



From Jackie Waters-Dewhurst, Diocesan Director of Education

As I read the news of the appalling riots in Bristol, whilst condemning the violence, I have to ask myself why the people of Bristol felt the need to come out in such vast (overwhelmingly peaceful) numbers to protest?

Many feel that the new government Police, Crime, Sentencing and Courts Bill will erode a democratic right to protest – I will leave you to read up on that and form your own opinion as to whether it is a necessary curb or not.

I must say though that it plays very much into some questions that have been worrying me for some time now.

Following Gavin Williamson's speech to FED National Education Summit where he states that the need for pupils returning to school is to make sure that their behaviour is managed. His favoured approach – views no doubt formed from extensive studies on pedagogy and child development – is one of pupils in rows with teacher as expert at the front. The emphasis being teaching rather than learning. There was no mention of creativity, independent learning, emotional resilience, well-being or adaptability -

"That is why the Government will be backing teachers in ensuring children return to a disciplined, safe and orderly environment. We know much more now about what works best: evidence-backed, traditional teacher-led lessons with children seated facing the expert at the front of the class are powerful tools for enabling a structured learning environment where everyone flourishes."

So, what are we educating for?

With all Gavin's talk of "Now, more than ever, we need schools to create an environment which makes it easy to behave and hard not to" maybe it's compliance?

Behaviour Improvement – implies that how our pupils behave is more important than the rest and that, if it doesn't happen, it's the fault of the child. (it also implies that improved behaviour is what we want – more of that in a minute) but we know that children's behaviour is predicated largely on how well we've engaged them (and I know that there are exceptions) and how well we've taken into account and met their emotional needs and wellbeing too. Pupils who are engaged, who are learning at the right level, who are enthused about the subject and see purpose in it are far less likely to cause those 'low level' disruptions that Ofsted is so fond of citing. Their behaviour won't have 'improved' to

meet some Victorian view of seen and not heard but will have 'changed' to allow them and others to learn.

Then of course there's the question of what we want from our pupils. Do we merely want compliance? I'm not sure that the compliant classes were the ones I enjoyed teaching! And of course, compliant pupils lead to compliant citizens.....

Is that what we want for our futures?

Or do we want citizens who are willing, in the face of injustice, to do as Jesus did and turn over the tables in the temple?

Jesus Clears the Temple Courts

13 When it was almost time for the Jewish Passover, Jesus went up to Jerusalem. 14 In the temple courts he found people selling cattle, sheep and doves, and others sitting at tables exchanging money. 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. 16 To those who sold doves he said, "Get these out of here! Stop turning my Father's house into a market!" 17 His disciples remembered that it is written: "Zeal for your house will consume me." [c]

John 2

God bless,

Jackie

Resources and Information

Conference for Headteachers, Senior Leaders, Chairs of Governors and Clergy

POSITIVE LEADERSHIP

**ANNUAL CONFERENCE
FOR HEADTEACHERS,
CHAIR OF GOVERNORS
& CLERGY**

We are delighted to announce this year we are running our Headteacher, Chair of Governors and Clergy conference virtually on the theme of 'Positive Leadership'. We are excited to deliver a conference with excellent key note speakers and workshops to support

you in all you do in your schools and for the children.

Click [here](#) for more information and to book!

SAVE THE DATE

We are pleased to announce a new session coming in May to support the governance of your school. The Chief Executive of the National Black Governors Network, Sharon Warmington is joining us to run a webinar on **Diversifying Governance in Church of England Schools**. Being an expert in Corporate Governance and holding a degree in Leadership for Change, Sharon is an experienced and highly motivated entrepreneur, public speaker, executive coach, strategic manager, trainer and author. We are delighted she is able to join us in the Diocese of Lincoln to help support our schools.

This session will be open to governors, clerks and Headteachers.

Cost £45

Date: Tuesday 25th May

Time: 6:00pm-7:30pm

More details and how to book will be available after Easter.

Marie Curie – National Day of Reflection



Tuesday 23 March marks the first anniversary of the first UK lockdown and since then many thousands of people have died.

Behind the statistics and whatever the cause, every death has been devastating for the people left behind.

To mark the day, the Marie Curie charity is hosting a National Day of Reflection to reflect on our collective loss, support those who've been bereaved, and hope for a brighter future. They have provided a school toolkit to help you mark the day.

There is also a resource called Reflective Colouring Pages: Prayers for Marking a Year of COVID-19 These have been produced 'Illustrated Ministry' for the National Day of Reflection, you can find all the resources here:

<https://www.lincolndiocesaneducation.com/wellbeing-bereavement>

Evangelical Alliance have put together a short film addressing the grief and challenges caused by the pandemic, and in sharing the message of hope found in Jesus Christ that will be a useful resources for the day of reflection.

You can find it and a transcript on their website <https://www.eauk.org/changing-church/changing-church-re-entry/changing-church-pain/lament-a-spoken-word> and their YouTube channel <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=j3wZdBmzBvU>

iSingPOP – Easter Resource

iSingPOP have a FREE Easter resource that takes the form of a fun and easy to put together digital “Watch Party”. Using iSingPOP songs, dances and animations, they’ll tell the Easter story alongside offering opportunities for your staff and children to get involved and film some of the narration and vox pops themselves www.isingpop.org/easter-watch-party

