

# Schools' Spring Newsletter

March 2019



**EXTRA**

**DIOCESAN BOARD OF EDUCATION**

## **Message from Revd Andrew Towner - Board of Education Chair**

Every now and then I wonder: where in our modern society do we see models of people disagreeing with humility and mutual respect? It is hard to find examples within politics or football, on the radio or TV. Therefore we, in our schools, have a vital role in teaching and modelling such things – and I see this so clearly as I visit schools.

One of the key things which excites me about the Board of Education is the very real difference we can all make in the lives of individuals up and down the County. To shape our children and young people is to shape Cumbria for the coming generations. Our Vision for Education aims at "*life in all its fullness*" for all, aiming to educate for wisdom and hope, living well in community and treating all with dignity. This is a distinctively Christian vision for the good of all society, and is commended to – and appreciated by – both Christians and those with other belief systems.

At the start of 2019 the Board of Education was re-constituted, as happens every three years in our Diocesan cycle, and I am delighted to continue as Chair. I spent a number of years teaching before going to Theological College, and have enjoyed a lot of time in schools since ordination. And since our children are now 5, 7 and 8 I feel that I have a good hands-on grasp of Primary School life. I serve as Governor in two schools – one a Church of England primary, the other a community infants.

We are delighted to have a renewed and strengthened Board to lead on Education for the Diocese across this County. Emma Ineson (now +Emma) will serve as my Vice Chair, and we have members with various useful skills and backgrounds: from Richard Cox's experience as a senior Local Authority advisor and diocesan consultant to Nick Klein's oversight with NISCU, from Jillian Longworth-Harrison's experience as the head of a Community school who has appreciated the Peer Support Network, to vicars embedded in parish life and Archdeacon Vernon's experience in a number of Dioceses. With a range of other school leaders we are well set-up to progress the Vision and serve all of our children and young people. All that, of course, is ably supported by the team – Michael, Deborah, Dorothy, Morven and the consultants.

As you read on, please be assured of my prayers, and our support as you continue to work hard for each and every pupil. I continue to be excited by the difference we can make as we work together.

**PLEASE DISPLAY IN YOUR STAFFROOM**



## **Carlisle Diocese Vision for Education**

Following up from Andrew's introduction our developing strategy has been endorsed by the Bishop's Council and the Board of Education.

We have established 3 immediate priorities.

### **Governance**

We aim to develop enthusiastic and effective governing bodies for every school including working more effectively with local churches. We will be reviewing all our policies and procedures including training. We will reflect our overarching vision in the documentation and hopefully you will be aware of the new online introductory module. Look out for our summer conference which will be specifically targeted at governors and clergy.



### **School Sustainability**

I attach a link to our [latest guidance on collaboration](#), but want to go further and have clear diocesan strategy for helping, in particular, small and rural schools and their communities, sharing good practice and starting new initiatives. We will be working on this with other partners over the coming months.

### **Wellbeing of School Communities**

As we have developed our vision we have heard the message very clearly about well being of all in our school communities. We will be working with partners in developing support for school leaders including the growth of the Peer Support Networks and also focusing on health and well being of pupils by sharing good practice and launching our own projects. Lookout for our autumn conference.

*Michael Hill*



## Your New Board of Education 2019

### **Bishop of Carlisle**

Bishop James

### **Bishop's Appointment**

Bishop Emma

### **Synod Appointments**

Revd Andrew Towner (Chair)

Priest in Charge of the Benefice of St John, Houghton

Revd Richard Snow

Team Rector in Kirkby Lonsdale and School Governor

Revd Vernon Ross

Archdeacon for Westmorland and Furness

Revd Becky Gibb

Priest in Charge of the Benefice of St Bees

### **Synod Lay Appointments**

Shelagh Hughes

Head at St Herbert's CE School, Keswick

David Mills

Richard Cox

Vacancy

### **Co-opted Members**

Andrea Armstrong

Methodist nomination and Head at Kirkbampton CE School

Nick Klein

CEO, NISCU

Jillian Harrison-Longworth

Headteacher Blennerhassett School

Judith Gore

Headteacher St Martin & St Mary's CE School, Windermere

## Education Conferences 2019

### **Thursday 4th July, 2019—Diocesan Governor Conference**

For all school governors (including clergy). We are delighted to have the National CE Deputy Director of Education, Andy Wolfe as keynote speaker. The focus will be on vision into strategy with workshops covering various aspects of a governors role in a Church of England school.

### **Thursday 17th October, 2019—Diocesan Leaders' Conference**

All school leaders and governors are welcome.

**Details of both conferences to follow.**





## **SIAMS Self Evaluation**

As we are all aware Ofsted are no longer requiring schools to complete a SEF document. The new SIAMS inspection process does imply a SIAMS SEF is an expectation. We have a recommended format, including prompts on the Diocesan web pages and led training on using this document during the Autumn term. However, we have heard from the national SIAMS manager that the process of self-evaluation is being reviewed in light of Ofsted's advice. According to Derek Holloway National SIAMS Manager

“Church school self-evaluation will still be expected of schools, but we will encourage more flexibility of approach, particularly in the way that is communicated to the inspector. We have, therefore, decided to offer and encourage alternatives and will gradually encourage the existing SEF to be used as more of an audit tool. We will again stress that the suggested SEF on the website is optional.

Specifically, we will be developing a short optional ‘SIAMS reflection’ document (working title). This will be a simple maximum 2-page document built around the school making its case for good and/or excellent. We will be asking inspectors to make more of the pre-inspection phone call gathering a broader range of information to inform conversations during the inspection. This will be the SIAMS equivalent of the proposed Ofsted ‘on site’ conversation the day before inspection which SIAMS inspectors will not be able to do.

**Guidance on these alternatives will be available for schools and diocese by March 2019.” (February 2019)**

Recent resources to support schools in preparation for SIAMS have been produced by the national SIAMS manager and can be accessed [here](#). They are particularly useful as schools consider making a case for Excellence using the new framework.

We continue to deliver Diocesan training ‘Preparing your SEF’ and encourage you to book on if interested. Upcoming sessions are:

Wednesday 6<sup>th</sup> March 6.30pm-8.30pm Leven Valley Primary School

Thursday 21st March 6.30pm—8.30pm Church House, Penrith

*\*Spaces still available\**

Cost £35 pp (or free as part of your Partnership Agreement)

Contact Morven Anson if you wish to book [Education@carlisle-diocese.org.uk](mailto:Education@carlisle-diocese.org.uk)



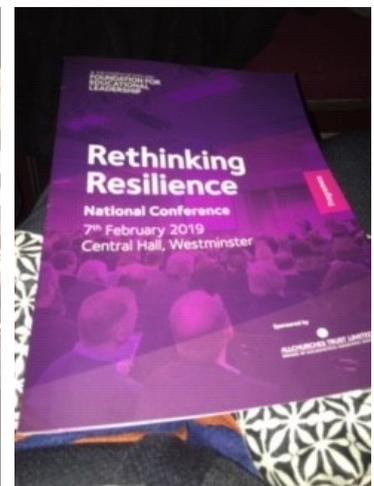
## 'Rethinking Resilience' Church of England National Educational Conference 7th February 2019

14 senior leaders from Carlisle Diocese travelled down from Cumbria to London to attend the 3rd National CE Education Conference. Once again it was an uplifting day.

Here are a few reflections, giving a taste of the day.

*I found the whole day thought provoking and enlightening. As we face a shift in national focus towards our curriculum I think it's fantastic to be provided with so many great ideas to develop character education within our schools. As a Church of England school, we are firmly rooted in our Christian values and feel more confident now that these will ensure our children develop their resilience for the challenges they will face in the future.*

Michael Craig—Headteacher, St James' Infants and Nursery School



*I found the conference really useful in many different ways. I took the opportunity to network with other conference attendees and have established a CE school link in Newcastle to help our children have a better understanding of diversity. I am also hoping to make links with Benjamin Carter and see if our children can experience 'God in the Tent' in the summer term. As a result of hearing Rev Rose Hudson-Wilkin, Chaplain to the Speaker of the House of Commons, I have arranged for her to talk to our children when we visit London in March, I think this will be very inspirational for our Y5 and Y6 children. I particularly liked her quote 'Education is the most powerful tool to change the world and that we are educating the next generation for life, not just Maths and English'. The second and last sessions confirmed my thinking that caring, but firm leadership are essential to building strong resilient teams. I am going to use the circle of proximity to evaluate if I have the right people/organisations in the best places to make Lanercost run as efficiently as possible and follow Rob Robson's lead of trying to find mental and physical space during the working day, walking up the hill behind the school at lunchtime is now diarised! The whole day was very uplifting and I only wish more of our church school leaders could have attended.*

Alison Clarricoats—Headteacher at Lanercost CE Primary School

As a follow up to the conference and to continue to support leaders and leadership development the Foundation for Educational Leadership has provided some further useful resources that can be downloaded. Please follow this link. <https://www.cefel.org.uk/resilience/>

The National Conference next year will be at the same venue, Methodist Central Hall on **6th February 2020**. The focus will be Curriculum Design. We will publish further details as we receive them.

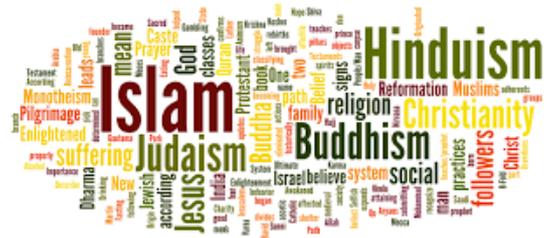


### **Guidance for Faith Visitors in Schools**

It is exciting to hear of the variety of religious visitors contributing to children's knowledge and understanding within diocesan schools. We are producing some guidance that we encourage schools to share with all visitors from religious traditions who are taking part in the life of the school. It will provide useful information regarding expectations, appropriate practice and makes links directly to our Vision for Education. Cumbria SACRE also provides useful guidance for schools when considering a visit to a place of worship, whatever the religion.

Both documents will be useful as you seek to widen children's experience and continue to support their spiritual development and religious literacy.

<https://www.cumbria.gov.uk/childrensservices/schoolsandlearning/lis/sacre.asp>



### **Partnership Agreement 2019/2020**

Following the publication of the Partnership Agreement 2019/20 we have been pleased by the response, with a number of schools who have previously not been part of the PA signing up. By taking up membership of the PA schools will receive discounts to leadership conferences, free governor training, as well as a session with a diocesan consultant to look at an area bespoke to you. Alongside this our aspiration is for all schools to receive an annual Keeping in Touch (KiT) visit from a diocesan consultant. During such visits they will discuss initiatives linked to the diocesan vision, support/training packages on offer, progress on area for development identified on Ofsted and SIAMS reports. However, such visits are also an opportunity for leaders to share any curriculum, staffing or governance concerns/needs they may have as well as showcase any recent initiatives that are contributing to the distinctive Christian character of the school. Information regarding current diocesan consultants are detailed in the Partnership Agreement which can be found [here](#).

### ***'Embracing Change' Flourishing Leaders***



Rural & Small Schools Conference Dioceses of Durham and Newcastle

The Great Hall, Hexham Abbey, Hexham, NE46 3NB

On the 29th April 2019 at The Great Hall, Hexham Abbey, we will be gathering together School Leaders, HMI, the National Church, Prof Dame Alison Peacock, Bishop Christine and Andy Wolf to facilitate, discuss and help us move forwards with our challenges that face rural and small schools. I really believe this is an opportunity that should not be missed. I have asked HMI, Mark Evans, to look at implications of the proposed new Inspection Framework for small and rural schools, in particular, references to the Curriculum. I really hope you can join us. I have also invited Dean Jackson, Director of Education and Skills at Northumberland County Council, to be part of the Conference and he is very much looking forward to being part of the day.

For further details and bookings contact Susie Taylor [susie.taylor@drmnewcanglican.org](mailto:susie.taylor@drmnewcanglican.org)

# Governors



## Governor Training Spring/Summer 2019

Date	Course	Venue	Time
06.03.19	Preparing your SIAMS SEF for Diocesan Inspection— <a href="#">e-mail</a> to reserve a place	Leven Valley CE School	6.30—8.30pm
21.03.19	Preparing your SIAMS SEF for Diocesan Inspection— <a href="#">e-mail</a> to reserve a place	Church House	6.30—8.30pm
10.04.19	<a href="#">Module 4—RE and Collective Worship</a>	Church House, Penrith	6.30—8.30pm
<b>24.04.19</b> <b>**New Date**</b>	<a href="#">Module 3—Distinctive Christian Character</a>	South of County— Venue TBC	6.30—8.30pm
09.05.19	<a href="#">Module 1—Church Schools—an introduction to the basic church/school links</a>	Eaglesfield	6.30—8.30pm
14.05.19	<a href="#">Module 2—Preparing for Diocesan Inspection (SIAMS)</a>	Leven Valley CE School	6.30– 8.30pm
22.05.19	<a href="#">Module 3—Distinctive Christian Character</a>	Church House	6.30—8.30pm
12.06.19	<a href="#">Module 4—RE and Collective Worship</a>	Eaglesfield	6.30—8.30pm



### E– Learning for Governors

We have been delighted with the response to the new online introductory training module for foundation governors that we have recently developed. The expectation is all foundation governors will complete the online training

as well as the four face to face modules. On successful completion participants can download a certificate and the diocese will be notified. Completion of this online module will always be a requirement before re-appointment is approved. If you would like the details on how to create a user ID and access the training please contact Morven Anson at [education@carlisle-diocese.org.uk](mailto:education@carlisle-diocese.org.uk)



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40acts is a generosity challenge which invites people to do Lent a bit differently. Lent is a tradition that reminds us of the forty days Jesus spent in the desert, preparing for his ministry on earth where he would ultimately give himself as a sacrifice. Lent finishes at Easter, so many

Christians use the Lent period to spend time reflecting on Jesus' death and resurrection. Traditionally we mark Lent by giving something up, but what if we could do more than that? What if Lent was preparation for a lifetime of generosity and serving others. During the forty days of Lent, 40acts participants will be invited to take part in forty simple acts of generosity which will challenge them to 'do Lent generously' in 2019

**This year they have provided some stimulating resources for schools to use to enable children and adults alike to join in with the challenge.**

The idea is simple—during the period of Lent, as a whole school, you give something back instead of giving something up. There are lots of great reasons to run 40acts in your school. Setting aside time to creatively help and care for others contributes to the spiritual, moral and character development of pupils, and it will complement the teaching of Christian values. 40acts is also a brilliant way to help the school demonstrate a positive impact in pupils' spiritual, moral, social, cultural development (SMSC). The challenge cards and assemblies also link to British values.

Online resources contain a guide for schools, ideas for Collective Worship, Challenge Cards and Certificates. All resources are free to download [here](#)

Several schools took up the opportunity of a free taster day at Rock UK Whitaugh Park, Newcastleton offered by visiting the display at last year's Autumn Diocesan Leaders Conference. We have received the following from the Customer Relations Manager there regarding an opportunity for families. You may wish to promote this to your school families or ask your local church to promote it to families who attend.

**Monday 5th August—Friday 9th August**

The vision is to create a family holiday which has enough 'going on' to keep the whole family busy and happy—but enough space and freedom for every family to feel refreshed and recharged at the end of the week. There will be opt-in bible teaching/devotionals, opportunities to worship together, or simply just sit in God's presence.

The week would also be good for families of the fringe of church—or non-Christian relatives who you'd like to bring along. Details can be found at [Rock UK](#)



Blackburn Diocese Board of Education have produced a set of four uniquely designed postcards to send to young people during the exam period. The heart and vision behind these postcards is to help churches to stay connected with and communicate how much our young people who are sitting exams are loved, supported and valued.

Exam season is often a period of disconnection for young people so the exam postcards act as a way to send a personal message of support and encouragement to them during this time. Whether you send one or four to each young person the exam postcards are a simple resource which has the potential to make a huge impact; enabling young people to stay connected with and supported by their church family. Just £2.50 for a pack of 12—details can be found [here](#).



# SCHOOL NEWS

## Ireleth St Peter's Family Group Day

On Friday 2nd November 2018, we enjoyed another Family Group Day here at Ireleth St Peter's CE Primary School. The theme this time was 'Christian Art'. We had a range of activities taking place both indoors and out, including exploring bible verses, planting bulbs in the shape of Christian symbols and Christian art work. As working in partnership is very important at St Peter's, family members were invited to come along in the afternoon and participate in various craft activities with the children. Everyone thoroughly enjoyed the day.

Rachael McFarlane, Headteacher



*'We are always looking forward to Family Groups which takes place every Friday afternoon. It is a nice way to spend time with children from different classes. We have three groups, ICE, JAM and ACE. At a special Family Group day last term, Mrs McFarlane arranged a Christian Art Day, which was great fun. In the three groups, we looked at the bible, made special art pieces, collected twigs to make crosses and worked with our parents to make amazing mosaic crosses. We had a great day!*

*Cate Britton, Year 5 and Erin Morrison, Year 5*



If your school has a story you would like to share in our newsletter please contact Morven Anson at [education@carlisle-diocese.org.uk](mailto:education@carlisle-diocese.org.uk)



# THE GOOD SHEPHERD

## Multi Academy Trust

### DEAN SCHOOL JOINS GOOD SHEPHERD MULTI ACADEMY TRUST

Church leaders joined children and parents for a special event to welcome Dean School into the Good Shepherd Multi-Academy Trust.

Dean becomes the sixth primary school to join the Trust, which works in partnership with its academy schools and the Diocese of Carlisle to provide high-quality education across Cumbria.

Dean School was welcomed to the Trust by Diocesan Board of Education chairman Rev Andrew Towner, Archdeacon of West Cumberland the Venerable Richard Pratt, Diocesan Director of Education Michael Mill and GSMAT Chief Executive/ Executive Headteacher Claire Render



Dean School's Local Governing Body Chair Claire Kirkpatrick and executive head teacher Rob Blake received a commemorative certificate to mark the occasion.

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