



New Headteachers

Bishop Libby and Bishop Malcolm welcomed our new headteachers at a commissioning service on 25 September sharing words of encouragement and affirmation to the new school leaders and they were each given a holding cross as a small gift to remind them of their belonging to the diocesan family.

Mental Health Day

World Mental Health Day is celebrated every year on 10 October. This year's theme set by the World Federation of Mental Health is **workplace mental health**. The theme highlights the importance of addressing mental health and wellbeing in the workplace, for the benefit of people, organisations, and communities.

Mentally Healthy Schools have free resources [HERE](#).



Black History Month

It's Black History Month during October. This year's theme, 'Reclaiming Narratives', emphasises the importance of taking control of black history's stories, celebrating their heritage and ensuring their voices are heard.

[Picture News](#) have online resources and are hosting a webinar at 09:30 on Tuesday 15 October. Details & registration link [here](#)
Suitable for: Children in KS1 and KS2

Flourishing For All

The National Society for Education (previously known as The Church of England Education Office) has now concluded its period of consultation and published [Anti-bullying guidance for Church of England schools | The Church of England](#).



Please ensure that your school's website no longer has any links to old Valuing All God's Children (VAGC) documents and that you use the link to the new guidance.

Positive Parenting Alliance

The Positive Parenting Alliance is a group of organisations, and individuals, who are looking to change the culture of separation for the better in the UK. They launched the Parents Promise in 2021 and last year worked with some of the UK's largest organisations to change HR policies to better support separating families. [This](#) short video gives some background to the HR initiative and the Parents Promise website is [here](#)



Their next initiative is to look at separation in the context of schools: how does separation affect children? What support and protocols do schools have in place? and what further resources might be helpful? Schools are asked to help their research by completing a short survey [here](#).



Admissions Policies – For all VA schools & Academies

A reminder that you need to email us your draft 2026-2027 Admissions Policy by 30 November (or 01 November if you are consulting).

Please refer to the checklist that was recently emailed out to you & review the guidance documentation on our [website](#) which explains all that you need to know. If your school is an academy in a MAT, please liaise with your central team to check arrangements.

Annual Return 2024

Following feedback from last year, we have divided the annual return into 3 forms – to be completed by school office [HERE](#) / clerk to governors [HERE](#) / headteacher, chair and ex officio foundation governor [HERE](#).

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.



Springs Dance

Springs Dance are taking bookings for their Nativity Project and A Christmas Story: Refugee workshops. For more information see [HERE](#)

Do remember to visit our [website](#) for lots of useful information and guidance. Previous newsletters can be viewed [here](#).



Partnership Agreement

Thank you to all those schools who have responded.

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.

Guidance for schools

Do please continue to go to our website for guidance. We have updated it with lots of documents and information that you can download.

We recommend that all staff read the DBE General Guidance document [HERE](#).

Ex Officio Foundation Governor Guidance

DBE guidance has been updated; please see [HERE](#)



Pop UK

Pop UK provide free singing resources for primary schools. See [here](#) for details.

They also run bespoke projects for which they are offering up to 20% off for bookings made and delivered before Christmas 2024. This includes all of their 1-day projects (Social Media & Internet Safety / Wellbeing & PSHE / The Environment / Christmas in a day!) See [here](#) for details.

Upcoming Briefings

Headteachers

10:30 Thursday 24 October

10:30 Wednesday 27 November

Governors (chairs, clerks, foundation governors)

19:00 Thursday 24 October

19:00 Wednesday 27 November

Collective Worship

16:00 Tuesday 12 November

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



Supporting our Schools to TRANSFORM – GROW – BUILD

Showing **generous faith, courageous hope & life-giving love**, Derby DBE's actions will be to:

- affirm and strengthen our relationship with school leaders and governors,
- offer a high-quality training & development programme for school leaders, governors, clergy, RE & CW practitioners.

Key Dates for 2024/2025 Academic Year

Autumn Term

NEW HEADTEACHER / HEAD OF SCHOOL INDUCTION Confirm attendance with DBE office	17 September 25 September
CPD PROGRAMME Ensure staff & governors are booked onto relevant training. Details & booking links CPD programme	ASAP
MONTHLY BRIEFINGS Ensure dates in diary for headteacher, chair, clerk & foundation governors. See newsletter and CPD programme for dates	ASAP
PARTNERSHIP AGREEMENT Sign up via website HERE	
HEADTEACHER CONFERENCE Sign up via website HERE	
FOUNDATION GOVERNORS – CHECK TERM OF OFFICE (TOO) Start renewal process for TOO ending before 30 June – see website HERE (process can take up to 6 months)	ASAP
FOUNDATION GOVERNORS Deadline to submit application form & reference for TOO ending before 28 Feb	09 October
LAND & BUILDINGS COLLECTION RETURN for Academy Trusts More information HERE	
ANNUAL RETURN Governing body to complete & return to DBE	31 October
ADMISSIONS – CONSULTING (<i>VA schools & Academy Trusts</i>) Review policy for 2 years ahead & send draft to DBE. Guidance on website HERE	01 November
CHRISTMAS CARD COMPETITION Deadline for submission	22 November
ADMISSIONS – NOT CONSULTING (<i>VA schools & Academy Trusts</i>) Review policy for 2 years ahead & send draft to DBE. Guidance on website HERE	30 November
HEADTEACHER / HEAD OF SCHOOL / EXEC HEADTEACHER RECRUITMENT Start process if notice has been given. DBE must be involved. See guidance HERE	

For schools wishing to use our Admissions Appeals Service, see overleaf for hearing dates and deadlines for submission of paperwork.

Any school considering capital works must obtain DBE and site trustees' consent. In the first instance, contact Jason.aldridge@derby.anglican.org



Christmas Card Competition 2024

**THE WINNING ENTRY WILL BE USED FOR DERBY
DBE'S OFFICIAL CHRISTMAS CARD FOR 2024
& BE SENT OUT NATIONWIDE!**

**THE WINNING PUPIL WILL RECEIVE
A £10 BOOK TOKEN.**

Entries can be hand drawn, painted or electronically
produced & should be either A4 or A5 in size.

Please note that designs should have a Christian-theme!

Scanned entries should be sent to officeDBE@derby.anglican.org
or hard copies posted to Derby DBE,
Church House, Full Street, Derby DE1 3DR

**PLEASE REMEMBER TO INCLUDE THE PUPIL'S NAME
AND THE SCHOOL'S NAME!**

CLOSING DATE

**16:00 on
Friday 22 November**