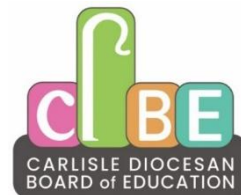


Weekly Communication: 6th November 2025



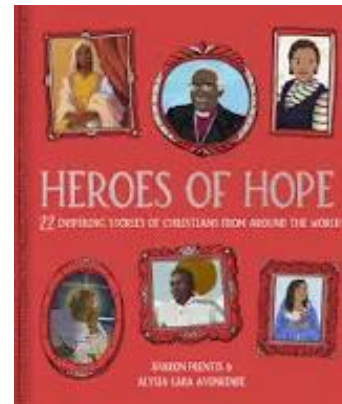
www.carlislediocese.org.uk/education

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@carlislediocese.org.uk

Reflection:

At this weeks 'Heads and Ministers' Breakfast' we not only enjoyed a wonderful breakfast and some great supportive conversations, but we also reflected on the life and impact of St Juan Diego Cuauhtlatotzin (look him up in your Heroes of Hope book!). We were challenged and encouraged in equal measure by this quote attributed to St Juan Diego

'I am a nobody, I am a small rope, a tiny ladder, the tail end, a leaf... and yet you would send me to a place I would never visit.' His name means 'talking eagle' which made me think of my favourite bible verse ...



'Those who hope in the Lord will renew their strength. They will soar on wings like eagles; they will run and not grow weary, they will walk and not be faint.' Isaiah 40v31

Whatever you are encountering this week, may you soar on wings like eagles and be taken to places you would never otherwise visit.

Ruth



NEW THIS WEEK!

Long read: the new Ofsted Framework

– Part Two

The second part of our look at the new Ofsted framework focuses on

- Inclusion as a key focus
- Governance
- The nominee
- Case sampling
- Inspection of small schools
- Online insights platform for parents
- Nursery provision
- Early Years
- plus an explanation of some of the key documents.



The document is attached to this week's Weekly Comms email

Governor Peer Support Network

Do make sure that someone from your governing body is coming to the governor peer support network on Monday November 10th at 6pm.

We will be sharing lots of resources, having a think about monitoring and evaluation and looking at the implications for governors of the SIAMS Annual Report findings. Come yourself, or even better come with another governor from your school – this makes it easier to follow up any actions you need to take forwards.

The booking link is here

<https://www.trybooking.com/uk/FACG>

Hope to see you soon!

Ruth



Inter Faith Week

In celebration of **Inter Faith Week (9–16 November)**, the **Faith & Belief Forum** invites you to two free, online events designed to deepen how we cultivate belonging, connection, and collaboration in schools and communities. All sessions take place on **Zoom**.



Working with Local Community Groups to Enhance Classroom Learning

Wednesday 12 November, 4:30 – 5:30 pm

Led by our **Education & Learning Team**, this session distils lessons from decades of interfaith education and community engagement. We'll explore how schools and local faith/community organisations can partner to enrich learning, amplify student voice, and strengthen local connectedness.

Amy Ark is Senior Programme Manager of the Education and Learning Team at The Faith & Belief Forum. She has over 20 years of experience working in the charity sector on both formal and informal education in the U.K.

✉ [Register here](#)



***Belonging in the Classroom* — Author Q&A with Zahara Chowdhury**

Thursday 13 November, 4:30 – 5:30 pm

In conversation with **Carrie Alderton, CEO of the Faith & Belief Forum**, Zahara Chowdhury will explore her new book *Creating Belonging in the Classroom*, a hands-on guide for educators seeking to foster inclusion, build psychological safety, and navigate “brave conversations” around identity, difference and equity. Zahara is a former Head of English, DEI lead, education consultant, and founder of [*School Should Be*](#).

☒ [Register here](#)

Why this matters, and how to get involved

- **Inter Faith Week 9–16 November** is a national celebration of faith and belief, and a call to deepen mutual understanding and collaboration.
- Through our **Inter Faith Week for Schools** initiative (via **IFW4Schools**), we support schools to host interfaith activities, lessons, assemblies or community engagement events during the week. Learn more at [Home | Interfaith Week](#)

These two sessions aim to provide practical tools, insight, and support for educators, faith groups, and community partners to make real change in how we relate, inside and outside the classroom.

Are you an RE teacher with questions about Judaism?

Are you an RE teacher with questions about Judaism?

A chance to ask anything you like...

Open to primary and secondary teachers who teach Judaism

Why don't all...
What's the difference between...
I don't understand which...



Tuesday 11th Nov, 3.45-4.45pm

Any question answered



by Anna Silver,
Education Officer

Monthly informal drop in session

(for monthly dates and zoom links email
anna.silver@bod.org.uk)

For Zoom link see attached text

Tuesday November 11th 3.45-4.45pm

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81202859361?pwd=a2bjYp4Y3O3iQD3bAaaCIHrKxaaVyg.1>

Meeting ID: 812 0285 9361

Passcode: 914530

Statutory Guidance on the Cost of School Uniforms

The Department for Education has today published updated statutory guidance on the Cost of school uniforms (<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/cost-of-school-uniforms>).



Department
for Education

The statutory guidance contains draft sections to support schools to adhere to the proposed limit on the number of branded items of school uniform and PE kit that schools can require. The government intends to make this a legal requirement from September 2026 through the Children's Wellbeing and Schools Bill. The draft statutory guidance will be updated on completion of the Bill's passage through Parliament.

Schools will need to take the draft statutory guidance into account when planning uniform requirements for September 2026.

Schools are advised to begin reviewing their uniform policies; making any necessary adjustments; and engaging with suppliers as soon as possible on any changes, to ensure that the correct uniform can be available for purchase ahead of the school term in 2026.

We are also updating the non-statutory [developing school uniform policy](#) guidance and will notify you when this has been published.

What Would You Tell World Leaders? Live COP30 Webinar from Brazil!



**Picture
News**

Tuesday 11th November, 2-2.30pm

World leaders are meeting in Brazil to help save our planet - what would you like to tell them?

Join us, alongside special guest Jenny Cooper live from Brazil to discover what COP30 is all about, why climate action is important, and how your ideas can help shape

the future. Get ready to think big and ask questions!

Suitable for: KS1 & KS2 classes.

Hosted by: Picture News, Leeds Climate Joy Network and Global Learning Leeds.

Register [here](#)

Governor Zone



Is your school a member of The Key?

The Key are holding a free webinar on **What does the new Ofsted framework mean for your board?**

27th November 4:30pm– 5:30pm



Join **Ofsted** and **GovernorHub** for a **free webinar** to learn more about the 2025 framework and how it impacts governance.

Find out more about the new inspection areas and report cards, what a 'strong standard' for leadership and governance and other strategic areas means in practice, and the new focus on the work of the trust governance professional.

You can sign up [here](#)

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? 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 please email Anna – anna.lea@carlisle-diocese.org.uk

Education Office Team

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



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Follow Daily



Care Deeply



Speak Boldly



Tread Gently



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Long read: the new Ofsted Framework

This half term’s ‘long read’ looks at the new Ofsted Framework. Part One is attached to this week’s Weekly Comms with more follow after half term. We have included a table for comparing the old and new frameworks which can help schools approach shift. We recommend that school staff and governors become familiar with the new framework, its methods and its associated documents.

+

Comparison of Ofsted Frameworks: 2019–2024 vs 2025 Framework (Maintained Schools)

Aspect	Previous Framework (EIF 2019–2024)	New 2025 Framework (Report Card Model)	Implications for Primary Schools
Overall Judgement	One overall effectiveness grade (Outstanding, Good, Requires Improvement, Inadequate).	No single overall grade. Schools receive separate graded outcomes for multiple evaluation areas.	Removes pressure of one-word grading; allows strengths (e.g., inclusion, personal development) to be visible even if attainment is average.
Grading Scale	4-point scale for each judgment: Outstanding, Good, Requires Improvement, Inadequate.	5-point scale: Exceptional, Strong Standard, Expected Standard, Needs Attention, Urgent Improvement.	Offers more nuance, particularly for schools on improvement journeys.

to

the



Dear colleagues, to celebrate **National Inter-Faith Week**, Muslim Learner Services will host a free Zoom training session for primary school RE Teachers / Headteachers:

Tuesday, 11th November, 4-5 pm, titled '25 Prophets in the Qur'an' (Adam, Noah, Abraham, Moses, Jesus, and many more...).

Book your place using this link:

<https://zfrmz.com/AcMvwyLsxO0Qsn4mJV9G>

We are again hosting Zoom assemblies during Inter-Faith Week, with schools coming together for a shared assembly:

Tuesday 11th November

R/KS1 1.15-1.45 pm - How do Muslims worship?

KS2 2.00-2.30 pm - What does it mean to be a Muslim?

Book your place using this link:

<https://zfrmz.com/kDiXr04Y9ZtMRiSp6IM4>

Finally, if you would like to book a school visit from Muslim Learner Services during the Autumn, Spring or Summer Term,

Enquire about a visit using this link:

<https://zfrmz.com/aJbKiqynJIHAK9stSRYO>

Dear Primary RE leaders and teachers

I am delighted to let you know that we will be holding another session for KS2 classes in Cumbria with the Redbridge Ambassadors for Faith and Belief (AfABs). The focus of the session will be Diwali and we will be joined by Hindu, Sikh and a Jain student. This will give a fantastic diversity about their experiences of celebrating Diwali.



As you may know, the festival of Diwali began on 20th October. Our session will be on Monday 10th November between 2-3pm. The AfABs will make presentations about their recent and personal Diwali experience and answer Q and A from pupils. There is no charge for this session.

Please reply to reteacherscumbria@outlook.com if your school would like to attend, and let me know how many classes. A zoom link will be sent out nearer the time. Places are limited so I encourage you to sign up asap.

Best Wishes

Jane Yates

The Warm Welcome Campaign

The Warm Welcome Campaign has a searchable map to help people find a warm welcome space near them. The campaign is supporting more than 5,000 organisations that have opened their doors to anyone struggling to heat their home.



key dates in the RE calendar

For schools looking to book an Islam assembly, pupil workshops, parents' Islam awareness sessions and or staff training. We offer both in-person and live virtual visits.

National Inter-Faith Week: 9-16 November 2025

World Religions Day: 19 Jan 2026

Ramadan: 19th February-19 March*

Eid-ul-Fitr: 20th March*

Hajj / Pilgrimage to Mecca: 25-29 May*

Eid-ul-Adha: 27th May*

*Subject to the sighting of the new crescent moon.



Muslim Learner Services

•Assemblies •Workshops •Training



[Enquire about a visit](#)

<https://zfrmz.com/aJbKiqynJIHAK9stSRYO>

[Read our testimonials](#)

<https://muslimlearnerservices.org/testimonials/>

Explore our selection of assemblies, workshops, and training sessions.

<https://muslimlearnerservices.org/primary-school-visits/>

Creative For Climate Justice



The climate crisis is a key issue that is shaping the future of children and young people everywhere. It's more important than ever that children are learning, reflecting, and acting together to create a sustainable future for everyone.

We are excited to run Creative for Climate Justice yet again this year; it is a fantastic project to support schools and pupils in their engagement with decision makers around a key issue of global justice. This year's project is putting a bigger emphasis on local engagement with MPs and the wider community.

We hope you would like to share the opportunity to register and find out more with the schools in your diocese. This year we are running a webinar for schools to share more about the project. We have two options available and would be grateful if you could share this with your schools:

Webinar 1 - [Tuesday 2nd December](#) at 4pm – 5pm

or

Webinar 2 - [Wednesday 3rd December](#) at 4pm – 5pm

Please advise that any interested schools should register for one of the webinars even if they cannot actually attend as we will be using the webinar registrations to keep in touch and share updates on the project as we go through.

Learning Hub Applications 2026



Does your school, church, trust or Diocese have an idea which enables young people at the heart of what church and school do together? Find out more about this creative opportunity and apply.

We are delighted to be launching a third application process for our Growing Faith Learning Hubs. The Growing Faith Foundation is seeking to resource a further 14 Learning Hubs across the country starting in January 2026. They will act as strong developmental communities of practice from which schools and church leaders (both regionally and nationally) can learn.

The Learning Hubs will become centres of innovation, where schools/churches are resourced to further embed creative practices that build the strategic partnership between school, church and home. Hubs are creative spaces, with an emphasis on imaginative approaches that champion the voices of children and young people and embed inclusion and hospitality. as we seek to put children, young people and families at the heart of all the mission and ministry of the Church by changing the culture of the Church of England.



In 2026 The Learning Hubs will be funded in two different models:

- an annual grant of £10,00 each year for two years. There will be 10 location places available
- a smaller grant of up to £2500 for 3 months to 1 year projects, where local partnerships want to undertake a smaller piece of work as part of their wider Growing Faith shaped development. There will be 4 location places available in 2026 and 4 in 2027.

Please do consider whether your church/school partnership, whether based in a Diocese, a deanery, a school trust, an individual church or school or other iteration might become a suitable Hub. Read more about the application process in our [guidance document](#).

Please share with anyone who may be interested and submit applications by 31st October 2025

If you have further questions or an informal chat would be of help, please contact mandy.christopher@churchofengland.org

Laura is also very happy to chat with anyone who is interested.
Laura.watson@carlisle-diocese.org.uk

[Apply Now](#)

Free Advent Collective Worship Resource



As we journey towards Christmas this Advent season, we invite your school to join us in *The Joy of Christmas*, a brand-new collective worship resource for Advent 2025 aimed at KS2 and KS3 learners.

For KS1 pupils there is a brand-new version of the book *The Grumpy Owl and the Joy of Christmas*, which tells the story of Jesus' birth through the eyes of an owl who seems determined to miss all the excitement. You can find out more about this here: <https://cofe.io/TheGrumpyOwl/>

At KS2 and KS3 we focus on the central theme of grumpiness into joy, taking time to reflect and celebrate the key characters in the Nativity story, Mary and Joseph, the shepherds and the wise men.

We'll explore what might have made them grumpy, or find things difficult, and how they found joy in **connection, trusting, sharing, and following**.

Schools can sign up here: www.nsc.org.uk/ayla/advent

Black History Month

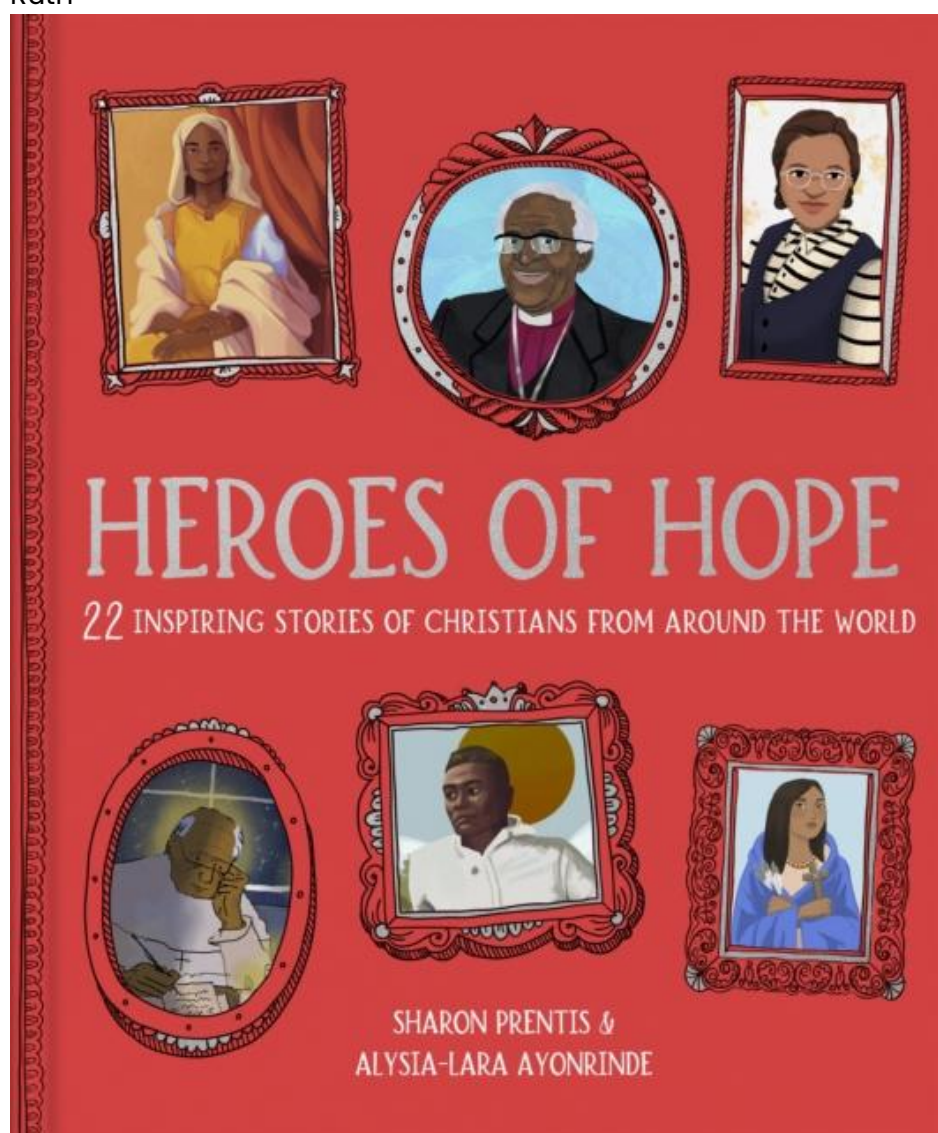
The National Society have collated some resources for Black History Month which you may find helpful and can find here- [Curriculum: collective worship – National Society for Education](#)

However, as my wonderful friend Jennie (Racial Justice Officer for Liverpool Diocese) said to me last week, Ruth, I'm not just black in October!! Our Anti Racist journeys need to spread far beyond one month. There are also lots of fantastic resources on the Anti Racist Cumbria website if you search Black History Month.

Heroes of Hope

If your school has already received your free copy of Heroes of Hope – you could also use some of the stories highlighted in this wonderful book and explore some of the questions to consider together as a school family.

Ruth



National Society for Education – Collective Worship Resources

Earlier in the term we shared the below words and resources from Nigel Genders:

‘Like many people, we’ve been very concerned about the rising tension in some of our communities in the light of the court case about asylum seekers being housed in hotels, and so we have produced some collective worship for primary and secondary schools in the hope that they are a useful resource for schools to speak about loving our neighbour.’

[Curriculum: collective worship – National Society for Education](#)

We have since received the following paragraph commending the resources for collective worship.

Dear Friends and Colleagues,

It is a joy for me to commend these resources for collective worship. I am well aware that our schools, and school leaders, are already engaged in building healthy communities and countering the drift towards hateful speech. Be assured of my prayers in this vital and timely work. In my own backyard, +Philip Egan (RC Bishop of Portsmouth) and I have been concerned to see the way in which children and young people have been drawn into intimidating protests against asylum seekers and refugees in our city. In this febrile context our network of schools provides safe havens in which children and young people learn to speak well of their neighbours and grow in compassion. Once again, be assured of prayers and support from your colleagues in the National Society.

+Jonathan Frost (Chair of the National Society for Education)

Cumberland's Licence to Grow

Please note this is for
**Cumberland schools
only.**

Westmorland and Furness
council don't currently
have a Right to Grow
initiative but do offer
grants and funding for
community projects.



Right to Grow

Cumberland's Licence to Grow

Cumberland Council is supporting the national
Right to Grow campaign by developing a
community growing licence which allows
communities to use pieces of Council-owned land
for food growing.

We are looking for groups across
Cumberland who would like to set
up food growing projects.

Contact us at:

Foodpartnership@cumberland.gov.uk



Bridging Divides

The British Red Cross is encouraging people to take part in its 'Bridging Divides' programme. At a time when a lot of discussion in society has become polarized, the programme offers a series of short videos over five weeks to help participants talk with others whose views might be very different.



"More and more of us are being pushed to take sides, making it harder to talk to people whose opinions we disagree with. At the British Red Cross, we stand for

neutrality and impartiality, and we want to share how what we've learned over 150 years of conflict diplomacy can be used in your day-to-day. In a world where tensions run high, knowing how to compassionately connect with others is essential to solving the problems we face together."

Details can be found [here](#).



Growing Faith Foundation

Church of England

Does your school, church have an idea which enables young people at the heart of what church and school do together? Find out more about this creative opportunity and apply.

We are delighted to be launching a third application process for our Growing Faith Learning Hubs. The Growing Faith Foundation is seeking to resource a further 14 Learning Hubs across the country starting in January 2026. They will act as strong developmental communities of practice from which schools and church leaders (both regionally and nationally) can learn.

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In 2026 The Learning Hubs will be funded in two different models:

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- a smaller grant of up to £2500 for 3 months to 1-year projects, where local partnerships want to undertake a smaller piece of work as part of their wider Growing Faith shaped development. There will be 4 location places available in 2026 and 4 in 2027.

Please do consider whether your church/school partnership, whether based in a Diocese, a deanery, a school trust, an individual church or school or other iteration might become a suitable Hub. Read more about the application process in our [guidance document](#), and to apply to be a Hub in 2026, complete the [application form](#).

Please share with anyone who may be interested and submit applications by **31st October 2025**

If you have further questions or an informal chat would be of help, please contact mandy.christopher@churchofengland.org

Carlisle Diocese has had a successful learning hub and Laura would welcome your questions.
Laura.watson@carlisle-diocese.org.uk

Governors



IGovS
Independent Governor Support

Governance Glossary

Once again, [Independent Governor Support](#) have shared their comprehensive Governance Glossary document with schools and governors. The full document is available as an attachment to this week's Weekly Comms.



School admissions

Please make sure that Governors (especially in VA schools) have had chance to discuss and plan for the next round of school admissions arrangements, details of which can be found [here](#).

Determination

All admission authorities must determine their admission arrangements, including their PAN, every year, even if they have not changed from previous years and a consultation has not been required by 28 February in the determination year.



Once admission authorities have determined their admission arrangements, they must notify the appropriate bodies and must publish a copy of the determined arrangements on the school's website or their own website (in the case of a local authority) by 15 March in the determination year and continue displaying them for the whole offer year (the school year in which offers for places are made).

Admission authorities must also send a copy of their full, determined arrangements to the local authority as soon as possible before 15 March in the determination year.

Admission authorities for schools designated with a religious character must also send a copy of their

arrangements to the body or person representing their religion or religious denomination.

Consultation

When changes are proposed to admission arrangements, all admission authorities must consult on their admission arrangements (including any supplementary information form) that will apply for admission applications the following school year.

Where the admission arrangements have not changed from the previous year there is no requirement to consult, subject to the requirement that admission authorities must consult on their admission arrangements at least once every 7 years, even if there have been no changes during that period.

Consultation must last for a minimum of 6 weeks and must take place between 1 October and 31 January in the determination year. Admission authorities must consult with:

- a) parents of children between the ages of two and eighteen;
 - b) other persons in the relevant area who in the opinion of the admission authority have an interest in the proposed admissions;
 - c) all other admission authorities within the relevant area (except that primary schools need not consult secondary schools);
 - d) whichever of the governing body and the local authority is not the admission authority;
 - e) any adjoining neighbouring local authorities where the admission authority is the local authority;
 - and
 - f) in the case of schools designated with a religious character, the body or person representing the religion or religious denomination.
-

For the duration of the consultation period, the admission authority must publish a copy of their full proposed admission arrangements (including the proposed PAN) on the school's website or its own website (in the case of a local authority) together with details of where comments may be sent and the areas on which comments are not sought.

CHECKLIST

1	☒
2	☒
3	☒
4	☐
5	☐



Admission authorities must also send, upon request, a copy of the proposed admission arrangements to any of the persons or bodies listed above inviting comment. Failure to consult effectively may be grounds for subsequent complaints and appeals