

# DBE Schools Bulletin

September 2020

Being deeply Christian and for the common good,  
our schools will be communities which are:

**LOVING**  
in relationships

**AMBITIOUS**  
in aspirations

**BOLD**  
in actions



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## A welcome return

This September has seen the welcome return to school for all pupils after a turbulent five months. I hope the new year has started well, and the meticulous preparations put in place over the summer have ensured a smooth transition back and a good start to the term. We recognise that school life remains far from normal and there will be on-going challenges ahead. The DBE team continue to be available to offer support and guidance as required, so please do get in touch; we are here to help.

As you embark on this new school year, challenges remain and it can be difficult to grasp the enormity of the situation. And so may these words from Paul's letter to the Philippians (Ch3:14-15) offer some encouragement, 'Brothers and sisters, I do not consider myself yet to have taken hold of it. But one thing I do: forgetting what is behind and straining towards what is ahead, I press on towards the goal to win the prize for which God has called me heavenwards in Christ Jesus.'

This is the first edition of our new monthly DBE schools bulletin, providing important and helpful information across our family of church schools in the Diocese. As well as sharing diocesan news we would also like to share what is happening in your school, so please do send your news stories and photos to [sandra.reynolds@chester.anglican.org](mailto:sandra.reynolds@chester.anglican.org) and we will look to include them in future editions.

Wishing you and your team a good year ahead.



**Chris Penn**  
**Diocesan Director of Education**  
[chris.penn@chester.anglican.org](mailto:chris.penn@chester.anglican.org)

## Family of Schools' Membership 2020-21



We have simplified the Chester Diocesan Family of Schools offer for 2020-21 by retaining just the core membership. The school improvement 'enhanced' membership will now be delivered in a different way through DBE Services. Nearly every diocesan school was part of the Family of Schools last year and we hope that you will continue to support it again this year. Thank you to the schools that have already responded and signed up for this year.

For more details about the services and benefits of being a member of the family of schools for 2020-21, [click here](#). Please contact [charlotte.somers@chester.anglican.org](mailto:charlotte.somers@chester.anglican.org) to confirm your membership.

## School Improvement Service 2020-21

Our school improvement services for 2020-21, will be made available in a different and more flexible way, delivered through DBE Services School Improvement. DBE Services has been established for over 15 years of which Chester DBE is a partner. It runs the highly successful Christian Leadership course and TPM 4 schools, a property and facilities management service, used by a number of our schools.

The school improvement services will continue to be delivered by our team of diocesan and headteacher consultants, overseen by Mark Whitehill, our School Effectiveness Officer but will now be administered and coordinated by DBE Services. To access the booklet [click here](#) Please contact [liam@dbeservices.co.uk](mailto:liam@dbeservices.co.uk) to request an order form or for further details.



## Family of Schools' CPD Programme 2020-21



Due to the impact of the Covid pandemic, we are regrettably unable to host face-to-face training until at least October. This is mainly due to the outcomes of Risk Assessments on the available training space at Church House and our present ability to welcome people who do not normally work on the premises.

As a result of this, we have had to postpone some of our upcoming CPD training, with other training being hosted online for the immediate future. We hope to be able to resume our meetings as soon as possible but in the meantime, we would like you to be aware of changes to our programme as follows:

## Family of Schools Autumn1 - Course Changes

DATE	COURSE	STATUS
16/09/20	Becoming a self-evaluative school	<b>POSTPONED*</b>
17/09/20	NQT Welcome & session 1 of the programme	<b>ON-LINE***</b>
22/09/20	New to Church Schools (Jen McIlveen)	<b>ON-LINE (no charge)</b>
23/09/20	Strategic School Improvement Planning	<b>POSTPONED*</b>
25/09/20	Heads, Chairs and Incumbents' breakfast briefing (Sue Noakes)	<b>ON-LINE (no charge)</b>
28/09/20	Busting the myths on learning	<b>POSTPONED*</b>
29/09/20	New Headteachers' Welcome (Chris Penn & Sue Noakes)	<b>ON-LINE (no charge)</b>
05/10/20	Are you ready for a Deep Dive?	<b>ON-LINE**</b>
06/10/20	Preparing for Ofsted inspection – a governor's guide (Mark Whitehill)	<b>ON-LINE (no charge)</b>
13/10/20	Being a governor of a Church School (Sue Noakes)	<b>ON-LINE (no charge)</b>
14/10/20	Connectedness of your school curriculum	<b>ON-LINE**</b>

**\* Postponed CPD offered by Leading Schools (rearranged dates and format for delivery to be confirmed asap)**

**\*\*Leading Schools courses timetabled for October (provisionally going ahead as scheduled but likely to be online)**

### **\*\*\*NQT Welcome**

Due to this session being a full day, it will now be stream-lined and split over two online sessions. The first will be on Thursday 17<sup>th</sup> September as planned, from 2:30pm – 4pm and will welcome our new teachers to the diocese. Delegates will be invited to a second session on Tuesday 13<sup>th</sup> October from 2:30 – 4pm that will cover the afternoon programme.

**Mark Whitehill** [mark.whitehill@chester.anglican.org](mailto:mark.whitehill@chester.anglican.org)

## Archbishop of York Youth Trust Free Resources



THE ARCHBISHOP OF  
YOUTH TRUST  
*Be the Change you want to see*

The Archbishop of York Youth Trust have collated all of their free resources that creatively explore how children and young people can be leaders during today and beyond. These resources include activities to run in the classroom or at home with your children and young people. They have been devised for KS1, KS2 and KS3, as well as ideas and materials for worship and can be used in school or at home. To access them go to <https://www.archbishopofyorkyouthtrust.co.uk/yla-free-resources>

Be Rooted Leadership Skills (KS1)

**\*New**

be rooted

KS1

Session two for the 'Be Rooted' resources for keystage 1 learners, focused on leadership skills.

DOWNLOAD  
**BE ROOTED LEADERSHIP SKILLS (KS1)**

TEACHER DOCUMENTS FOR  
**BE ROOTED LEADERSHIP SKILLS (KS1)**

## Walk Through the Bible



Walk Through the Bible are now making their interactive Old Testament overview programme available through a series of ten 20min videos. As this resource fits perfectly with the Understanding Christianity unit 'People of God' for Upper KS2 - and is free of charge, you may wish to visit their website [www.Bible.org.uk/videos](http://www.Bible.org.uk/videos) and see for yourself.

## 'Bubble' Worship/Reflection

Jen McIlveen has provided this short worship or reflection relating to 'bubbles' that you may want to share with your own 'bubbles' in school. It combines a fun science experiment with a demonstration of how we are all created uniquely by God! It can be found at

<https://www.christianitycove.com/bible-activities/>



# Teach:RE Free Self Study Courses

<https://www.teachre.co.uk/free-self-study-courses/>



**TEACH:RE**  
TO ENTHUSE. TO EDUCATE. TO INSPIRE.

DfE Funded SKE 200 hours    Free Self-Study Courses    Tutored Modules    For ITT Providers    Contact

## Teach:RE Free Self-Study Courses

We offer three free self-study courses:

- **Teach:RE Primary – an introduction:** This short self-study course is for those currently undertaking primary initial teaching training or for those in their NQT year or working as an HLTA in a primary school or academy. The course helps those entering the teaching profession to understand the purpose of RE and how to teach it effectively.
- **Teach:RE Religion and Worldviews – subject knowledge for teaching:** This self-study course is designed for anyone who wishes to develop their subject knowledge of one or two religious or non-religious worldviews
- **Teach:RE Religion and Worldviews in dialogue and discourse:** This course is being released in Autumn 2020.

Use the drop downs below to find out more details, including how to register and access each course:

Teach:RE Primary – an introduction ▼

Teach:RE Religion and Worldviews- subject knowledge for teaching ▼

Teach:RE Religion and Worldviews in dialogue and discourse ▼

### About us

Teach RE is an initiative of Culham St Gabriel's – an endowed charitable trust dedicated to educational work in support of religious education.

### RE:ONLINE

Free to use, quality assured, comprehensive coverage of religion and worldviews

## Admissions

Thank you to the aided schools and academies that worked so hard at the very end of term to follow the admissions variations process. It was certainly not the best timing and your swift response was appreciated. Admission authorities should hear from the schools' adjudicator regarding their response.

Following this year we would encourage schools to review their admissions arrangements to consider if the oversubscription criteria is pertinent to the school's current context. Many admissions arrangements have simply been rolled over from year to year with changes made to make them compliant but with the initial decision made by governors that are generations before. It is worth noting that the DBE's role is to make sure that the arrangements are compliant and reflect the school and not to direct admission authorities on their choice of criteria which is why our guidance gives a variety of possibilities.

There is no requirement to have church attendance featuring in a number of oversubscription criteria, it is a choice for the governing board to consider how they serve their community whilst reflecting the Trust foundation. It may be that worship attendance is an important criteria for your context but it may also be appropriate to reconsider this and, if it features, where in the rank order. The new SIAMS framework asks inspectors to consider the choices made by governing boards regarding admissions so this might be a good opportunity to really reflect on the arrangements and how they reflect your school vision.

## Governing Body Meetings

DfE governance update is still dated mid July <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/school-governance-update/maintained-schools-school-governance-update-july-2020#governors-and-trustees-visiting-schools> so we await any further information. In that guidance it states that governors



can visit school as long as it is consistent with the school risk assessment and if it can take place out of school hours then it should. It also states that if schools wish to continue to hold meetings virtually then they can. It is worth noting that a number of clerking services are currently only serving virtual meetings so you would need to liaise with your clerk as well as update the risk assessment and follow appropriate hygiene practices.

**Sue Noakes** [sue.noakes@chester.anglican.org](mailto:sue.noakes@chester.anglican.org)

## Foundation Governors

A reminder that if a new foundation governor is to be appointed, or if a foundation governor's term of office is due to expire that the necessary application forms are completed and returned to: [sandra.reynolds@chester.anglican.org](mailto:sandra.reynolds@chester.anglican.org)

The Ex Officio must complete and sign the nomination/election form.

## NGA – Governing in unprecedented times

This report presents findings of a small-scale research project to investigate the challenges for school governance during the COVID-19 (coronavirus) pandemic. The research was carried out with the National Governance Association (NGA) and sought to understand the decisions and actions of governors and trustees in response to the short- and longer-term challenges presented by lockdown measures in England.

[https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/916875/Governance\\_continuity\\_in\\_unprecedented\\_times.pdf](https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/916875/Governance_continuity_in_unprecedented_times.pdf)

## Mental Health Services - Schools Link Programme

One in eight children experience a mental health problem. Half of all lifetime cases of mental health disorders begin by the age of 14. It has never been more important to promote mental health. The Link Programme is led by the Anna Freud Centre for children and families, funded by the Department for



Education and supported by NHS England. Over the next four years it will be rolled out to all schools and colleges in England. Coordinated by local Clinical Commissioning Groups (CCG) it will bring together education and mental health services so that children and young people can get the help they need, when they need it. [Register your interest in the Link Programme](#)

## Mentally Healthy Schools



Schools are now welcoming children back to school – not after a break of a few weeks like normal, but after several months. Understandably, the return to school may be an anxious or difficult time for children, parents and school staff. Mentally Healthy Schools have created [a set of practical resources](#) to help make **the transition back to school easier for everyone.**

They're designed to be social distancing-friendly, and many can be adapted to be delivered remotely in the case of local lockdowns. There are assembly and lesson plans for teachers, advice and guidance for parents, and simple activities for children to complete in class or at home.

## Achieving effective learning behaviours within our classrooms



What are learning behaviours - and how can schools support pupils to develop them? That's the question tackled below by the EEF's Learning Behaviours specialist, **Kirsten Mould** - a serving secondary school teacher, Head of Personalised Learning/Transition and SENCo - offers some practical suggestions drawn from our evidence-based guidance in this Blog from the Education Endowment Foundation.

<https://educationendowmentfoundation.org.uk/news/five-a-day-effective-learning-behaviours-within-our-classrooms/>

## Ofsted Visits – Autumn Term 2020

Ofsted have confirmed that interim visits will take place from 28 September to December 2020, inclusive and visits will last for a day. These visits are designed to support schools in their important work to welcome all pupils back full-time. A sample of schools will be selected to visit to include around 1,200 schools across all Ofsted grades, but will also include all 'inadequate' schools. Interim visits will take place from 28 September 2020 to December 2020 inclusive.



Interim visits will NOT:

- result in any evaluation or graded judgement of a school
- change a school's current Ofsted inspection grade
- use the education inspection framework and school inspection handbook
- judge schools on their response to COVID-19 during the spring and summer terms 2020
- require any pre-written planning, self-evaluation or other documentation
- require teachers to prepare any lesson plans or examples of assessment, or to put up any displays for the visit
- use lesson visits as a method of collecting evidence
- involve a general review of a school's policies

The lead Her Majesty's Inspector (HMI) will write a short letter after each interim visit. The letter will summarise briefly the discussions inspectors had with leaders. This is to provide parents with information about what leaders are doing to help pupils back into full-time education. Letters will not provide any evaluation or graded judgement. They will be published on Ofsted's [reports website](#).

## The Oak National Academy

The Oak National Academy is an online classroom made by teachers, for teachers. Their free, high-quality video lessons and resources are available throughout 2020/21. There are nearly 10,000 lessons and resources covering a wide range of subjects, from Early Years Foundation Stage to Year 11 and include specialist lessons covering a wide range of learning areas and therapies.



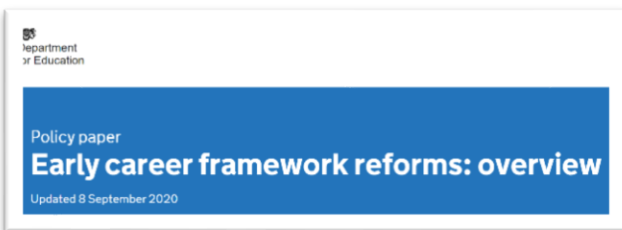
Each lesson is an hour-long, delivered by a teacher, with a pre-recorded video as well as quizzes, worksheets and creative activities. It's all easy to use, there's no login or password, and you can access lessons on any device, and pupils only need materials they can find at home.



As well as lessons for pupils, the Oak teacher hub allows schools to choose how best to use our resources. Teachers can:

- Download, edit and adapt lesson slides and worksheets wherever copyright allows
- Follow a weekly schedule, or select and share lessons in any order
- Share units, lessons or individual resources with fellow teachers or pupils
- Support a range of pupils, with captions on all lessons, BSL for the youngest, and printable resources for those without devices.

## Early Career Framework Reforms



The early career framework will create a step change in support for early career teachers, providing a funded entitlement to a structured 2-year package of high quality professional development. The reforms are part of the government's [teacher recruitment and retention strategy](#), which aims to improve the training and development opportunities available to teachers.

From September 2021, the government is funding an entitlement for all early career teachers to access high quality professional development at the start of their career. New teachers will now receive development support and training over 2 years instead of one. The offer for early career teachers includes:

- 2 years of new, funded, high quality training
- freely available [high quality development materials](#) based on the early career framework
- additional funding for 5% time away from the classroom for teachers in their second year
- a dedicated mentor and new training for these mentors
- funding to cover mentors' time with the mentee in the second year of teaching

### Early roll-out

School leaders can check whether their school is eligible and get details on how to [choose a provider for the early roll-out support package](#).

From autumn 2020, eligible schools in the North East, Greater Manchester, Bradford and Doncaster can sign up to a funded 2-year package of structured support for their early career teachers, alongside funded time off timetable in the second year of teaching, and support for mentors.

Eligible schools who choose to opt-in to early roll-out will be able to give feedback to ensure the early career framework reforms meet the needs of teachers and schools working in a range of contexts.