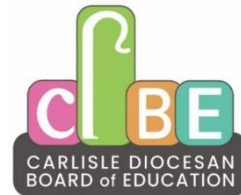


Weekly Communication: 27th March 2025



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:

On Monday, Mark and I attended Poppy Atkinson's funeral. It was, inevitably, a tremendously sad occasion. However, it was also a wonderful celebration of her life, albeit cut far too short. The town turned out in red (the colour of her team, Manchester United's strip) to honour an exceptional footballer and person.



We found the service incredibly stirring. The courage and strength of those who spoke in church to pay tribute to Poppy was truly inspirational.

We were challenged by Poppy's Dad, Ben, to be more like her. He asked all those present to:

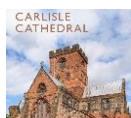
- Dare to dream;
- Love others unconditionally; and
- Have hope.

As we explore a way forward to secure the flourishing of our whole family of Church Schools, these three aims could not be more pertinent. Thank you and rest in peace Poppy.

⁴ Love is patient, love is kind. It does not envy, it does not boast, it is not proud. ⁵ It does not dishonour others, it is not self-seeking, it is not easily angered, it keeps no record of wrongs. ⁶ Love does not delight in evil but rejoices with the truth. ⁷ It always protects, always trusts, always hopes, always perseveres.

1 Corinthians 13:4-8

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

CBE
CARLISLE DIOCESAN
BOARD OF EDUCATION

RHS Campaign for School Gardening



and communication

Growing plants in schools has a number of benefits including:

- Improving mental and physical wellbeing
- Enriching the curriculum from science, maths and geography, to art, design and languages
- Teaching about the environment and the importance of biodiversity and sustainability
- Building life skills such as confidence, resilience teamwork

The RHS are running a school growing community. The community is free to join and if you choose to sign up you will receive regular tips and advice into your inbox on how to support your pupils through the power of plants, as well as updates on our free [teacher training](#) and [awards programme](#).

Even without signing up the RHS have produced lots of free resources linked to growing in school including how to get started. Access them [here](#).

The Board of Deputies of British Jews

The Board of Deputies of British Jews offer free teacher support and INSET on teaching Judaism. For more details contact education Officer Anna Silver – anna.silver@bod.org.uk



They have also created a free, digital resource for secondary schools (aimed at KS3) to help support the teaching of Judaism (and antisemitism). It contains information via multimedia content (including real British Jewish voices), discussion and critical thinking questions and assessment tools. JLO aims to make the lives of teachers easier as it requires little planning or subject knowledge, as well as being modular and flexible – to support the schemes of work teachers already have in place. Go to <https://jlo.org.uk> to watch the marketing video or to create a login.

Local Schools Nature Grants



The window for [applications](#) for grants for schools, funded by the People's Postcode Lottery is closing very soon: on Friday 4th April. The fund supports applications for a grant worth £500. Schools then choose the products and services they would like, including one year's membership to Learning through Landscapes, CPD and outdoor learning kits from a catalogue.

wordsworth

GRASMERE

Wordsworth Grasmere

On 10th April 10:30am Wordsworth Grasmere are celebrating Romantic painter JMW Turner's 250th birthday! Taking inspiration from his paintings and techniques, they will paint, write, and play. Go and try watercolour painting, get crafty and create your own leaf print, or explore the Sensory Garden in search of inspiration.

Free event, no need to book just turn up! For families with children of all ages.

Follow the link for more information <https://wordsworth.org.uk/event-directory/>

If you have any further questions or queries, please contact education@wordsworth.org.uk

Free trees for schools and communities

We want to make sure everybody in the UK has the chance to plant a tree. So we're giving away hundreds of thousands of trees to schools and communities. Together, we'll get millions more trees in the ground. [Click here](#) for more info



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



For clerks and governance professionals

The following "HOT TOPIC" on **Processing New Appointments: What Governance Professionals Need to Know** has been taken from the weekly newsletter of the National Association of School and College Clerks:



"When processing new non-executive directors (Trustees or Governors and even Members), remember that the term of office starts from the date of appointment—whether by election, Member resolution, or Board approval—not when pre-appointment checks are completed. To stay compliant and maintain momentum:

- **Request DBS ID documents within 14 days** of the individual agreeing to take on the role.
- **Submit the DBS application promptly**, and log that the outcome may affect eligibility under your Articles.
- **Don't delay appointment** for DBS clearance if your meetings are virtual or after-school hours with no pupil contact—but ensure they are **not invited to any in-school activity where pupils are present** until clearance is confirmed.

With many DBS results coming back in under a week, the risk of delay is low—but make sure you're logging everything clearly and updating your records swiftly."

In the case of Foundation Governors, who are appointed by the Diocese Board of Education, this means that the *appointment date* is the date of PCC approval of the person's nomination. This is to ensure that all the dates of publicly recorded documents tie together and help us fulfil our 'Safer Recruiting' responsibilities.









It is possible for schools to then arrange a *start date* to suit their own contexts if they wish.


Get Information About Schools



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

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Charlotte Tudway Director of Education charlotte.tudway@carlisle-diocese.org.uk 07917 993 659 Monday to Thursday		Anna Lea DBE Office Manager anna.lea@carlisle-diocese.org.uk 07990 061414 Tue, Wed, Fri Term Time only	
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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! 	 USE SINGING TO SUPPORT GLOBAL LINKS & CLIMATE EDUCATION IN YOUR SCHOOL 
	
BRING YOUR CHOIR OR CLASS TO...	CPD for teachers - primary or secondary £30pp for whole afternoon, including lunch
Kendal Parish Church on Wed 21st May at 2pm	Thurs 22nd May Quaker Tapestry Hall, Kendal Lunch 12pm // CPD 12.45 - 5.15pm
SCAN HERE FOR BOOKING & INFO	CLICK HERE FOR BOOKING & INFO
	
   	   

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 a large, stylized white text 'GET TOGETHER 2025' in the center, surrounded by colorful fireworks. Below the main title, it says 'May 10th 2025'. To the left, there is a circular inset photo of a young girl looking up. To the right, there is a yellow puppet character with a red bow. The text on the poster includes: 'NISCU Northern Inter Schools Christian Union', '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!!', and 'ONE WAY' logo.

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!!

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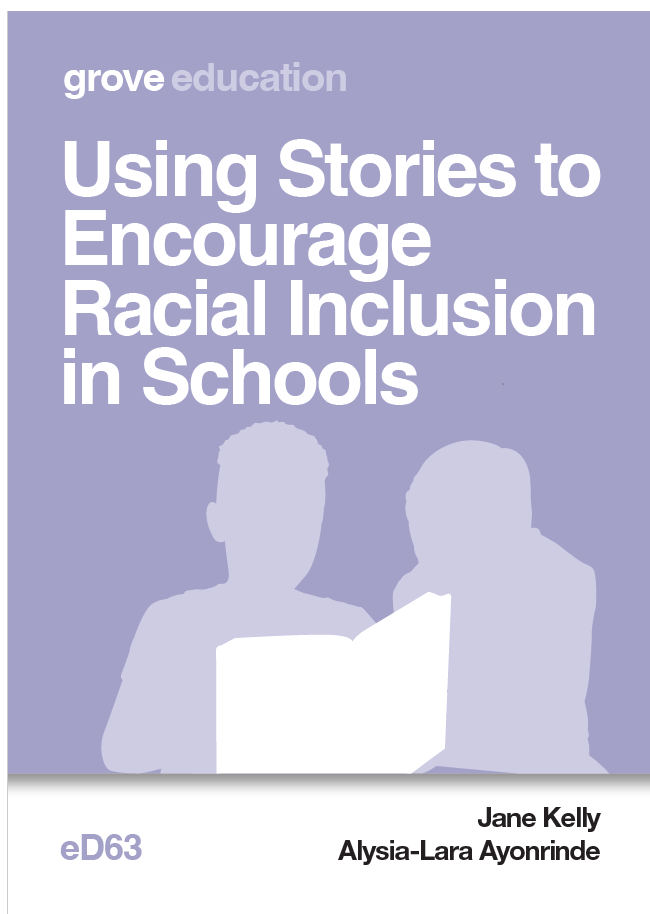
May 10th 2025
09:30am - 17:00pm
Church In the Barn, Penrith

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

Do you have a sustainability lead and action plan yet?

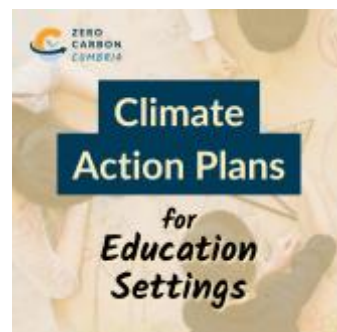


The [sustainability and climate change strategy for education](#) states: "By 2025, all education settings will have nominated a sustainability lead and put in place a climate action plan". This includes early years settings, schools, multi-academy trusts, colleges, and universities.

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

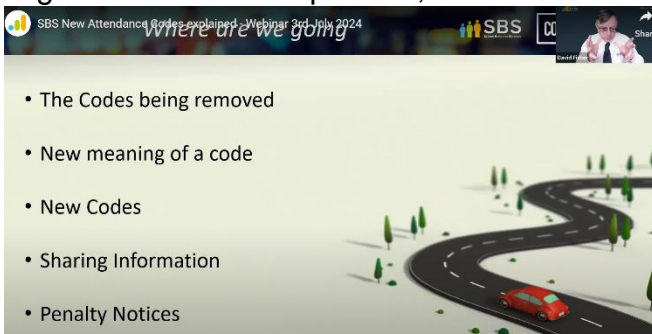
Working together to improve school attendance

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.”



GOV.UK

Get Information about Schools

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

This



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