



Bishop's Visitors

Bishop's Visitors (BVs) come from all walks of life, many are former teachers and senior leaders of schools, but all come with experience of supporting children and young people and provide links with their local churches.



The role of a Bishop's Visitor is to:

- Be a Growing Faith ambassador for the school
- Provide a practical link between the school and the church
- Provide pastoral care for the school
- Encourage and support the school in upholding its Christian ethos through its vision and values Provide a Christian presence in the school, supporting and enhancing the distinctive nature of the school

What can Bishop's Visitors do?

Every school is unique and every bishop's visitor is unique, therefore how each Bishop's Visitor lives out their role will look different.

- Regular visits to the school to build relationship and provide pastoral care
- Work with school, church and families to build relationship and provide an opportunity for faith to grow.
- Be a link between church and school so access to building, events and activities run smoothly
- Support staff in their knowledge of Christianity, faith and the Bible.
- Being involved in the life of the school e.g. listen to children read, take part in clubs, take/attend Collective Worship
- Attend the annual Diocesan Church School Festival with the school
- Support the school through their Church School inspection (SIAMS)
- Read or facilitate the Bishop's end of term letter three times a year

Bishops Visitors will:

- Have an enhanced DBS check every three years or join the DBS update service administered by Lincoln Diocesan Board of Education.
- Undertake the Church of England level 1 Safeguarding training every three years and provide evidence to the Lincoln Diocesan Board of Education.
- Undertake yearly safeguarding training with their designated school and provide evidence to the Lincoln Diocesan Board of Education.
- Wear the Lincoln DBE issued lanyard in school when acting as Bishop's Visitor
- Work with the local LMP and church to place children and young people at the heart of the churches mission through Growing Faith
- Attend at least 2 out of the 3 training sessions a year with the Lincoln Diocesan Board of Education
- Attend any training that the designated school deems necessary.
- Receive and read the Lincoln Diocesan Board of Education weekly briefing to keep informed of events and other matters relating to the life of the diocese, school and board of education
- Signpost the school to the Lincoln Diocesan Board of Education team for support and training as required
- Contact the Lincoln Diocesan Board of Education if they have any questions, queries or concerns about the role
- Let Lincoln DBE and the school know when stepping back from the role





Lincoln Diocesan Board of Education will:

- Provide training for the BVs three times a year on topics relevant to their role
- Administer the DBS process
- Keep a log of safeguarding training undertaken by Bishop's Visitor
- Issue a Lincoln DBE branded photo ID badge and Lincoln DBE lanyard
- Liaise between the Bishop and the BVs
- Work with the Bishop's Visitor Volunteer Coordinator to ensure Bishop's Visitor's are kept in touch with throughout the academic year
- Signpost BVs to appropriate training, guidance and materials
- Send Lincoln DBE weekly bulletin by email to all Bishop's Visitors
- Give access to training videos specifically for BVs
- Provide opportunities throughout the year to meet, pray together and share ideas
- Provide pastoral care to BVs through the Assistant Diocesan Director of Education (ADDE) and Bishop's Visitor Volunteer Coordinator
- Contact the school or BV if they have any questions, queries or concerns about the role



Schools will:

- Provide yearly school-based safeguarding training
- Work with the BV to provide opportunities for schools, households and churches to work together (Growing Faith)
- Provide BVs with school volunteer policy and code of conduct
- Include Bishop's Visitor on Single Central Record
- Remain in regular contact with BVs
- Discuss with BVs areas of the school life they can be involved in
- Provide information and training for BVs to be part of the school community e.g. policies, vision training.
- Invite the BV to any relevant school training
- Invite the BV to events and special occasions as appropriate.
- To inform the BV if a 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 if they have any questions, queries or concerns about the role



Who can become a Bishop's Visitor?

The Bishop's Visitor provides a vital link between the local churches and the school, therefore to be a Bishop's Visitor you need to be well placed to do this, ideally being a member of a local Anglican church.

How do you become a Bishop's Visitor?

To become a Bishop's Visitor you need to be recommended either by the church, the school, the Bishop's Office the Diocese or the Diocesan Board of Education. You will then go through the volunteer application process (please see next page) to check suitability of the role and that you and the school feel there is a good match. To download the application form please go to

<https://www.lincolndiocesaneducation.com/becomingabv>

Are there examples of what a Bishop's Visitor does?

Some of our existing Bishop's Visitors have written reflections of what it looks like for them in their role. You will see there is a great variety in what they do, as each Bishop Visitor brings their own strengths and interests to the role. You can find the reflections here

<https://www.lincolndiocesaneducation.com/bishopvisitorreflections>

Who can I speak to if I want to know more?

In the first instance please contact Kim Dove, DBE administrator with any enquiries

kim.dove@lincoln.anglican.org.uk

Recruitment Process



School, Clergy, DBE, Bishop's Office, Diocese identify potential BV

Application form downloaded from the website and sent to DBE administrator

References requested and reviewed

No

Is the applicant suitable?

ADDE or Bishop's Visitors Volunteer Coordinator to meet with potential BV for informal conversation

No

ADDE contact applicant with feedback

Arrange an introductory visit to the schools for both parties to discuss suitability

Are both parties still wishing to proceed?

No

Please note if applicant is already known to the school the DBS can be started straight away

School notified
Applicant notified - DBS process started
Incumbent/LMP notified

DBS Process Complete
Safeguarding training complete
Bishop's Visitor issued with badge, lanyard and LDBE Volunteer Policy
School and BV to meet to agree role

Every three years the BV and school will be contact to confirm the role is still required at the school

Yes

"Educating for life in all it's fullness"

John 10:10



DIOCESE OF
LINCOLN

The Diocesan
Board of
Education

Edward King House
Minster Yard
Lincoln
LN2 1PU
Tel: 01522 504010

