



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

So, education is back in the headlines – this time because of the newly released **Plan your relationships, sex and health curriculum**.

There are some puzzling questions around this the most obvious being; why does it suddenly include a whole raft of do's and don'ts around politics – It would appear it's because they think some schools may choose to link the new curriculum with the PHSE (non-statutory) curriculum.

There is a lot of comment on what this is banning teachers from teaching. It is of course not doing this. It is however limiting the resources/external visitors a school may use. There is nothing new in this, it's just good practice. We need to make sure that all pupils get a balanced view of the world and the Prevent strategy is a really useful strategy to help us protect our students from radicalisation and harm.

However, there are some potentially extraordinary outcomes if we read the advice in the guidance.

The list of “extreme political stances” include; “a publicly stated desire to abolish or overthrow ... capitalism” which makes socialism - which brought us the NHS, working rights and a welfare safety net - a bit of a problem. The inclusion of “the encouragement or endorsement of illegal activity” wipes out the suffragettes, the Tolpuddle Martyrs, the Abolitionists (slavery) and if we're being frank, whatever your politics, the government itself who has openly admitted its Brexit Bill is unlawful.

Of course, this is taking it to its extremes and our history lessons will remain intact. But how will we engage with our pupils about the crucial matters of the day - matters which they are seeing on their screens, small and large, 24/7. How do we help them to look at Extinction Rebellion at the Black Lives Matter movement when history shows us that there is often no change for the better without civil disobedience (abolition of slavery, votes for non-land owners, votes for women...the list is endless); and no, of course we cannot endorse civil disobedience and violence!

If we are not able to help students encounter these things in part of a structured lesson – looking at pamphlets, comparing words and actions looking at the peaceful as well as the non-peaceful in the safety of a classroom - then they will do it themselves online, in the seclusion of their bedrooms, where radicalisation is so much more of a risk.

Isn't supporting students to become well informed, engaged citizens able to contribute to a fair and balanced democracy part of our job. And to do it don't we need to allow them to discuss a wide range of ideologies?

Of course, the Church of England, as well as other Christian denominations may also fall under the heading of an extreme organisation failing “to condemn illegal activities done in their name or in support of their cause, particularly violent actions against people or property”.

One of the most powerful events in the gospels is that of Jesus clearing the money-changers out of the temple. Money-changers who were there going about their legal, capitalist business with the approval of the religious and political leaders of the time.....

### John 2:15

So he made a whip out of cords, and drove all from the temple courts, both sheep and cattle; he scattered the coins of the money-changers and overturned their tables.

That's one illegal activity that I for one have no intention of condemning.

What a difficult line we all walk....

Stay safe.

God bless -

*Jackie*

## Resources

### Reflection

Our EDO Lynsey Norris continues her series of reflections – these can be found [here](#), and attached to this email.

# From Lincolnshire County Council

## Please note – other local authorities will have other requirements

Dear Colleague,

We hope that this email finds you well.

As you are aware the Health Protection Team (HPT) has been monitoring cases of Covid across Lincolnshire. As many of you have already started to do so, we are now asking that all education settings notify us of any suspected or confirmed cases with any staff or pupils at the setting. This information is extremely important as it will help us monitor the current situation across the county and helps us to act promptly to support educational settings if the cases are confirmed positive.

As of Monday 28 September we would ask that ALL settings use the template log attached to this email to keep a record of **any suspected or confirmed cases** and report this to us daily. Please note: you do not need to complete a return if there are no suspected or confirmed cases within your educational setting.

In order to make the process seamless, we would ask that you follow the guidance below when completing the spreadsheet:

- Please fill in the data as fully as you can
- Do not remove entries from the spreadsheet – the HPT need a running total
- Use the drop down lists provided to update entries

If you have received all results from any suspected cases and are no longer waiting for outstanding results we will close the case we have open. If, at a later date, you report cases to us again please start a new spreadsheet for that period of time and we will open a new case.

Also note that we have now extended our hours of work to 8am- 8pm Monday to Friday and 9am-5pm at weekends. Please ensure that you contact us via either of the below channels for any advice and support.

- Email - [HealthProtectionTeam@lincolnshire.gov.uk](mailto:HealthProtectionTeam@lincolnshire.gov.uk)
- Phone 01522 552993

Best wishes

**Health Protection Team**

Lincolnshire County Council