

Dear Friends and Colleagues -

I have had lots of reasons recently to think about what it means to 'live well together'.

We have had the publication of the revised Statement of Entitlement for RE in church schools, with its emphasis on engaging "meaningfully and critically with learning which helps [pupils] to make sense of the multi-religious and multi-secular world in which they live." We have also had a legal ruling that has implications for how a school processes a parent's request to withdraw their child from RE and / or collective worship, set within the broader context of freedom of religion and belief legislation. Add to this, the rising numbers of parents nationwide seeking to withdraw their children either partially or wholly from the RE curriculum, and I have had to ask myself, how do we balance our own values and beliefs against those of others? How do we learn how to disagree well so that we can live well together?

The Bible is a reflection of the community it represents: diverse, multiethnic, multireligious. It does not seek to claim that everyone is the same, nor does it seek to force everyone to be the same. Some of the greatest heroes and heroines of the biblical narrative are people who demonstrably do not 'belong' in the community in which they find themselves, but who nevertheless appear as an example of how to love God and other human beings: Ruth, Moses, Cyrus the Great, the Good Samaritan, the Roman Centurion... As St Paul says when he writes to the Romans, "none of us lives for ourselves alone, and none of us dies for ourselves alone" (Romans 14.7).

Good Religious Education does the same thing: it reflects who we are as a community – rich, diverse, complex, sometimes a bit messy – and, through critical and engaging encounter, it shows us how we could be if we value living well together. Sameness, good RE suggests, is neither desirable nor a reflection of life as it truly is.

I want to thank all of you for providing your pupils with rich opportunities to explore religious and non-religious worldviews with curiosity and critical awareness. In so doing, you help them become more aware of their own positionality in the world, so they are better prepared to encounter other human beings with openness and generosity. And in the words of that great philosopher, Paddington Bear, "it doesn't cost me anything to be kind".

Gillian Georgiou
RE & SIAMS Advisor



Book you place for this week's Headteacher and Governor and Clerk to Governor Briefings

Diocesan Headteacher Briefing

Please note to receive the link for the Headteacher briefing you need to book in using the following link, it will not be sent out automatically to all leaders.

<https://www.lincolndiocesaneducation.com/calendar/?calid=1,2,3,4,5,6,7,8,9,10,11,12&pid=9&viewid=1&event=493>

Diocesan Headteacher Briefings

Thursday 29th January 2026
Thursday 7th May 2026
10:00am-11:00am
Online
FREE



CALLLED • ASPIRATIONAL • ROOTED • EMPOWERING

Governor and Clerk to Governor Briefings

Thursday 25th September 2025
Thursday 29th January 2026
Thursday 7th May 2026
5:30pm-7:00pm
Online
FREE



CALLLED • ASPIRATIONAL • ROOTED • EMPOWERING

Diocesan Governor Briefing

Please note to receive the link for the Governor and Clerk briefing you need to book in using the following link, it will not be sent out automatically to all governors.

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LIVING OUT OUR VISION



The Diocesan
Board of
Education

MEETING THE NEEDS OF THE MOST VULNERABLE

Leadership Conference

KEYNOTE SPEAKER

**THE RIGHT REVD
STEPHEN
CONWAY**

BISHOP OF LINCOLN



KEYNOTE SPEAKER

**STEVE
CHALKE**

FOUNDER OF OASIS
CHARITABLE TRUST



**THURSDAY 26TH MARCH 2026
10AM-4PM**

The Showroom
Tritton Road
Lincoln
LN6 7QY

**COST: £195 (SLA/MPA) £300 (NON-SLA)
GOVERNORS: £155(SLA/MPA) £235 (NON-SLA)
CLERGY: £75**



Living Out Your Vision: Meeting the Needs of the Most Vulnerable

A Conference for Church School Leaders

Join us for an inspiring and practical day designed especially for Church of England school leaders who are committed to shaping communities where every child can flourish. Living Out Your Vision brings together nationally respected voices and hands-on expertise to support leaders in championing inclusion, belonging, and hope within their schools.

We are delighted to welcome **The Bishop of Lincoln, The Rt Revd Stephen Conway**, and **Steve Chalke MBE**, founder of the Oasis Charitable Trust, as our keynote speakers. Both bring profound insight into what it means to lead with compassion, courage, and a deeply rooted Christian vision—particularly in service of the most vulnerable.

Alongside our keynote sessions, participants will have access to a rich programme of workshops tailored to the everyday realities of leading a Church of England school. Topics include:

- Developing and nurturing spirituality across the whole school community
- Strengthening the governor's role in supporting disadvantaged and vulnerable pupils
- Embedding inclusion and belonging as core expressions of Christian distinctiveness
- Using case studies in RE to deepen understanding, engagement, and reflective practice

Whether you're looking to refresh your vision, strengthen your leadership toolkit, or gain practical strategies for meeting diverse needs, this conference offers a space to learn, reflect, and connect with colleagues who share your commitment to transformative education.



[BOOK HERE](#)

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:

lincolndiocesaneducation.com/grants



Upcoming Picture News Assemblies

Children's Mental Health Week – Live Assembly

Wednesday 11th February, 9.15-9.45am

Join Picture News and special guest, children's author and mental wellbeing advocate, Katie Hopper for a live assembly during Children's Mental Health Week, as we explore why feeling included matters. Katie will share one of her stories live and children can reflect on how their words and actions can help others feel welcome and supported.

Suitable for: Children in KS1 and KS2

[Register here](#)

Celebrating Lunar New Year – Live Assembly (with very special guests!)

Wednesday 25th February, 9.15-9.45am

Join us for a special online event as we explore how the Lunar New Year is celebrated. We'll learn about traditions, stories and symbols, and hear from two children who will be sharing their own experiences of celebrating this special time.

A lovely opportunity for pupils to discover how different cultures welcome a new year with joy, family, and hope!

Suitable for: Children in KS1 and KS2

[Register here](#)

