

Dear Friends and Colleagues -

**Racial Justice Sunday – Theme: Love Your Neighbour
The Good Samaritan (Luke 10:25–37)**

Sunday 8th February marks Racial Justice Sunday. This is an opportunity for church schools to reflect deeply on what it means to ‘love our neighbour as ourselves’ in a world marked by division and inequality. This year’s theme, drawn from the parable of the Good Samaritan, challenges us to cross boundaries of ethnicity, status, and prejudice, embodying Christ’s radical love in practical ways. In our schools, this means creating communities where every child and adult is seen, valued, and enabled to flourish.

The revised **National Society’s theological framework for Equality, Diversity, Inclusion and Justice (EDIJ)** is attached to this bulletin. It reminds us that these principles are not optional extras but flow from the Gospel itself. Every person is made in the image of God (imago Dei) and called into life in all its fullness (John 10:10). This vision aligns with the **five domains of flourishing** set out in [Our Hope for a Flourishing Schools System](#). These domains provide a practical and theological lens for embedding racial justice in school life.

Purpose is the foundation of flourishing. Education in church schools is rooted in God’s call to cultivate justice and belonging. Genesis 1:27 affirms the dignity of every person, and Jeremiah 29:11 reminds us of God’s plans for hope and a future. This purpose, anchored in EDIJ, will provide clarity for decision-making and a shared moral compass.

School leaders, including governors, could ask: Do we ensure that our vision and policies reflect equity and inclusion, not just academic success?

Relationships are central to flourishing. Inspired by Ubuntu “I am because we are”, schools should nurture belonging and tackle injustice including in the school system. The Good Samaritan shows us that neighbourliness transcends ethnicity and status. John 13:34–35 commands us to love one another, and Galatians 3:28 calls for radical inclusion.

School leaders, including governors, could ask: Do we review our admissions, behaviour policies, and staff recruitment through an EDIJ lens, so that we can create spaces of deep belonging and reconciliation?



Well-being is a justice issue. Every child and adult deserves psychological safety and holistic care as a reflection of their God-given dignity. Matthew 11:28 invites the weary to find rest, and Psalm 139:14 affirms that each person is “fearfully and wonderfully made.” For racially minoritised pupils, well-being includes combating microaggressions, providing visible role models, and affirming their stories.

School leaders, including governors, could ask: Do we enact policies and systems which prioritise mental health and create cultures of kindness which enable transformation?

Resources should be stewarded through justice and generosity. Acts 4:32–35 describes the early church sharing resources so “there were no needy persons among them.” Justice requires equity, not equality, and schools must challenge systemic inequalities in access and support. Stewardship is a moral responsibility that reflects God’s character and prioritises the flourishing of all.

School leaders, including governors, could ask: Do we audit our resource allocation—curriculum, staffing, and funding—to ensure fairness and address disadvantage?

Finally, **Learning is transformative.** A just curriculum dismantles barriers and tells the truth about injustice. Romans 12:2 calls for transformation through renewing the mind, and Proverbs 8 celebrates wisdom and curiosity. Truth-telling leads to healing and hope-filled change, shaping learners who pursue justice as part of their Christian vocation.

School leaders, including governors, could ask: Does our curriculum and wider offer embed diverse voices and stories, equipping pupils to challenge injustice and become agents of reconciliation?

Racial Justice Sunday is not a one-day event but a call to **ongoing transformation.** Schools can mark the day through collective worship focused on the Good Samaritan, use prayers for justice and unity, and explore neighbourliness beyond boundaries particularly through RE and PSHE. Schools are encouraged to commit to providing professional development for staff to understand these issues, and to empower pupil leaders to notice injustice and respond appropriately to it.

As leaders and governors, we are called to build communities where every child and adult experiences the love of Christ through justice, dignity, and belonging. By rooting our work in the theological vision of EDIJ and the five domains of flourishing, we can ensure that racial justice is not an aspiration but a lived reality in our schools—a sign of God’s kingdom breaking through.

Gather us in – stranger and friend
Bring us into Your loving presence
That we might know that Your love for us never ends
And has no terms or conditions
God of love
On this Racial justice Sunday 2025
Point us towards Your dream for all people,
That we might work together in hope,
For justice, peace and unity throughout Your world.
Give us grace
Show us mercy
That we might live and love in Your name
Now and forever
Amen
p.2 'Love you Neighbour, Racial Justice Sunday 08.02.26', Churches together in Britain and Ireland.

Thank You

A huge thank you to all the schools who have offered pupils' work or volunteered time to support the Racial Justice Service on the 8th of February.

June Richardson
Schools Effectiveness Advisor

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: education@lincoln.anglican.org

lincolndiocesaneducation.com/grants



Upcoming Events & Courses -

Date	Time	Course		Book Here
03/02/2026	13:30-15:00	RE Cluster	Online	BOOK
03/02/2026	16:00-18:00	Developing Inclusion Through the Vision for Education	Online	BOOK
05/02/2026	10:00-12:00	Preparing for SIAMS inspection - Strategic Leadership and Theological Underpinning	Online	BOOK
12/02/2026	10:00-16:00	New Church School Headteacher Induction	Face to face	BOOK
24/02/2026	16:00-18:00	Developing Knowledge in RE	Online	BOOK
26/02/2026	10:00 - 12:00	Bishop Visitor Training	Face to face	BOOK
25/02/2026	10:00 - 12:00	Bishop Visitor Training	Face to face	BOOK
26/02/2026	10:00-12:00	Your curriculum and Your Theologically Rooted Vision	Online	BOOK

Difference is a unique and FREE suite of resources to help your school navigate an increasingly complex world, inspired by Jesus to embrace difference and champion a culture of hope and empathy.



We hope all schools in our diocese will engage with this programme and as a minimum access the training this year.

There are 6 sessions for each key stage (EYFS, KS1 , LKS2, UKS2 , transition Y6-7 and secondary) which cover the following:

Introduction

Crossing divides

Navigating Disagreement

Pursuing Justice

Practicing Forgiveness

Belonging Together

Primary sessions include a film, song, children's literature, slides, activities, Bible links and a prayer/ reflection

Secondary session include a film, Bible links, interactive exercises, reflection and discussion

The programme equips children with 3 formational habits to transform everyday relationships. These progress with the child as they move through primary school.

Be Curious - listening to the stories of others and seeing the world through their eyes

Be Present - encountering others with authenticity and confidence

Re-Imagine - finding hope and opportunity in places where we long to see change

Resources can be accessed once a leader from each school has completed the FREE 2 hour training package. This ensures that all leaders are equipped to ensure pupil and staff psychological safety throughout the sessions.

The next FREE training sessions have been advertised as follows:

Upcoming trainings for Difference for primary schools:

- Monday, 16 February 2026: 3:30-5:30 p.m. (GMT).
- Tuesday, 3 March 2026: 10 a.m.-12 noon (GMT)

Link to book secondary school training

[Difference training - Difference](#)

We look forward to hearing how schools are engaging with this powerful programme.