

Newsletter – OCTOBER 2023



Annual Return

We wrote to headteachers, chairs and ex officio foundation governors at the start of term asking them to provide information about their school's Christian distinctiveness and to review the effectiveness of the school's governing body. Thank you to those schools who have already submitted their data; we would be grateful if you could complete and return the questionnaire by the end of October.

Guidance on Witchcraft, Magic and Halloween

Occasionally schools receive concerns from Christian groups or individual parents and carers regarding references that may have been made within school to magic and witchcraft.

Please see Derby DBE guidance [HERE](#).



Let's Go Zero

Local Authorities Network

After popular feedback from the 1st local authorities' workshop, a 2nd workshop is planned on **Wednesday 25 October 10:00 – 11:00**. Register [here](#).

The workshop will bring together LA staff from across England to connect, learn and share best-practice when it comes to innovative ways of engaging schools in climate action. There will be presentations from Durham Council, Keep Britain Tidy about their new Schools Carbon Footprinting Tool, and Ministry of Eco Education.



Climate Action Advisors

In partnership with [Green Future Investments Limited](#), Let's Go Zero is able to deliver a vital new FREE support programme to all schools, colleges and nurseries across England, providing expert advice on:

- Taking quick wins to reduce energy use and wider carbon impact.
- Retrofitting a school – what are the options, routes to funding, priorities, next steps.
- Utilising government and private funding options.
- Accelerating strategic sustainability across multi academy trusts.
- Bringing together local & national organisations & projects to help schools take action.
- Connecting with other local schools to share ideas.
- Advising schools on their Climate Action Plans.

For more information see their [website](#).

OVO Foundation

In November, the OVO Foundation Nature Prize will run again.



Schools can win a cash prize of £200 or £1000 to support them implement a community nature project. Schools from disadvantaged areas with high pupil premium are encouraged to apply. Applications will open on **Monday 16 October**. See [here](#) to find out more.



Partnership Agreement

Thank you to all those schools who have responded so far.

If you've not already done so, please do sign up. Details are on our website [HERE](#) and you can respond using the online form [HERE](#). Thank you for your support.

ABYYT: Follow the Star

As we journey towards Christmas this Advent season, ABYYT invite your school to join them in Follow the Star: Join the Song.



They'll be exploring the carol 'The First Nowell' and what the first Nowell was like for the shepherds, angels and kings in the Christmas story.

Each of these groups had a different, but important part to play in bringing the news of Jesus' birth. Over 4 weeks the resource explores their responses to the news of Jesus' birth and what their 'song of joy' looked like. How did they share important messages through song with others, and how can their responses inspire us? How might pupils join the song this advent and prepare for celebrating the first Nowell, singing and shouting for joy?

Each week includes:

- Liturgical Suggestions
- Bible passage activity
- Video Exploration
- Practical Challenges
- Prayers

There is also guidance from *Growing Faith* on how resource can be used in both church settings and in the home. For more information see their website [HERE](#).

Springs Dance Company

Springs provides an exciting way for children to interact with the RE curriculum through physical movement and creativity. They are now taking bookings for "A Christmas Story" and "The Nativity Project". If you would like more information, see the flyer [HERE](#) or visit their [website](#).

Pop UK

Did you know that Pop UK has a free song bank?!
Take a look at their [website](#) for more details.



Pop UK in partnership with the charity [God and the Big Bang!](#) are taking bookings for a 1-day workshop "Creation Sings" exploring how science and faith can work together. See [HERE](#) for more information.

The Leprosy Mission

The Leprosy Mission is a global Christian organisation leading the fight against leprosy. The organisation is very passionate about helping children understand more about the disease. They have recently launched some FREE new resources centred around the 'Bela book' to educate primary school children about the disease in creative and cross-curricular ways.

They are looking for primary schools who would be interested in inviting them in to hold a fun and interactive whole school assembly using the new resources. This would be FREE; in return they ask that the school commits to holding a simple and easy-to-run fundraiser. There are two to choose from: "Odd shoes day Tuesday" or "Gloves to show love!" and more information can be found on our brand-new school's page: <https://www.leprosymission.org.uk/get-involved/schools/>

If you would like more details, please contact Guy Willcock at guyw@lmew.org.uk

Upcoming Briefings

Headteachers

10:30 Thursday 26 October

Governors (chairs, clerks, foundation governors)

19:00 Thursday 26 October

Collective Worship

16:00 Tuesday 14 November



If you would like details, please contact [Liz](#)

Upcoming Training SIAMS Framework Training

This training is useful to any member of staff or governor in your school who wants to be able to get to know the new framework better or for anyone who is new to the SIAMS process. It is a 2-hour session and explains the whole of the new framework and what to expect in terms of the practicalities of a SIAMS inspection. It will look at the SEF and monitoring and evaluation, as well as giving you an opportunity to think about what your action points may be for each of the inspection questions.



Please note that all the sessions below are the same, different times have been offered to make it as accessible to as many people as possible.

Thursday 26 October, 15:30 - 17:30
Monday 12 February, 13:00 - 15:00
Tuesday 07 May, 16.30 -18:30

Fee: PA £25 / Non PA £40 Booking form [HERE](#)

Primary RE Development Training

This programme is useful for RE Subject Leads, teachers, support staff and any member of staff who will be teaching or helping to deliver RE.

These are delivered in person by [Fiona Moss RE Today](#).

3 dates / venues are offered for each session (the content is repeated so you only need attend 1)

Session 1 – Autumn Term

Wednesday 22 November 2023, 13:00 - 16:00, Chapel en le Frith CE Primary School

Thursday 23 November 2023, 09:00 - 12:00 Hartington Village Hall

Thursday 23 November 2023, 13:30 - 16:30 Derby Church House

Fee per session: PA £40 / Non PA £85 Booking form [HERE](#)

Understanding Christianity - Subject Knowledge Training

with [Fiona Moss from RE today](#). This programme is useful for teachers, subject leads, support staff and any member of staff who will be teaching or helping to deliver RE.

Gospel

Thursday 30 November 2023, 13:00 - 16:00

Virtual

God

Tuesday 23 April 2024, 13:00 - 16:00

Virtual

Fee per session: PA £40 / Non PA £85 each session (per participant)

Booking form [HERE](#)

Understanding Christianity – Refresher Workshop

This is an in-person event for any schools already using the Understanding Christianity resource. This is a useful session for any teachers who need a refresher, or an introduction [led by Fiona Moss from RE today](#).

Tuesday 21 May 2024, 09:30 - 15:00

Venue TBC

Fee: PA £80 / Non PA £120 Booking Form [HERE](#)

Headteachers' Conference Thursday 25 April 2024

Our Headteachers' conference this year, takes place at Chatsworth House, Bakewell, Derbyshire, DE45 1PP



The conference will provide you with

- Time to reflect and take part in collective worship if you would like to
- Time to connect and meet with colleagues
- Time to hear from speakers about

**Racial Justice from the Church of England Racial Justice Team
Partnerships between schools and churches – Lucy Moore
Fiona Moss from RE Today**

£75 for schools in the Partnership Agreement, £95 for other schools. Book [HERE](#)

Do remember to visit our [website](#) for lots of useful information and guidance.

Previous newsletters can be viewed [here](#).