

Dear Friends and Colleagues -

I was lucky enough to take two weeks' leave recently but found it quite challenging to fully step away from work because the final report of the National Curriculum and Assessment Review was published halfway through my holiday.

This report talks about the need for "evolution not revolution", but I was particularly pleased to see the emphasis on the experience of pupils identified as disadvantaged and those with SEND. As Professor Becky Francis says in the report, "A world-leading education system must deliver excellence for all young people, irrespective of background." She goes on to explain that the panel applied a social justice lens to all aspects of their work, recognising the multi-layered nature of the disadvantage and challenge many of our pupils face.

This is something incredibly close to our own hearts: our vision is rooted in the God who seeks the flourishing of all His creation. In their book, *Tackling Poverty and Disadvantage in Schools* (Bloomsbury, 2025), Sean Harris and Katrina Morley provide a series of practical case studies of what this flourishing might look like in practice. In the introduction to the book, they emphasise that these case studies are rooted in strong relationships. Like us, they believe that "the best partnerships are founded not merely on shared objectives but on a collective commitment to fostering equity". The best partnerships are also rooted in kindness – the seeing of each other as kin on the most basic level. When someone is kind to you, you feel seen and understood. Kindness creates space for vulnerability to be acknowledged and addressed. Kindness fosters dignity.

Evolution takes time, and we know the challenges we face are significant. However, with relationships grounded in kindness and actions that seek justice and equity for all, I feel confident that we can and will "empower all in our Church school family".

Gillian Georgiou
RE & SIAMS Advisor





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Board of Education

We still have a few spaces available!

If you haven't booked yet, there's still time — but please do so as soon as possible to secure your place. Join us at 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: with limited availability on Wednesday 3rd December, and more availability on 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 visit:

<https://www.lincolndiocesaneducation.com/carolservice25>

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

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

The Bishop of Lincoln's Ready for school fund

Supporting children and young people who need financial support to fully engage in the life of school and benefit from educational opportunities.

The fund is faith in action to meet an important social need. It is witness to the generosity of God's people that the funding can assist with...



Essential items

Bedding, clothing, shoes, uniform, books, stationary, lunchboxes, bags, additional needs resources.

School activities

Excursions, residential visits, theme days, pantomimes and drama productions, equipment for clubs.

Wider activities

Out of school club memberships and equipment for community-based clubs or events.

How to apply

Schools are encouraged to apply for grants of usually **up to £150 per child** on behalf of families in the church school community.

Simply fill in the online form or send physical applications to: ellen.cross@lincoln.anglican.org

lincolndiocesaneducation.com/grants



Annual review of pupil premium strategies and SEND information reports.

As you review your Pupil Premium strategies and review your SEND information reports, please make sure that your vision is referenced. In the pupil premium report this would be in the 'intent' section.

Meeting the most vulnerable is a key part of the Church of England's vision for education and as such your vision should be explicitly driving your work in these areas.