

Dear Friends and Colleagues -

At the end of last week, the Education Secretary, Bridget Phillipson, delivered a speech at Ruskin College, a higher education institution that offers adult learning for everyone. In it, she outlines her commitment to strong Early Years education as the necessary foundation for any successful educational setting. She notes the changes to childhood that we experience every day: from outdoor to indoor, from offline to online, from face-to-face to screen-to-screen. She also recognises that, whilst it is important to embrace change, the risks and rewards are not spread evenly across different communities and classes. The evidence shows that where the school system caters primarily for the 'median child', gaps widen – particularly for pupils with SEND and pupils from white working-class communities.

What is needed, she claims, is freedom: freedom, not as the absence of constraint, limitation or obligation, but freedom as having a choice, having control and feeling part of something bigger. Central to this, she states, is understanding that what happens outside of school matters for what happens inside school – education is more than just the classroom.

In church schools, we are committed to the spiritual flourishing of pupils and adults. Spirituality is a nebulous term and often means something different to different individuals or communities. However, at the heart of the term is a notion of interconnectedness and inter-relationality – the idea that each of us is part of something bigger than ourselves. Spiritual flourishing is also holistic – it might be explored in the classroom, but it definitely extends beyond it.

In our team, we have been exploring our own lexicon for spirituality. This goes beyond simply defining a term to exploring the way in which we live it out in our particular context. Our team is made up of all faiths and none, but as a diocesan education team, we recognise our roots in Christian tradition and practice.

Together, we explored some of the latest research around spirituality, the data on religious and non-religious identity in the UK, and a range of global expressions of Christian spirituality. We then talked through the things that we feel bring us spiritual flourishing.



We identified five key categories:



Engagement in and with the natural world



Physical activity



Creative activity



Connectedness and community



Sitting with the unknown, seeing anew

For our team, this is how we feel part of something bigger than ourselves. We continue to plan explicit opportunities throughout the year for us to engage in these areas in order to support our own spiritual flourishing.

If you would like to find out more about the process we followed to shape our lexicon for spirituality, please see [this resource](#), which can be found in the [Collective Worship and Spiritual Development](#) section of our [website](#).

Gillian Georgiou
RE & SIAMS Advisor

Teach About Tyndale

2026 marks 500 years since William Tyndale's groundbreaking translation of the New Testament into English. Bring this historic moment to life in your classroom with free, ready-to-use resources for primary and secondary schools.

For primary schools

Engage your pupils with a set of six cross-curricular lessons exploring:

- Who William Tyndale was
- Why translating the New Testament mattered
- How his work continues to shape the world today

For Key Stage 3 RE

Explore the development of the English Bible in two Key Stage 3 RE lessons, focusing on:

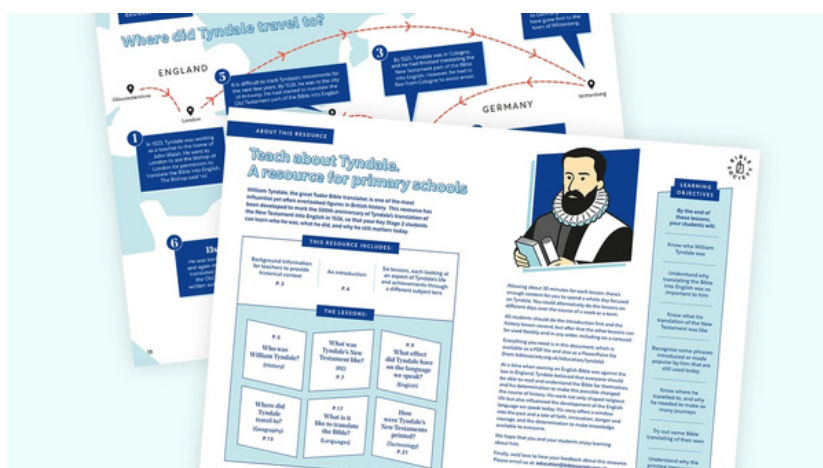
- How Tyndale's translation made the Bible accessible to ordinary people
- Why the meaning and authority of sacred texts can be contested

For Key Stage 3 History

Explore Tyndale's role in the Reformation with three Key Stage 3 History lessons that examine:

- How religious beliefs and practices were changing in the 1520s and 1530s
- The influence of Tyndale's writings and the wider circulation of the Bible
- Why translating the Bible into English was controversial – and dangerous

Find out more and download at biblesociety.org.uk/education/tyndale.



Justice Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Reflection tool and survey 2026

Following the email sent last month, please can we remind schools about completing the Justice, Equity, Diversity and Inclusion tool and survey to inform the future work of the diocesan board of education. This is also designed to help you reflect on your whole school practice and support your action planning for the coming year too. Many thanks to those who have already completed this at what we know is a busy time of year for you all.

[Justice, Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Reflection Tool and Survey 2026](#)

Bishop's Letters - Summer 2026

The end of term letters from the Bishop of Grimsby have now been sent to all headteachers and Bishop's Visitors - if you would like to view them, please find a link to our website below -

<https://www.lincolndiocesaneducation.com/bv-letters-2526>
