collecting food donations to bring hope and the love of Jesus to vulnerable families in our local area. We will celebrate the fruits of our social action just before half-term through Harvest assemblies at which point, we will deliver our collection to Save the Family. St Luke's will be having its Harvest Service at 10.30 on Sunday 23rd October. Anyone can support Save the Family directly either through food donations or by making a donation of money to their Just Giving page www.justgiving.com/savethefamily. This will enable the charity to purchase priority goods as and when needed.



Crowton



Year 3 and 4 went backwards in time, to when the world was different, and our ancestors lived in a world without cars, mobile phones and computers. They learnt about how people of the past lived in an ever-changing



landscape, when the world of human beings was new and intertwined with our environment. We joined Delamere’s Forest Explorers ranger, to learn all about the lives, tools & technology of our stone age ancestors. They had a fantastic day and fully immersed themselves in all the activities.

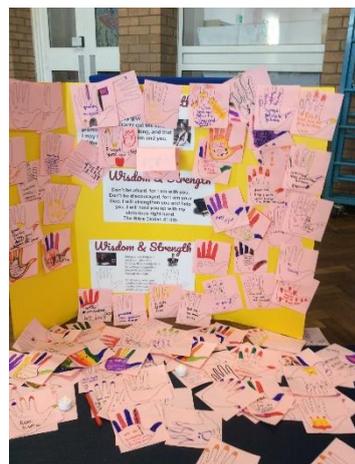
Elworth

After hearing the very sad news of the Queens passing, we wanted to come together as a school community to give thanks for her life. We held an open-air thanksgiving service for parents and children to attend. It was such a special service where prayers were said and hymns were sung by candlelight.

The following day we held a Prayer Space Day for all children to attend and spend a few minutes in quiet reflection. The children had the opportunity to visit various spaces including, The Empty Throne where children could remember people in their lives who are no longer with us, Prayers for The Commonwealth, Prayers for the Royal Family, Wisdom and courage for the new King and a rainbow of special memories of the Queen.

Here at Elworth, both children and adults value our Prayer Space Days and enjoy the opportunity to spend time in thought and prayer.

We are now busy preparing for our next Prayer Space Day based on Harvest.



Frodsham



It was lovely to welcome our new Reception children and their parents into our school family in a service at St Laurence Church. Reception sang 'Our God is a Great Big God' for us all which was amazing. The Year 6 big buddies introduced each new member of our school family and it was great to get to know them better. Each child received a gift of a Lord's Prayer cube, presented by Reverend Elaine. After the service, members of the church provided refreshments for parents and grandparents so that they

could spend some time getting to know one another. We are looking forward to watching the children grow and flourish throughout their time in school.

Lostock Gramam

The Ethos group at our school are very excited to work alongside members of our church community on a gardening project. Church have given us a little plot of land in the beautiful church grounds to plant and look after so that school is represented in our church. The children from our Gardening Club along with our Ethos group will plant bulbs this half term and begin work on this exciting adventure, strengthening our school, church and community links.

Lower Peover



As a school, we decided to raise money for the Childhood Cancer and Leukaemia Charity and all the children took part in the Gold Ribbon Run Challenge. The children set themselves a target to see how many laps of the field they could run in 15 minutes. They were all extremely enthusiastic and keen to raise money for such a wonderful charity.

Pott Shrigley



Our school welcomed new faces to reception class this year with an introductory climb on the school's adventure playground!

EYFS teacher, Jo Turner, comments 'It's great to see the children settled in so quickly, they've got off to a brilliant start getting to know each other and are finding their way

around the school. Our dedicated learning lodge is all set up with continuous provision and we're already underway with our phonics, maths, PE and Friday trips to Forest School.



The unique, rural school just five miles from Macclesfield has also welcomed a new interim headteacher Marie Maynard, who joins from Belmont Primary School in Greater Manchester. After just a month in the role Miss Maynard, remarked 'What a wonderful school - I've had such a fabulous welcome from children, staff, parents and the wider community. This really is a very special school with kindness, enthusiasm and Christian values shining through each and every child.'

Saighton

We are very proud of our recently matched Year 6 and Reception buddies. After being buddies in training during Year 5, our new Year 6s have risen to the challenge well and the care and love they show for each other is truly heart-warming.



This month, we had a wonderful harvest celebration at St Mary's Church, Bruera. Each class performed a poem from the National Trust book: I am the Seed That Grew the Tree. The children reflected on how the beautiful poems encourage us to appreciate the world around us.

The church was filled with joy and laughter especially when Reverend Jules challenged the children to decorate their own fruits of the harvest!

Our school neighbours hosted a fantastic cake sale at school in aid of Macmillan Cancer Support. It was a lovely, community event and raised over £250.



Shocklach Oviatt



Rock Kidz returned to Shocklach this week! Over two days the children learnt about being proud of themselves, about perseverance, about standing up for their rights and saying no to bullying, all through rock music and dance. The workshops finished with two concerts where the children shared what they had been learning with parents.

We finished the week with two harvest services in the beautiful St Edith's church. Our Foundation stage and Year 1 children performed a lovely version of The Little Red Hen. The Year 5 Worship Leaders attended to support the service with a prayer and a reflection

about our collection this year. We have collected donations for Whitchurch food bank.

In the afternoon all the older children in the school led a thought-provoking service and filled St Edith's church with the familiar sound of 'Thank you Lord for this new day' and 'All things bright and beautiful'. Chris Gilbert wrote a song for this service and attended with his guitar, on his birthday, to join our special Harvest service! Thank you Chris.



Tilston



Our new Worship Leaders have been appointed and have already been busy leading collective worship and planning our Harvest Festival Service.

Our Worship Leaders and Head Boy and Girl, have decided to support the Whitchurch Foodbank this harvest to support our local community.

Community is one of our core values and we hope our little gifts can help to make a big difference.

"Not all of us can do great things..... but we can do small things with great love!" Mother Teresa

Warmingham



Otters Class (Reception) had a wonderful afternoon last week. They experienced their first walk to our beautiful church St Leonards supported by their Year 6 buddies. Our new Reverend,



Rev Paul met them at church to welcome them. They had a fantastic guided tour around the church by Rev. Paul who explained some of the key features such as the Pulpit and Font before they joined in with an interactive story from the Bible. Lastly, they were presented with their very own children's Bible to welcome them into our church and school family.



Windle



We have had a wonderful morning raising money for Macmillan Cancer. Our year six pupils manned the cake stalls, took the drinks orders and ran a number of games. Lots of delicious cakes were donated and devoured and everyone thoroughly raising an amazing £265.59 for charity. Our Head Boy opened proceedings making a speech on the playground welcoming everyone, and our Head Girl personally thanked everyone for their contributions. Well done year six! Thank you to everyone for helping us make a difference.