



From Jackie Waters-Dewhurst, Diocesan Director of Education

Dear All

This morning I don't know if your school is open only to the children of key workers and the vulnerable, or if you have opened the doors to some of the other year groups. What I do know is that you will have done what is right for your context; that you will have agonised over all of the conflicting and ever-changing advice and guidance and the conflicting needs of your pupils, parents and staff.

I hope that your day goes really well and that you have the support of your community around you. Don't forget that we are here to support you too.

I have found this weekend immeasurably difficult. The news, both at home and abroad, has torn up my fundamental belief that good is predominant, that justice is for everyone, that there is always hope. The police brutality in America, the invisible moral compass of politicians on both sides of the Atlantic has been sobering. What is most sobering is the thought that all of these people have been through an education system. Where did we fail? How have so many grown to have such little regard for the people around them? How have we not instilled values of justice and equality, of love for neighbour of basic humanity? It is enough to make me want to give up.

I am reminded of a quote that I used to use when running courses on spiritual development and why it needed to run through the whole school curriculum:

"I am a survivor of a concentration camp. My eyes saw what no person should witness: gas chambers built by learned engineers. Children poisoned by educated physicians. Infants killed by trained nurses. Women and babies shot by high school and college graduates.

So, I am suspicious of education.

My request is this: Help your children become human. Your efforts must never produce learned monsters, skilled psychopaths or educated Eichmanns. Reading, writing, and arithmetic are important only if they serve to make our children more human."

We can't give up.

We have to continue to do what we believe is right.

We have to make sure that our pupils leave us "more human" for there is no one else to do it.

On Sunday – Pentecost Sunday – I attended (virtually) the service at Wells Cathedral. Part of the sermon included the following quote:



“Christ has no body now but yours. No hands, no feet on earth but yours. Yours are the eyes through which he looks compassion on this world. Yours are the feet with which he walks to do good. Yours are the hands through which he blesses all the world. Yours are the hands, yours are the feet, yours are the eyes, you are his body. Christ has no body now on earth but yours.”

— Teresa of Avila

Some of you will not recognise yourselves in this quote. Some will have no recognised, established faith, some will have had it badly knocked or buried, and some will just not be sure. It matters not. We all serve in our church schools and, in serving, are used to bring Christ's compassion, to do good, to bless those around you.

Please, despite what is going on in the world, carry on doing just that and know that we stand with you.

God bless –

Jackie

Resources

NATRE – Spirited Arts

Click [here](#) to view the NATRE Spirited Arts update.



Called, Connected, Committed

Click [here](#) to view the latest from the Church of England Foundation for Educational Leadership.



Support for Protecting Children Online

The Humberside Police and Crime Commissioner has [launched a new home schooling resource](#) to support

parents, guardians and youth practitioners in raising awareness in grooming during the Covid-19 lockdown:



Message from Keith Hunter Police and Crime Commissioner

The children across our communities are spending more time online during the lockdown period. This raises the threat of them being at increased risk from predators who will seek to use this opportunity to their advantage.

Not In Our Community (NIOC) is an established local anti-grooming campaign, funded by the PCC, that helps young people protect themselves and friends against grooming that can lead to sexual and criminal exploitation. In light of the lockdown, we have developed some material to highlight the heightened risks across this period and to direct people to the resource available.

I am reaching out to all parents/carers and youth engagement professionals across the Humberside area and need your help in circulating this material to them.

Please click [here](#).