



## From Jackie Waters-Dewhurst, Diocesan Director of Education –

### [Philippians 4:8](#)

Finally, brothers and sisters, **whatever is true, whatever is noble, whatever is right, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is admirable**—if anything is excellent or praiseworthy—think about such things.

Really good advice – follow the things that are righteous – that are right.

Of course, the real difficulty is knowing what is right, what is good, what is admirable and never more so than in the decisions which we are all making about school opening.

I cannot tell you whether you should open on the 1<sup>st</sup> of June or not. I do not know the individual circumstances of each of your schools; available staff, position of your pupils. I do know that there are many voices out there who are trying to be heard – either to open or to stay closed.

As educators we do not need telling that this (partial) school closure is detrimental to our children and especially those disadvantaged already. Many of you will have families where outside space is limited and inside space is cramped and chaotic. Many of the messages in the media this week are about the needs of these children being the overriding factor.

As educators we do not need telling that the safety and well-being of our children is a primary concern. Many of you will be fearing the consequences of being a place where infection can easily spread among pupils, staff and into communities.

I do not have the answers. I do not know which voice is the right one – it could be that there is no right way. I do know that you will do everything that you can to make sure that, for your school, for your community, you get as close to it as you can.

How can we do this?

We plan.

We plan and we risk assess and we use government and LA guidance and we talk to parents and staff and governors. We formulate our own picture, our own risk assessments for our own place and then with prayer and thanksgiving for all that we have been able to do, we decide.

I pray that you will find peace in this decision, that you will know God's wisdom and strength.

Please know that you are in our prayers and that, as ever we are here to support you in any way that we can.

*God bless -*

Jackie

## Resources/News from the Team

### *Never the Same*

On our website, from the Church of England Education Office – school leadership resources for grief, bereavement and loss – based on the CofE Vision for Education – click [here](#).

### *#rechatuk*

The weekly #rechatuk that usually takes place on Twitter on the first Monday of the month between 8pm and 9pm will be holding two special chats: the first this evening (18<sup>th</sup> May) at 8pm and the second next Monday (25<sup>th</sup> May) at 8pm. The focus of the conversation will be Mark Chater's recently published book, *Reforming RE: Power and Knowledge in a Worldviews Curriculum*, in which Gillian Georgiou has a co-authored chapter. She will be participating in both chats, which aim to explore the future of RE as part of the broad and balanced curriculum.

### *Called, Connected, Committed*

Click [here](#) to access the latest Called, Connected, Committed newsletter from the Church of England Foundation for Educational Leadership.

