

Bishop's Visitor to Church Schools Information

Bishop's Visitors (BVs) come from a variety of walks of life, many are former teachers and senior leaders of schools, but all come with experience of supporting children and young people. They volunteer to support church schools across the Diocese in a number of ways.

The purpose of having a Bishop's Visitor in your school is:

- to provide pastoral support to the school
- to foster the link between the school and the Diocese and the Lincoln Diocesan Board of Education team
- to foster good relationships within the school, between the local church, and the wider community
- to encourage and support the school in upholding its Christian ethos through its vision and values
- to have a Christian presence supporting and enhancing the distinctive nature of the school.

Bishop's Visitors will:

- have a full DBS check every 3 years
- establish links with the designated school
- visit the school a minimum of 6 times a year (3 of which to read the Bishop's letter)
- where capacity allows, attend school events to foster relationships with children and staff alike
- signpost the school to the Lincoln Diocesan Board of Education team for support and training as required
- where capacity allows, join the school on the annual Church School Festival in the Cathedral
- complete safeguarding training
- attend safeguarding training at their designated school
- attend 3 meetings a year (which includes the annual Bishops Visitor Conference) for updates and training
- receive and read Lincoln Diocesan Board of Education weekly briefings to keep informed of events and other matters relating to the life of the school
- discuss with the Headteacher how they could use their gifts and skills to enhance the life of the school

The Assistant Diocesan Director of Education will:

- Meet with BVs three times a year, for updates and training
- Liaise between the Bishop and BVs
- Signpost BVs to appropriate training, guidance and materials
- Provide pastoral support for BVs
- Provide advice regarding IT and GDPR.

The Bishop's Visitor volunteer coordinator will:

Schools are asked to:

- Discuss with BVs which areas of school life they could be involved in
- Include BVs on their single central record
- Provide information (and training where necessary) for BVs to be part of the school community e.g. school policies, regular school specific safeguarding training
- Introduce BVs to staff and children
- Invite BV to events and special occasions as appropriate, to foster the relationships as a friend to the school
- Inform BV if the Bishop (or another member of senior clergy) has been invited to the school
- Inform the BV of any pastoral issues they would appreciate support with
- Contact the Lincoln Diocesan Board of Education team if you have any questions, queries or concerns about this role