

Diocese of Carlisle Board of Education

www.carlislediocese.org.uk/education

Weekly Communication: 15th July 2021

Reflection:



Song lyrics by Lauren Daigle, "You are God over the storm"

So I rest in Your promises
Now I am sure of this, I'm Yours

Let the waters rise, I will stand as the oceans roar
Let the earth shake beneath me, let the mountains fall
You are God over the storm
And I am Yours

The Director of Education writes:

It has been a privilege to work with each of you this year. The resilience, commitment and dedication you have shown in the face of unprecedented working conditions and some extremely difficult situations which you have had to manage has been inspirational. Please pass on my gratitude and appreciation to all members of your staff teams.

Each of you are a blessing and a wonderful gift to those pupils, their families and the communities you serve.

I pray that each of you will enjoy some well-earned rest and rejuvenation at some point during the summer break and will return in September feeling refreshed. Remember that we are yours and if there is any support at all you need, please don't hesitate to get in touch with one of the team.

*Thank you all,
Vanessa*

Feedback from Headteachers: themes of the week

Lack lustre end of year: we all agreed that, whether Headteachers were in school or self-isolating and whether pupils were all in school, all remote learning or some combination of the two, it doesn't feel a very happy way to end the year. Staff are on their knees. Pupils are missing out on rites of passage and usual end of year events. Headteachers have been remarkably creative, finding ways to adapt planned activities to make them work online but it just isn't the same.

Don't shoot the messenger: most of you have wonderfully supportive parent bodies who are grateful for all your hard work in incredibly difficult circumstances. However, we are aware that many of you have also experienced unpleasant responses from frustrated parents who resent being told that their child must self-isolate. We know how draining and upsetting this can be. Never hesitate to pick up the phone if you need a confidential listening ear.

We're not the police: on a similar theme, we appreciate how difficult it is when you get to hear about families not following guidance outside school (and even harder when you are asked by other parents to 'deal with it'). Just like parking issues outside school and all those other things which you are often asked to 'police', remember there is only so much you can do. Look after yourselves.

September anxiety: lots of you are wondering how we can possibly operate 'normally' in September given the rising numbers of cases we are seeing all around us.

Hope and Joy:

My favourite two stories of the week:



One Headteacher has booked a bouncy castle for an end of term treat for pupils. However, she was concerned that children would be upset if they missed out because of bubbles closing. So she took the decision not to tell pupils but just to write parents to ensure that their children had socks in school on the correct day. Not one parent questioned why she'd written with such a strange instruction!



I was concerned about the implications for one of our dog-loving Headteachers who is having to self-isolate – who is walking the dogs? I would never have guessed the answer ... the Chair of Governors! And she's doing the shopping too – amazing!

Ever thought about joining the Diocesan Consultancy Team?

We have a great team of Consultants with whom we really enjoy working closely and deploying in a way that enables them to play to their strengths.

We would love to add to our existing team some more expertise from practising school leaders. Perhaps you have a particular area or areas which you are passionate about and would like to be able to share with others? Perhaps there's something you've encountered in your school which you might be able to help someone else to navigate? Perhaps you have a niche skill, qualification or area of expertise which you could use to support another school.

If you think this might be something you are interested in exploring further, and you haven't already (thanks to those who have) please do get in touch.



SIAMS Update

We have received the following information from the National SIAMS Director. We appreciate that it won't help you to predict with certainty when to expect your next inspection but it is reassuring to know that in September there will be a list of schools to be inspected during 2021-2022 available.



We will keep you updated with news in terms of timings as soon as we know any more.

“It is expected that the DfE will lift the suspension of section 48 inspection ahead of the Autumn Term. If this is the case, SIAMS inspections will resume from October 2021 onwards. The first inspections to be carried out will be those that were postponed in March 2020 and the immediate months after that date. ‘Catch-up’ will continue from then. In general terms, schools can expect to be inspected between one and two years after the academic year in which they would have been inspected had it not been for Covid.

There will be some exceptions to that principle, however, and consequently it will no longer be possible for schools to calculate with certainty the academic year of a SIAMS inspection.

Therefore, lists of expected inspections will be published on the Church of England website on an annual basis, and the information will also be shared with diocesan education teams. The 2021-2022 list will be published in September 2021”

RE Scheme of Work Offer

As you are aware, a team of Headteachers, teachers and Diocesan Officers have been meeting as a working party to review our current Diocesan Units of Work. We are conscious that some of you are in desperate need of a robust, tried and tested scheme which you can use from September 2021 (rather than waiting until the working party finishes its work).

We are very grateful to our colleagues in Blackburn Diocese who have agreed a very competitive ‘deal’ for schools in the Diocese of Carlisle to help us out in the short term.

Their current scheme includes a cd and folder of all resources needed and involves an initial day of training to make sure that subscribing schools understand how to use the planning documents, task, resources and assessment and ongoing support throughout the year as needed. It usually costs £250.

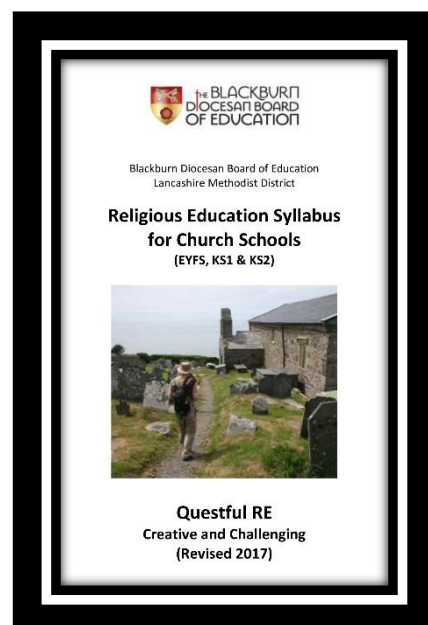
In 2022, their scheme will be updated and fully online. There will be an annual subscription fee and it will be kept up to date and support given.

There is an expectation from Blackburn that any school taking advantage of a heavily subsidised price (£100) for their scheme this year will commit to subscribing to the online version for at least one year thereafter. You will be able to trial the new online version, provide feedback and help to shape the 2022 scheme.

The working party, at the same time as reviewing our current Units, are considering the possibility of approving external schemes for schools to buy in. Blackburn’s scheme has been acclaimed by both Ofsted and SIAMS and is therefore on the ‘shortlist’ of options which are being considered.

Please contact me if your school:

- urgently needs a scheme of work for September;
- would like to pilot the materials for a year and provide feedback to the working party; or
- would like further information (I’ve attached a Curriculum Contents List but have lots of other sample materials if you would like to see them).



If you decide to purchase this scheme, you will need to attend a training session on zoom. We've been offered 2nd, 8th, 9th, or 10th September and will choose whichever is most popular for those who will be using it. Blackburn have also offered bespoke follow up support for schools following this training to help get you up and running.

I appreciate that timing is tight but wanted to ensure you had this offer before the summer break in case it saves you a huge job over the holidays!

RE & Collective Worship Resources

As previously advised, The Church of England has published guidance for Collective Worship which sets out minimum expectations all pupils in all Church of England schools can expect to enjoy.

You can read the full guidance document [here](#)

We promised to arrange some training in the Autumn term.

The Diocesan team will be attending 'Train the Trainer' training in early October which will give us access to resources which we can then share with you.

We envisage being able to offer a training session for school staff in later in October 2021.

If you have developed or found collective worship resources which you would be happy to share with colleagues in other schools, please do get in touch.



Bible Chat mats

The Go Team and Education Department at Bath and Wells are excited to be unveiling 19 brand new Bible Chat Mats!

The new series of Bible Chat Mats have been created following a suggestion from Headteachers from across the diocese of Bath and Wells. They have taken the 19 values that are most commonly used in our Church of England schools and have linked each one to a well-known Bible Story. Revd. Andy Gray, part time Faith Sharing Enabler for Bath and Wells and illustrator, has used his incredible gifts and talents to bring the Bible Chat Mats to life.

Series 2 of the Bible Chat Mats is [now available to purchase from our online shop](#) as a downloadable pack for £20.00. Each Bible Chat Mat includes a Bible story, questions to discuss, things to find and an opportunity to pray and/or reflect.

Take a look at the samples attached and see what Head Teachers think in these two videos:

https://youtu.be/_SWdOvMYcVk

<https://youtu.be/4sGskNxaG2U>

Contact:

Cheryl Govier

Go Team Adviser (Youth & Children) for the Wells Archdeaconry

Diocese of Bath and Wells

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G2G Holocaust Education

Derek Holloway writes:

“I had the opportunity to hear a presentation from an organisation called Generation to Generation (G2G) who provide speakers who will visit schools (virtually if required) to talk about their families experience of the holocaust. They were very impressive, and this seems a really good way of keeping the holocaust witness going in schools. The attached PowerPoint outlines what they do and how to contact them and find out more.”

Admissions

For Academy, Multi Academy Trust, Foundation and Voluntary Aided school colleagues

Don't forget to make sure your Admissions Policy is compliant from 1st September.

The change in the new Code is aimed at ensuring that those children who were in care in countries in which record keeping is not good are not discriminated against (it can often be very hard for adoptive parents to demonstrate that their child was, in fact, in care).

As a Diocese, aiming for our schools to be **scandalously inclusive**, we strongly support this change.

You can read the new Code here:

https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/989176/School_admission_code_2021_slip.pdf

If it helps, you can use the following wording (lifted directly from the new Code) to replace your current over subscription criterion which refers to children looked after:

A 'looked after child' or a child who was previously looked after but immediately after being looked after became subject to an adoption, child arrangements, or special guardianship order including those who appear to have been in state care outside of England and ceased to be in state care as a result of being adopted. A looked after child is a child who is (a) in the care of a local authority, or (b) being provided with accommodation by a local authority in the exercise of their social services functions (see the definition in Section 22(1) of the Children Act 1989).

“

ALL TOO OFTEN,
WE FEEL THAT WE ARE NOT LIVING
THE FULLNESS OF OUR LIVES
BECAUSE WE ARE NOT EXPRESSING
THE FULLNESS OF OUR GIFTS.

ELLE LUNA,
THE CROSSROADS OF SHOULD AND MUST

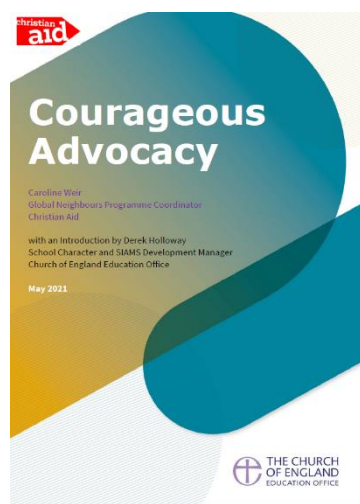
 YOURquotes
powered by MindGourmet

In what has been one of the most challenging years in education in living memory, we have all been tested in ways we could not have foreseen or understood prior to the pandemic. In such times, it is easy to lose sight of what it is that we bring to the table – those talents, beliefs, gifts and qualities that help us make a difference and more importantly, enable us to feel a sense of satisfaction with the lives we are living. When this disconnect happens, we become lost and unfulfilled; the impact on our sense of who we are and our wellness is compromised.

Over the summer, in those times of rest and in those spaces in between the ordinary, spend some time reflecting on what it is that makes you special, the qualities you have that when you live in alignment with them give you the feeling of a life lived well. Use the time for reconnection and coming back to self.

‘When I stand before my God at the end of my life, I would hope that I have not one single bit of talent left, and I could say I used everything you gave me.’

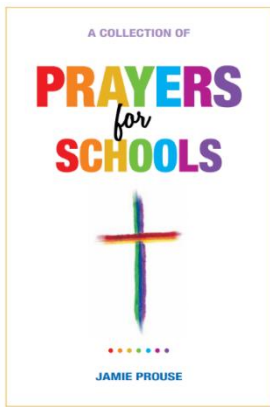
Other information and resources:



Courageous Advocacy

Although the current SIAMS schedule feels very different in a number of ways to its predecessor, the only brand new concept is **courageous advocacy**.

The attached document has been produced to help schools to think about ways in which they might encourage their pupils to be courageous advocates for change and great global citizens.



'A Collection of Prayers for Schools'.

Jamie Prouse, Author writes:

"These are prayers that I have written and collected for over 10 years, as an experienced teacher and leader of Spiritual development in a church school. They are intended and have been used for assemblies, celebrations, class acts of worship and times of reflection for all school ages."

One Headteacher who recently purchased this reported that it is excellent and that she would highly recommend it to others.

Let's think about friendships:

A new guide for children in Church of England primary schools

The Children's Society and the Diocese of Sheffield have produced a new resource aimed at children in Church of England primary schools, especially in Key Stage 2.



The resource, ***Let's think about friendships***, draws on The Children's Society's work in listening to what young people say about their well-being and factors that influence that, such as having good friendships. This resource has been adapted from a guide for older children by Huw Thomas, Diocesan Director of Education for Sheffield Diocese, and includes new quotes from children across Sheffield, Christian content and activities. There is also an accompanying teachers' guide.

Both resources can be viewed at and downloaded from these links:

Friendship guide

https://www.flipsnack.com/CA7CFEBBDC9/2021109a-chu-friendship-guide-a5_v3.html

Teachers leaflet

https://www.flipsnack.com/CA7CFEBBDC9/2021109b-chu-teachers-leaflet-a5_v3.html

Supporting Belonging and Believing in EYFS:



The Books at Press team has produced some free resources to support the requirements of the new EYFS Development Matters relating to RE.

[Development Matters 2020: Linking EYFS 2017 and 2020/21 Understanding the World to Religion and Worldviews Education \(England\)](#)

This document highlights the most relevant ELGs for Religious Education from both the EYFS 2017 and EYFS Early Adopter Framework. It then provides advice on implementing RE at the various stages of development in line with the Development Matters 2020 document.

[Curriculum Map for RE from Nursery to Year 2](#)

This map illustrates how the Books at Press and other resources can be used alongside a wealth of popular topics from Nursery, Reception, Year 1 and Year 2.

[Using the Accredited Puddles Resources with Understanding Christianity](#)

This detailed document shows how each of the Puddles books support the relevant units within Understanding Christianity.

Resources to support Community and Living Well Together:

“We have produced a series of resources for primary and secondary schools to help with this – through our ‘Faith at Home’ Series 2 which is entitled ‘Flourishing Together’, with collective worship/tutor programme films for all ages focusing on:

- Why do we belong together? (Community and Interdependence)
- How do we know we are loved? (Self-Esteem and Security)
- How do we get back on track? (Character and Renewal)
- How do we make sense of our feelings? (Mental Health and Wellbeing)
- How do we face our fears? (Anxiety and Failure)
- How can we have hope for tomorrow? (Faith and Confidence)

They’re all available at [I am a School Leader | The Church of England](#) and we’d commend them to you to support this work.” **Andy Wolfe**, Deputy Chief Education Officer.



Training, Courses and Events:

Please contact: education@carlisle-diocese.org.uk to book a place on any of our courses or events.

Further information is available [here](#)



HUDDLES WILL CONTINUE TO TAKE PLACE NEXT YEAR



Tuesdays 3.45pm

Do come along when you can for an informal catch up with colleagues and Diocesan Officers. Share your highs and lows. Ask your questions. We’d love to see you there.

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87570589949?pwd=M2lyUjFaWjJLNERCaxYrREhPMWtLZz09>

If you have any questions about any of the information contained in this week’s communication, don’t hesitate to get in touch:

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