

# Dear Friends and Colleagues -

“Then God said, ‘Let us make mankind in our image, in our likeness...’” **Genesis 1:26**

Last week as part of the Bible course for schools we discussed Genesis 1:26. It is a verse I know very well but I was reminded what this verse says about the nature of God and in turn what that means for us as human. Notice the words “Let us” — not singular, but plural. From the very beginning, God reveals Himself as relational, expressed through the Trinity. He is not isolated; He exists in perfect relationship. And if we are made in His image, then we too are created for relationship — with one another and, for those who believe, with God Himself.



This truth speaks directly into our calling as leaders in church schools. Education is not simply about knowledge transfer; it is about forming people in community. Children thrive when they experience strong, healthy relationships — between home, school, and church. These connections are not optional extras; they reflect the very nature of God and the way we are designed to live.



The Church of England’s Growing Faith initiative reminds us of the importance of strong partnerships — home, school, and church working together rather than in isolation to support the whole child and strengthen community. Too often, home, school, and church operate in silos, each doing good work but missing the richness that comes from partnership. Research and experience show that when these areas collaborate, the impact is transformative. We see:

- **Deeper spiritual flourishing** for children and families
- **More cohesive communities** where belonging is strengthened
- **Greater opportunities for faith to grow** in authentic and meaningful ways



As schools, you are uniquely placed to nurture these relationships. What might this look like in your context? Could you create spaces where families, school staff, and church leaders come together — not just for events, but for shared vision and work? Could you invite your local church to be more present in the life of your school, and encourage families to see faith as something that connects home and school life?

Working together is always better than working alone. When we embrace partnership, we reflect the relational heart of God and create environments where children can flourish spiritually, socially, and emotionally. Let us commit to building bridges, not walls, and to leading in a way that mirrors the God who said, “Let us make mankind in our image.”

*From Lynsey Norris, Assistant Diocesan Director of Education*

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## Interfaith week 9-16<sup>th</sup> November

### [Resources | Interfaith Week](#)

Highlighted by the DfE in their bulletin last week, these resources produced by The Faith and Belief Forum are supportive to all schools in developing communities of belonging. The resources include downloadable PowerPoints to use in class, tutor groups and, with adaptation, collective worship. Resources cover the full age range from EYFS through to KS5

The resources address the themes of:

- What does community mean?
- What do we all need in a community?
- How can we serve our community?
- What is so good about sharing?

There is further opportunity to sign up for the Interfaith Poetry competition 2025 which invites pupils to write a poem on the theme ‘Community: together we serve’



**We're delighted to invite you and your pupils to this year's Church Schools' Carol Services at Lincoln Cathedral — a joyful celebration of Christmas and our church school community. Due to high demand, we're offering two dates: Wednesday 3rd December and Thursday 11th December 2025.**

The services are designed for Year 2 to Year 6 pupils who enjoy singing or are part of the school choir. Pupils will take part in morning singing workshops, followed by a festive act of worship in the afternoon, including readings, prayers, and music led by children and local clergy. Families are warmly invited to attend the afternoon service. This year's theme, "Christmas Around the World," explores global traditions through song and imagery, helping pupils reflect on Christian values and diversity. The event supports key areas of both SIAMS and Ofsted, promoting inclusion, personal development, and collective worship.

Full programme details and cost information have been sent via email.

To book your place by Friday 14th November, visit: [lincolndiocesaneducation.com/carolservice25](https://www.lincolndiocesaneducation.com/carolservice25)

Please wait for confirmation before booking transport.

**The Bishop Ready for School Fund is available to support children and families in Church of England Schools who may struggle to afford the voluntary contribution for school excursions, such as the upcoming Carol Service trip. We encourage you to explore this option to help ensure that as many children as possible are able to take part. To apply, please complete the short application form available on the Lincoln DBE website, found here: <https://www.lincolndiocesaneducation.com/grants>**

If you have any questions, feel free to get in touch. We look forward to celebrating with you!

## Safeguarding Webinars

Our safeguarding advisors, thirtyone:eight have shared details of some free webinars, one of which may be of interest to school leaders or Bishop's Visitors: Mental Health and Faith: Hope and Healing for Leaders and Those They Serve on 2<sup>nd</sup> December

Please see the link if you would like to find out more, or book a place  
[Lunchtime Webinar with Jason Clark \(02-Dec-2025\) · ChurchSuite Events](#)

## Anti-Bullying week 10<sup>th</sup>-14<sup>th</sup> November

As we enter this year's Anti-Bullying week, it is timely to remind you of the new Anti-Bullying guidance from the Church of England.

'Schools should and will refer to the government guidance for appropriate detail in every area, but our hope for Church schools is that these resources will enable them to implement that guidance in the context of the Church of England Vision for Education which sets out a deeply Christian approach and seeks the flourishing of all for the common good. For in all of the complexity of these discussions it is vital that the dignity of every child as being made in the image of God is valued.' P.6 Flourishing for All.

### [Flourishing for All – Anti-Bullying guidance](#)

Currently this guidance includes support for preventing and tackling bullying in relation to:  
Homophobic Biphobic and Transphobic bullying  
Race-based bullying

We expect this resource to be updated further in the next academic year

