



From Jackie Waters-Dewhurst, Diocesan Director of Education

Well last week was quite a week, locally with your schools having to about turn on the provision you had to provide with no notice, nationally with u turns and the terrifying increase in covid cases and mounting death toll and internationally with the seat of democracy in a country meant to be the leader of the free world being invaded by an angry mob incited by the President of the United States himself...

So, what does it all teach us?

That we need, more than ever to be teaching discernment – wisdom rather than knowledge. What use is it to know the kings and queens of England if we can't use history to help us work out and avoid the mistakes of the past? What use is it knowing how to use the internet, how to read text if we can't use our intellect to look for evidence and to challenge that evidence so that we know that what we read is reliable? Too many of those that entered the Capitol last week had taken unchecked facts, had accepted them with no evidence and then acted upon them Too many who act as though there is no pandemic and walk our Greater Lincolnshire streets as though there is no chance of them, or those they love, getting ill, who will not believe that our hospitals are full, do so because they have taken in inaccurate or even false information and have not checked it out and discerned the truth.

Our children need to know how to separate the fact from the fiction, the truth from the lies, the likely from the unlikely.

They need to set what they read within the context of justice, equality and truth to help them separate opinions into the 'sheep and goats' of facts and mistruths. And we need to help them do this.

Matthew 25:32

*All the nations will be gathered before him, and he will separate the people one **from** another as a shepherd separates the **sheep from the goats**.*

Let us help our students discern what is true, what is good, what is just in what they read, what they watch and what they hear so that they can be all that God intended them to be, so that they can build a better place than last week.

Micah 6:8

*He has shown you, O mortal, what is good. And what does the LORD require of you? To act **justly** and to love mercy and to **walk** humbly with your God.*

Oh, and it wouldn't be a bad idea if the curriculum helped us to teach about democracy and how it works.....

(If you're thinking how exciting it would be to work with 141 Church of England schools to develop and support an education that does all of the above then the post of diocesan School Effectiveness Adviser may be for you. The application pack is attached, and you can view the advert [here](#)).

God bless
Jackie

Welcome

Last week, what with all the 'bother' I forgot to welcome some new leaders to our church school family. Please accept my apologies!

So, welcome to:

Luan Sowerby (Gunness and Burringham)
Patricia Atkinson (Scunthorpe CE Primary)
Naz Goulthorpe (Belton/Wroot)
Clare Robinson (Spalding St John the Baptist)
Ann Marie Wilson (East Ravendale)
Anna Martin (West Grantham Primary and Secondary)
Rachael Eastham (Gainsborough Parish - interim)
Alice Edwards (West Pinchbeck- interim)
Sarah Marshall (Rauceby - interim)

I know that you will support them in their new roles as fellow church school heads in the diocese of Lincoln and, like us, look forward to meeting them (virtually or otherwise!) at some of our networking and training events.

Vulnerable and Key Worker Children, *from Paul Thompson – Deputy Diocesan Director of Education*

I know many of you are challenged by the increasing demand of places for vulnerable and key worker children. It is such a difficult balancing act you are facing, meeting parental requests of places for their children as they realise they are eligible according to the widened DFE definition of 'vulnerable' and supporting your staff to deliver the face to face and remote learning expected of them. Inevitably, there are difficult conversations and decisions to be made especially as the context in which we all work must be one where we must reduce transmission of the virus and support the health and well-being of our school communities. I know many of you continue to reflect on the provision in place for families. We must also continue to encourage parents to reflect thoughtfully on their 'real' need for places. We don't underestimate the challenge parents face in supporting home learning and as school leaders we continue to reflect on how we make this manageable for parents, especially as they are trying to work from home. There will be parents doing critical work that simply have no choice but to send their

children to school and that's why schools remain open. You may know some parents though who judge it is easier and better to send their children to school but with deeper reflection and consideration they possibly could manage to keep their children at home to engage in the quality remote education you provide. It is these parents that we need to continue planting opportunities for them to reflect on their situations, whilst maintaining positive relationships. Within your communications to all parents, it will be useful to regularly enable them to reflect on the implications of increasing numbers of pupils in school. For example, reminding them that the larger the bubbles get in school, the greater the risk of covid has in closing down a bubble where there are children of NHS staff. This food for thought may just make some parents who could make alternative arrangements think twice. I know the challenge for schools and families is enormous at this time and one of the best tools to help us all through this is communication. We need to understand each other and support each other the best way we can.

Resources and Information

Our Spring Courses

Follow [this link](#) to see our spring courses.

Called, Connected, Committed

The latest Church of England Education Office newsletter can be viewed [here](#).

Statement from Church of England Education Office

Click [here](#) to view the above.

From Gillian Georgiou, our RE Adviser

Dear all,

Happy New Year! (What a start to the year...)

I know you have all been working flat out this week to ensure that pupils are able to continue to receive excellent learning opportunities, whether they are in school or learning at home. Many of you may have seen the collection of resources produced by the National Association of Teachers of RE (NATRE) to support RE learning during lockdown. If not, you can find the resources [here](#). They include links to Oak National materials produced for the RE curriculum.

You might also find the [REConnecting Lincolnshire Education Pack](#) a useful resource at this time. This is a suite of curriculum-based resources produced as part of the [REConnecting Lincolnshire project](#) managed by the Lincoln Diocesan Board of Education. It explores five key themes: Beliefs, Identity, Futures, Disagreeing Well and Respecting Differences and provides a wide range of KS2 and KS3 materials aimed at the Creative Arts, English, RE and PSHE. I have produced the materials for RE

and PSHE, and the resources for the other curriculum areas have been produced by visual artists, scriptwriters, theatre directors and filmmakers from Lincolnshire and across the country.

For those of you who are interested in the intersection between the creative arts and RE, please note that we will be running a national symposium exploring the REConnecting Lincolnshire project. The symposium is free to attend and is being held on the 23rd February between 10am and 2pm. You can find out more about this event [here](#); the agenda for the day can be found [here](#). If you would like to book a place at this symposium, please contact David Lambert at david@culturalsolutions.co.uk.

As ever, if there is anything else I can do to support you at this time, please don't hesitate to get in touch. Thank you so much for everything you are doing in this incredibly challenging time!

Best wishes,

Gillian