DIOCESE OF LINCOLN

The Diocesan Board of Education

Dear **Friends** and **Colleagues** -

Back in September, Dr Margaret James, the National Director of SIAMS, published the SIAMS Annual Report. The report outlines the continued strengths in church schools, including cultures in which people are treated well and dignity is honoured. It also shows the strength of Christian vision in church schools and the effectiveness of the RE curriculum in many schools.

The report notes several key areas that continue to develop. You will be unsurprised to hear that the one that jumped out to me immediately was RE. RE was the most frequent reason cited for an outcome 2 for the second year running. In particular, the report notes the need for children and young people to better understand Christianity as a living, global faith. It brings attention to issues in secondary RE, especially the core provision of RE at KS5. It also notes the need to strengthen the monitoring and evaluation of RE.

Many of you will know that lots is changing in the RE world. We are expecting RE to be part of the National Curriculum in 2028, and, for schools in Lincolnshire, there is a relatively new locally agreed syllabus to implement. For schools in North and North East Lincolnshire, the 2018 Lincolnshire locally agreed syllabus will remain in place until the National Curriculum is launched in 2028. For these schools, a programme of training and support will be provided to enable schools to be National Curriculum-ready by 2028.

One thing that I have really enjoyed as I continue to work with teachers to strengthen RE is creating case studies to help bring religion and belief to life for pupils. Through these case studies, pupils encounter Christmas celebrations in Ethiopia, and the rich historical heritage of Christianity in that country; they meet Anne Askew, a Protestant Christian from Stallingborough who challenged Tudor notions of the place of women.
Older pupils explore questions of justice, injustice and power in relation to the bombing of the 16th Street Baptist Church in Birmingham, Alabama. Younger pupils explore how Christians in New Zealand celebrate Harvest Festival in a way that reflects their particular context. These case studies make Christianity tangible to the pupils, helping them to understand the rich global diversity of the faith.



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Stories of religion and belief can be found all around us. They can be found in local places of worship and out in the wider community. They can be found on the High Street and at the memorial stones in the centre of quiet villages. They can be found in museums and art galleries and photographs and maps. First and foremost, they can be found in people. For Christians, the person of Jesus offers a life-changing and life-shaping story that we know you share every day within your school community.

We have collated a series of primary and secondary RE case studies to help you introduce your pupils to the lived reality of religion and belief. These can be found here. We also continue to work collaboratively with teachers to find and create case studies that reflect specific local contexts. If you would be interested in doing this, please contact me at gillian.georgiou@lincoln.anglican.org.

Gillian Georgiou
RE & SIAMS Advisor

Attachments

Bereavement support for schools

Grove Publications have produced a new booklet which you may find supportive in helping members of your community navigate bereavement. We have attached the booklet as a PDF to this email. Please feel free to share with with colleagues in your school and professional networks who may find this helpful.

Lincoln Cathedral Magic Books! Family Fun sessions

Please see attached a flyer for this half-term activity taking place at Lincoln Cathedral during the half-term break. Please share this with families.

Upcoming LDBE **Courses & Events**

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Date	Time	Course		Book Here
13/10/2026	13:00-15:00	RE Subject Leadership	Online	Book
15/10/2026	09:30-12:30	SEF Writing Workshop	In Person	Book
15/10/2026	16:00-18:00	Governor Church School Induction	Online	Book
03/11/2026	16:00-18:00	Living out the Spiritual Life of the School	Online	Book
10/11/2026	10:00-16:00	New Church School Headteacher Induction	In Person	Book
24/11/2026	16:00-18:00	Preparing for SIAMS - Empowering All, a culture of active justice and responsibility	Online	Book
11/12/2026	10:00-12:00	IDSR	Online	Book