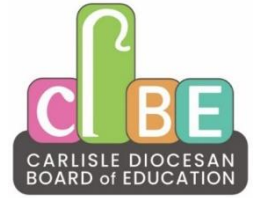


Weekly Communication: 20th March 2025



www.carlisle-diocese.org.uk/education

If someone has forwarded this communication to you and you would like to be added to the distribution list to receive one every week, please email: charlotte.tudway@carlisle-diocese.org.uk

Reflection:

This week's reflection is coming to you at the end of a long day at a Flourishing Leaders session in sunny Birmingham. As many of you know, there are days when I simply despair of our education system. It just feels like the expectations are unachievable; the funding and resources woefully lacking; and the support available dwindling by the second. It all seems too far gone and impossible to fix.

Today, as well as sharing the challenges we face in Carlisle Diocese, I have also been inspired to swap my 'scarcity' mindset for an 'abundance' mindset – ask me more about this next time you see me!

We've been reflecting on the best way to protect our precious schools. It was recognised that 'non grouped' rural primary schools are the most vulnerable nationally. Yet, they are often the last civic institution left in our communities and need a protective structure around them. We heard some wonderful examples of how joining together in formal collaborations can be, not just the saving of schools which would otherwise close, but the means to flourishing for pupils and staff in those schools – sharing the workload, increased capacity, no more 'undoable jobs'.

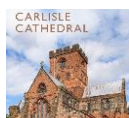
We have a lot of work ahead of us as a diocese but today, I was reminded to ask myself, 'if not you, then who?'

And so, instead of focussing on the scarcity or insuperable barriers we face as a diocesan family, I am choosing to feel hopeful that, together, we can support one another to flourish.



'For the needy shall not always be forgotten, nor the hope of the poor perish forever.' Psalm 9:18

Proud to partner with:



NEW THIS WEEK!

Limited tickets left

Booking for our Annual Conference is open - Have you booked your ticket yet? <https://www.trybooking.com/uk/DRCZ>

#FLOURISH
Annual Conference for School Leaders
with special guests including:
[Mary Myatt](#) ♦ [Nigel Genders CBE](#) ♦ [Elizabeth Olulari](#)

10th June 2025, North Lakes Hotel & Spa, Penrith

CDBE
CARLISLE DIOCESAN BOARD of EDUCATION



NGA membership for schools in Cumberland Council

Cumberland have confirmed to us that they will continue to pay for schools' NGA membership. You should receive an email in the next couple of weeks confirming this.



When we sing, it brings us closer

Laura and Ruth had a fantastic meeting with Pam Lawson (Music, RE and Global Links leader in a South Lakes Primary School) and part of the wonderful team (including CDEC, Christian Aid and Fischy Music) that have put these two events together. One event is for pupils, and one is staff CPD, Laura and I are attending one each! Hope to see you there.

If you would like to find out a bit more about it, please contact pam@qantraservices.com or ruth.houston@carlisle-diocese.org.uk

Happy singing everyone!

'WHEN WE SING, IT BRINGS US CLOSER'

SING UP
for Climate Justice!

BRING YOUR CHOIR OR CLASS TO...

Kendal Parish Church
on Wed 21st May at 2pm

SCAN HERE FOR BOOKING & INFO

'WHEN WE SING, IT BRINGS US CLOSER'

USE SINGING
TO SUPPORT GLOBAL LINKS &
CLIMATE EDUCATION IN YOUR SCHOOL

CPD for teachers - primary or secondary
£30pp for whole afternoon, including lunch

Thurs 22nd May
Quaker Tapestry Hall, Kendal
Lunch 12pm // CPD 12.45 - 5.15pm

CLICK HERE FOR BOOKING & INFO

CDEC Centre for Education of Global Citizenship
fischy music
christian aid
qantra musical connections

You can book your place [here](#) or use the QR code above.

Carents Room[®]

We talk a lot about flourishing in our schools. In particular we emphasise that a Church of England School should be a place where adults as well as children within the school community should be able to flourish.

For a lot of adults who might have passed through the stressful and busy years of bringing up their own children, middle age brings new challenges in the form of caring for elderly parents.

The Carents Room is an organisation offering support, to whom staff could be directed if they are in need of advice, support or information about this role which can be both physically and emotionally draining. "We believe that no one should have to navigate 'the system' alone. Our mission is to provide practical guidance, emotional support, and a strong community to help carents and their loved ones feel empowered, valued, and heard."

The organisation is currently running [a survey](#) about 'carenting' responsibilities – this might act as a starting point for discussion if adults within our school communities are affected.



NISCU get together

Want to know more about NISCU join them on 10th May for their get together.



The poster features a blue background with colorful fireworks. At the top, the NISCU logo is displayed in white, with the full name 'Northern Inter Schools Christian Union' underneath. The main title 'GET TOGETHER 2025' is written in large, bold, white letters, with 'May 10th 2025' in smaller text below it. The central text asks if the reader is interested in seeing what NISCU does in schools and lists activities like meeting the team, learning about puppets, and trying Active Listening. It provides the website 'www.niscu.org.uk/events', the date 'May 10th 2025', and the time '09:30am - 17:00pm' at 'Church In the Barn, Penrith'. A pink callout box on the left says 'Bring your own packed lunch!!'. On the right, there is a yellow puppet character and a 'ONE WAY' sign. At the bottom, there is a small text block with contact information.

niscu
Northern Inter Schools Christian Union

GET TOGETHER 2025

May 10th 2025

Are you interested in seeing what NISCU does in schools across our areas?

Meet the team, maybe learn how to use puppets or try out Active Listening. It's all happening, and it's free!!

For more info see www.niscu.org.uk/events.

May 10th 2025
09:30am - 17:00pm
Church In the Barn, Penrith

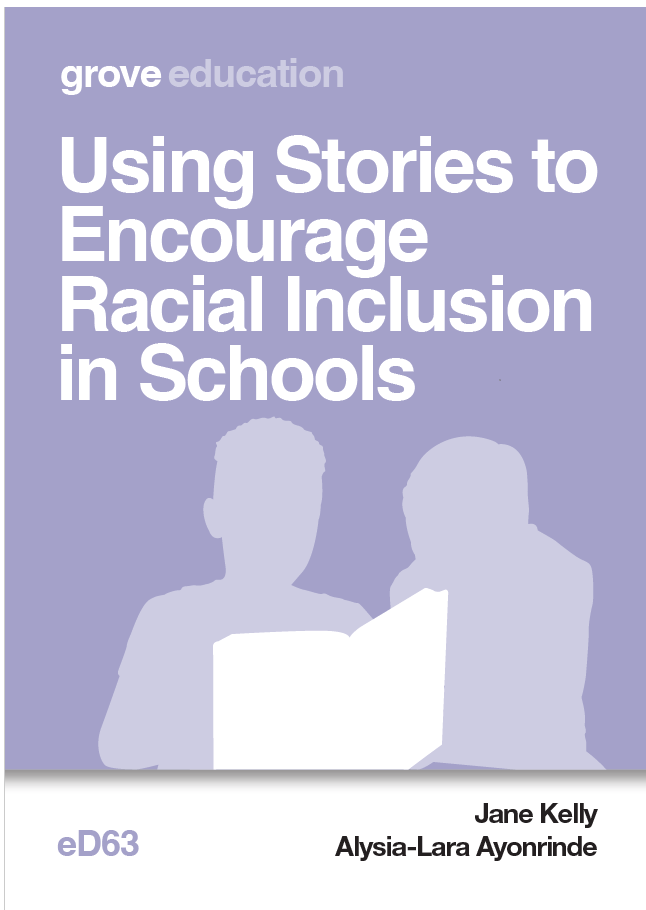
Bring your own packed lunch!!

ONE WAY

NORTHERN INTER SCHOOLS CHRISTIAN UNION
NISCU is a private limited company in England/Wales, number 7203313, and as a Charity Number 1135880.
Registered address: 57 Lancaster Road, Carnforth, LA5 9LE. 01524 732764 admin@niscu.org.uk



New Grove Book



How can we foster racial inclusion and better education of children for life in our increasingly diverse society? This book is an eye-opener, offering helpful, practical advice on how stories and narratives can be used to enable all children to feel valued and heard, and to build children's (and adults') awareness and respect for those who are often left out by traditional imagery.

Click [here](#) to order your copy

Training Schedule

We have a variety of training sessions running each month. Most of the sessions are online and are cost-free if you are part of the partnership agreement.

Want to attend a session but can't? Please get in touch and we can arrange for it to be recorded for you.

You can find a copy of the training schedule [here](#). Booking is quick and easy just click the link and follow the on screen steps.

Any queries then email Anna – anna.lea@carlisle-diocese.org.uk







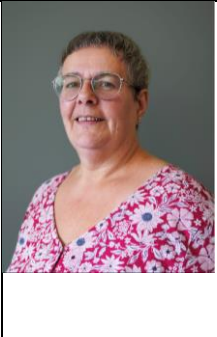

Governor Zone






As always, if you have any questions about any of the information contained in this week's communication, need any help or support or want to arrange a visit, don't hesitate to get in touch.

The Diocesan Education Office Team

| Officers | | | |
|---|---|--|---|
| <p>Charlotte Tudway Director of Education charlotte.tudway@carlisle-diocese.org.uk 07917 993 659</p> <p>Monday to Thursday</p> |  | <p>Anna Lea DBE Office Manager anna.lea@carlisle-diocese.org.uk 07990 061414</p> <p>Tue, Wed, Fri Term Time only</p> |  |
| <p>Laura Watson Deputy Director, RE Lead laura.watson@carlisle-diocese.org.uk 07778 361851 Monday to Friday</p> |  | <p>Peter Barfoot Schools and Building Adviser</p> <p>peter.barfoot@carlisle-diocese.org.uk 07827838220</p> |  |
| School Advisers | | | |
| <p>Ruth Houston Senior Schools Adviser, Spirituality Lead ruth.houston@carlisle-diocese.org.uk 07423 001578</p> <p>Monday to Wednesday Term Time only</p> |  | <p>Mark Hamblett mark.hamblett@carlisle-diocese.org.uk 07967 635797</p> |  |
| <p>Lisa Pettifer Governance and Admissions Officer lisa.pettifer@carlisle-diocese.org.uk 07774 655025</p> <p>Mon, Tue, Wed, Fri Term Time only</p> |  | <p>Shelagh Hughes shelagh.hughes@carlisle-diocese.org.uk 07941 123784</p> |  |



| | | | |
|---|--|--|--|
| <p>Dorothy MacLeod Buildings Finance Officer dorothy.macleod@carlisle-diocese.org.uk 07920 846675</p> <p>Mon, Wed, Fri</p> |  | | |
|---|--|--|--|



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Do you have a sustainability lead and action plan yet?

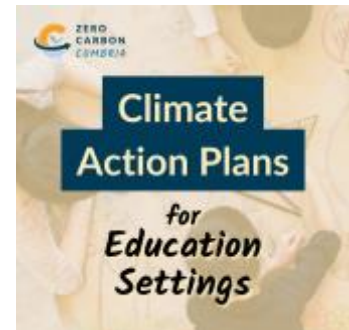


The [sustainability and climate change strategy for education](#) states: "By 2025, all education settings will have nominated a sustainability lead and put in place a climate action plan". This includes early years settings, schools, multi-academy trusts, colleges, and universities.

Read more here - [Sustainability leadership and climate action plans in education - GOV.UK](#)

Climate Action Plans for Education Settings

10 Mar or 2 Apr | Online



Develop your climate action plan in this webinar, which will cover how to include key areas including biodiversity, decarbonisation, resilience and adaptation and green careers in your Climate Action Plan, plus signposting to other resources to put your plan into action.

[£25 - book now!](#)

Sustainability Leadership in Education 30 Apr | Online



This webinar will give an intro to sustainability practices and provide an understanding of how they can be practically applied. It will help sustainability leads meet DfE targets coming into force later this year and show how to reduce your carbon footprint, waste and costs.

[£25 - book now!](#)

B&Q Community Reuse

The B&Q Community Reuse campaign will see stores donate unsellable materials and products to their local community groups and charities. It's a great way to reduce waste whilst helping out the community and those most in need.

The products donated by B&Q are reused by schools, charities and community groups to transform local spaces for the community. Click [here](#) for more information



How it works



Sign up to register your interest in partnering your organisation with your local B&Q store



Neighbourly will match your organisation with an available store and invite you to set up a Neighbourly profile



Once you're connected, you'll receive an alert each time products are available that match your needs



Collect the products in store and put them to use in the community



Early Years discussion with Dr Julian Grenier

In [this episode](#) of Mind The Gap, Jon Hutchinson and Emma Turner are joined by Julian Grenier, a leading expert in early years education. Together, they discuss the foundations of early childhood learning, focusing on the crucial role of relationships and the development of coherent, supportive environments for young learners. Julian emphasizes the need for consistency in early years curricula, saying, "If we can get it right from the very beginning, we can set children on a much stronger trajectory." The trio also explore the challenges faced by educators in the early years and the importance of community engagement in supporting children's development. Finally, Julian shares insights from his work on the Early Years Foundation Stage and his thoughts on fostering professional development in early education.



Improving school attendance

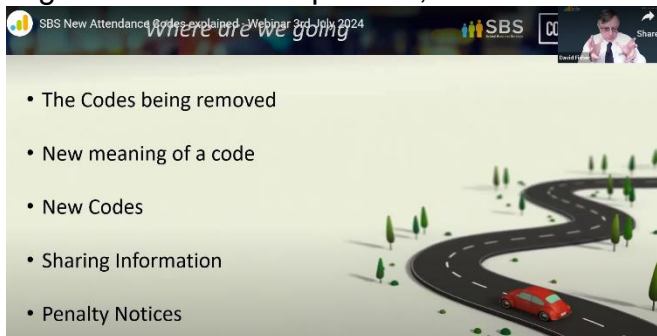
Working together to improve school attendance

New Department for Education [statutory guidance](#) has been published relating to the important issue of school attendance.

Part of the summary to the main document explains that “this guidance should be read alongside the statutory guidance documents on children missing education, supporting pupils with medical conditions at school, education for children with health needs who cannot attend school, suspensions and exclusions, alternative provision, and Keeping Children Safe in Education” meaning that new expectations need to sit within these existing provisions, and need to be included within training offers/CPD for leaders, governors and other staff.

The new guidance, just issued in August 2024, has been updated to:

- Be clearer on the link between improving attendance and wider school culture, including the importance of working in partnership with families to find supportive routes to improve attendance.
- Reflect changes to the law on keeping school attendance and admission registers including a revised set of codes, granting leaves of absence and access to, and sharing of, attendance information introduced through the School Attendance (Pupil Registration) (England) Regulations 2024.
- Set out the new National Framework for issuing penalty notices and reflect changes to the law introduced through the Education (Penalty Notices) (England) (Amendment) Regulations 2024.
- Change ‘parenting contracts’ for attendance to ‘attendance contracts’ to better reflect the agreement between parents, schools and/or local authorities.



Expectations of both schools and local authorities have been updated.

Attendance codes have changed, as have arrangements for the enactment of penalty notices. This [video](#) from [School Business Services](#) explains these changes.



Muslim Learner Services

•Assemblies •Workshops •Training

Dear RE advisers/friends

I hope you had a peaceful summer break. I would greatly appreciate it if you could share the valuable training courses I am running this academic year (listed below) with your primary schools. These courses enhance subject knowledge and teacher confidence in teaching Islam.

2024/25 Islam Training Courses for Primary Schools

We will run 12 courses as live webinars (recordings are also available) during the academic year, providing a convenient and accessible way to enhance subject knowledge and teacher confidence in teaching Islam. A link is provided below to book a course / see prices, and for more information.

3rd April 4 pm - Islamic Artefacts & 5 Pillars

21st April 9 am - Islamic Stories for Primary Schools

23rd May 4 pm - The Holy Qur'an

2nd June 4 pm - Hajj / Pilgrimage to Mecca

19th June 4 pm - Diversity in Islam - Sunni & Shi'a

To book a place / see the price list, please click [HERE](#) or copy this link:

<https://zfrmz.com/PqQDypl5mnNEF2qBHCYo>

Thanks

Imran Kotwal

Governors



School Clerk UK

School Clerk UK

The role of clerk (or governance professional) to our governing boards is an incredibly important one, Clerks deserve to be recognised, and developed, in the same way all our governors do. In a forthcoming edition of Weekly Comms we will be collating resources that may be useful to clerks and governance professionals – please make sure your clerks are signed up for the distribution list. The [School Clerk UK blog](#) explains recent developments in the way clerks are recognised on GIAS along with boards:

“Update your records: add your governance professional details on GIAS

Schools and trusts can now add their governance professional details to the Get Information About Schools (GIAS) platform. This is not a mandatory requirement, but the DfE is strongly encouraging institutions to add their governance professional’s details. This will allow the DfE to communicate directly with governance professionals and share key information, rather than relying on schools or chairs to pass news along.”



Get Information about Schools

This recognition is also referred to under Item 2 of [this gov.uk document](#).



Happy Birthday Governance Handbooks!

Maintained schools governance guide

It has now been one year since the publication of the 'new' governance handbooks for maintained schools and academy trusts. Please see the links below for a refresher on each, and to check October updates:

[Maintained schools governance guide - Guidance - GOV.UK](#)

Academy trust governance guide

[Academy trust governance guide - Guidance - GOV.UK](#)

What are the differences?

If you would like to know more about the differences in governance styles between the two systems, [this website](#) from Education executive has information. This might also be of use if your board is discussing academisation and has questions about changes to governance.

Governance Styles: Maintained Schools Versus Academies

© 20th February 2025 | Operations



Whether your school is a maintained school or an academy, it is essential that there is a strong and effective link between schools and their governing body