

Newsletter – JANUARY 2026

Happy New Year!

We hope you had a restful and happy Christmas with friends and loved ones and are feeling refreshed and invigorated ready for the new spring term.



Admissions Policy

VA schools - A reminder that your governing body must meet to formally determine your policy for 2027/28 admissions by **28 February**. The policy must then be published on your website by **15 March**.

For clarity, from **15 March**, your school website must show **3 policies** – current year, 2025/26 and 2026/27. See our website for guidance [HERE](#).

SAVE THE DATE!

Thursday 18 June

Headteachers' conference - venue The Hayes in Swanwick.



Thursday 25 June

Bishop's Badge service to commemorate school children who embody diocesan values - venue Derby Cathedral.



RSPB Big Schools' Birdwatch 2026

Get counting in your school grounds at any time between 06 January and 13 February 2026.

This free scheme encourages pupils to discover more wildlife and connect with nature. Register and download resources [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.

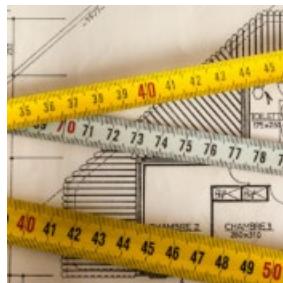
Essential for new governors and a refresher course for existing governors who haven't accessed DBE training for a while. Provides firm foundations to carry out role effectively as well as networking and discussion time with other governors in the diocese.

- 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](#)



DfE Net Capacity Assessment Programme

The DfE has informed Derby DBE that some schools will be contacted as part of Phase 2 of the Net Capacity Assessment programme.

If you have any questions about buildings matters, please contact [Jason](#) in the first instance. Our website also has lots of information [HERE](#)
Find out about the DfE's Net Capacity Assessment (NCA) [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 Easter project workshops.

The project can be adapted to suit individual schools & can be split into workshops looking at different sections of the Easter story:



Palm Sunday / Washing of the feet / Last supper / Garden of Gethsemane / Trial
Crucifixion / Rolling away of the stone / Mary at the Tomb / Resurrection

If you would like more information, call 07775 628442 or visit their [website](#).

Mental Health

The Mental health First Aid website has lots of guidance and free resources [HERE](#) to help you check your own and others' mental health.





Spotlight on Newton Solney CE Infant School



The school's Nativity performance was truly unique and unforgettable this academic year with the children performing the world première of a "Rocking Christmas Story" - a fresh and exciting way to tell the traditional Christmas story.

The script, songs and music were written by a talented governor, Ms Aimee Flower, and generously gifted to the school. After weeks of fun rehearsals, the children brought the magical production to life with energy and enthusiasm.

Liz Seymour was invited to the first showing and was very impressed! The school was delighted to then welcome Bishop Malcolm the following day for the public performance. Everyone was blown away by the confidence and creativity of the infant children.

Davinia Gamble the headteacher, passed on deep gratitude to Aimee for making the special play possible and for creating cherished memories that will last for years to come.

Do let us know if you would like a spotlight on your school!



Upcoming Briefings – held online

Headteachers

13:30 Thursday 15 January
10:00 Thursday 12 February

Governors (chairs, clerks, foundation governors)

19:00 Thursday 15 January
19:00 Thursday 12 February

Collective Worship

16:00 Tuesday 13 January
16:00 Tuesday 10 February

RE

15:45 Thursday 08 January (with Debbie Yeomans)

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



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. Timings have been carefully considered to try and allow staff to travel home for the virtual sessions.

Why RE? - 13:00 Wednesday 14 January, online

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

13:00 Tuesday 24 February, 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](#)

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

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

Key Dates for 2024/2025 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 | | FRI 22-Aug | THURS 04-Sept | | THURS 11-Sept |
| THURS 04-Sep | | FRI 03-Oct | TUES 07-Oct | | TUES 14-Oct |
| MON 22-Sep | | FRI 24-Oct | TUES 28-Oct | | TUES 04-Nov |
| MON 20-Oct | | FRI 21-Nov | TUES 25-Nov | | TUES 02-Dec |
| MON 17-Nov | | FRI 12-Dec | THU 18-Dec | | THU 08-Jan |
| MON 08-Dec | | FRI 17-Jan | THU 23-Jan | | THU 29-Jan |
| MON 12-Jan | | FRI 13-Feb | THU 19-Feb | | THU 26-Feb |
| MON 09-Feb | | FRI 13-Mar | THU 19-Mar | | THU 26-Mar |
| MON 09-Mar | | FRI 17-Apr | THU 23-Apr | | THU 30-Apr |
| MON 23-Mar | | FRI 01-May | THU 07-May | | THU 14-May |
| MON 27-Apr | | FRI 22-May | THU 04-Jun | | THU 11-Jun |
| MON 18-May | | FRI 19-Jun | THU 25-Jun | | THU 02-Jul |
| MON 15-Jun | | FRI 10-Jul | TUES 14-Jul | | TUES 21-Jul |
| MON 06-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