

Newsletter – FEBRUARY 2026



Admissions Policy

A reminder that your Admissions Authority body must meet to formally determine your policy for 2027/28 admissions by **28 February**. For VA schools the Admissions Authority is the governing body, for academies, it is the MAT and for VC schools it is the LA. **The policy must then be published on your website by 15 March.** VA schools should also email a copy of the policy to us.

For clarity, from 15 March, your school website must show 3 policies – current year, 2026/27 and 2027/28. See our website for guidance [HERE](#).

SAVE THE DATE! Headteachers' Conference

Our Headteachers' conference takes place on Thursday 18 June at The Hayes in Swanwick.

The conference will provide you with

- Time to reflect & take part in CW if you would like to
- Time to connect and meet with colleagues

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



Difference Course for Primary Schools

Difference explores what it means to follow Jesus in a complex and divided world. Participants are equipped to cross divides, navigate disagreement, practice forgiveness, and pursue a just and flourishing world.

The *Difference* course draws deeply on Jesus' encounters in the Gospels and the wisdom of expert peacemakers. It offers 3 formational habits that can transform everyday relationships and build practices that have a deep and lasting impact on our actions, thoughts and character:

- **Be Curious** – listen to others' stories and see the world through their eyes.
- **Be Present** – encounter others with authenticity and confidence.
- **Reimagine** – finding hope and opportunity in the places where we long to see change.

The National Society for Education is offering a FREE *Difference* training course for headteachers and RE Leads, on Monday 02 March at Church House, Derby. You can sign up for a place [HERE](#).

Lent Resources

The Church of England's Lent theme for 2025 is **Draw Near: Life-giving habits for Lent**. Find out more [HERE](#).

You can download sample pages from the Church of England booklet "Draw Near for Families & Children" [HERE](#)



International Mother Language Day



Saturday 21 February is International Mother Language Day - an annual observance sponsored by UNESCO to raise awareness of language, cultural diversity and multilingualism around the world.

There are so many ways to celebrate diversity - a multilingual storytelling session, learn to say hello & thank you in a new language, come to school wearing clothes linked to your family's country of origin, taste new foods from different cultures!

See Unicef website for free assemblies on this & other topics [HERE](#).

British Science Week – 06 to 15 March 2025

This year's theme is

"Curiosity: What's Your Question?"

focusing on sparking inquisitive thinking in STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, & Maths) through nationwide activities, free downloadable packs, and grants for community events, all coordinated by the British Science Association.



Find out more and download FREE activity packs for all age groups [HERE](#)

Foundation Governor Nominations

Please ask your clerk to review the terms of office for your foundation governors. If there are any which are due to expire before the end of June 2026, you will need to prepare and submit nominations forms along with a reference from the incumbent.

Procedures and guidance are on our website [HERE](#)



Please note: The deadline for sending us your paperwork is **04 March**. The DBE Board only meet 3 times per year. If you miss this deadline, the next meeting isn't until June.

DBE Governor Two Part Training Programme

Part 1 Tuesday 14 April **Part 2** Tuesday 16 June. Both sessions ONLINE 18:00-20:00

This programme is for ANY governor not just foundation governors.



Essential for new governors and a refresher course for existing governors who haven't accessed DBE training for a while. Provides firm foundations to carry out role effectively as well as networking and discussion time with other governors in the diocese.

- What a church school is (and is not)
- The importance of ethos and vision
- RE in a church school
- SIAMS
- Collective Worship

Fee for both sessions: PA £125 / Non PA £250 (per school)
PA £25 / Non PA £40 (individual governor) Booking Form [HERE](#)

Upcoming Briefings – held online

Headteachers

10:00 Thursday 12 February
10:00 Monday 16 March

Governors (chairs, clerks, foundation governors)

19:00 Thursday 12 February
19:00 Monday 16 March

Collective Worship

16:00 Tuesday 10 February
16:00 Tuesday 17 March

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.

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

UPCOMING TRAINING

SIAMS Inspection Networking

Q2 - How does the curriculum reflect the Christian Vision?

16:00 Thursday 12 February, online

Q3 - Collective Worship and Spirituality

16:00 Tuesday 03 March, online

Q4 - Theologically rooted Christian vision & treating people well

16:00 Tuesday 24 March, online

Q5 - Justice & responsibility

16:00 Thursday 30 April, online

Fee: PA £25 / Non PA £40 per session.

BUNDLE (all 6 networking sessions): PA £100 / £200

Booking form [HERE](#)



Early Career Teachers

Essential for all new teachers. RE is often a subject that teachers feel less confident teaching and this programme will improve both subject knowledge and confidence.

Subject Knowledge in RE & World Views - 13:00 Thursday 23 April, online

Fee for both sessions: PA £60 / Non-PA £120 (per school)

Booking form [HERE](#)

SIAMS Framework Training

2 dates/venues are offered (content is repeated)

13:00 Tuesday 24 February, online

18:00 Wednesday 06 May, online

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

Primary RE Development Training

Useful for RE Subject Leads & any staff teaching or helping to deliver RE.

3 dates/venues are offered (content is repeated)

Spring Term Focus: Practical Examples of Ways of Knowing

Wednesday 04 March 2026 13:30 - 16:30 Chapel-en-le-Frith CE Primary School

Thursday 05 March 2026 09:00 - 12:00 Hartington Village Hall

Thursday 05 March 2026 13:30 - 16:30 Church House, Derby

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

Understanding Christianity – Refresher Workshop

In-person event for schools already using the Understanding Christianity resource

Tuesday 24 March, 09:30 -12:30 or 13:00 - 16:00 Church House, Full Street, Derby

Fee: PA £40 / Non PA £85 Booking Form [HERE](#)

Key Dates for 2025/2026 Academic Year

Spring Term

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
FOUNDATION GOVERNORS Start renewal process for TOO ending before 30 June – see website HERE Deadline to submit application form & reference for TOO ending before 30 June	04 March
ADMISSIONS (VA schools & Academy Trusts) Governing Body must determine (formally approve) policy for 2027-2028. Guidance on website HERE	28 February
ADMISSIONS (VA schools & Academy Trusts) Deadline to publish policy on website and forward a copy to LA and Derby DBE. Guidance on website HERE	15 March
BISHOP'S BADGE Deadline for nominations	31 April
HEADTEACHER CONFERENCE Details & booking links on CPD programme	
EXEC / HEADTEACHER / HEAD OF SCHOOL RECRUITMENT Start process if notice has been given. Derby 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

Admission Appeal Hearings for Academic Year 2025-2026

APPEALS LODGED BETWEEN		SCHOOL CASE SENT TO DBE No later than	DBE SEND OUT PAPERS	HEARING
FRI 20-Jun	TUES 22-Jul	FRI 22-Aug	THURS 04-Sept	THURS 11-Sept
THURS 04-Sep	FRI 19-Sep	FRI 03-Oct	TUES 07-Oct	TUES 14-Oct
MON 22-Sep	FRI 17-Oct	FRI 24-Oct	TUES 28-Oct	TUES 04-Nov
MON 20-Oct	FRI 14-Nov	FRI 21-Nov	TUES 25-Nov	TUES 02-Dec
MON 17-Nov	FRI 05-Dec	FRI 12-Dec	THU 18-Dec	THU 08-Jan
MON 08-Dec	FRI 09-Jan	FRI 17-Jan	THU 23-Jan	THU 29-Jan
MON 12-Jan	FRI 06-Feb	FRI 13-Feb	THU 19-Feb	THU 26-Feb
MON 09-Feb	FRI 06-Mar	FRI 13-Mar	THU 19-Mar	THU 26-Mar
MON 09-Mar	FRI 20-Mar	FRI 17-Apr	THU 23-Apr	THU 30-Apr
MON 23-Mar	FRI 24-Apr	FRI 01-May	THU 07-May	THU 14-May
MON 27-Apr	FRI 15-May	FRI 22-May	THU 04-Jun	THU 11-Jun
MON 18-May	FRI 12-Jun	FRI 19-Jun	THU 25-Jun	THU 02-Jul
MON 15-Jun	FRI 03-Jul	FRI 10-Jul	TUES 14-Jul	TUES 21-Jul
MON 06-Jul	THU 23-Jul	FRI 21-Aug	TUES *-Sep	TUES *-Sept

School holiday dates:

Half Term 27-31 October / Christmas Holidays 22 December-02 January / Half Term 16-20 February / Easter Holidays 30 Mar-10 April / Half Term 25-29 May