Diocese of Derby

The Diocesan Board of Education

Newsletter – NOVEMBER 2026



Admissions Policies – For all VA schools & Academies

Your Admissions Policy must be reviewed each year with a full consultation at least every 7 years. Please refer to the checklist & review the guidance documentation on our website which explains all that you need to know. **The deadline for sending us your 2028/2029 policy is 30 November.** **If you are consulting, the deadline was 01 November.**

If your school is an academy in a MAT, you should liaise with your central team to check arrangements.

Inter Faith Week – 08 to 15 November

Their website has free resources to help schools take part in and dive into this year's theme, **'Lighting the Way for a Shared Future'**. There is also a national schools' poetry competition accepting submissions from mid-October.

Inter Faith Week

There are lots of ways to get involved with Inter Faith Week – see the **website** to find events happening in your local area, different ideas and ways to take part.



World Kindness Day – 13 November

World Kindness Day was introduced in 1998 by the World Kindness Movement. Its core purpose is to highlight good deeds in the community and to focus on the common thread of kindness that binds us all together. It's a day to celebrate and promote acts of kindness, both big and small, encouraging individuals and communities to embrace compassion and empathy. There are plenty of resources online with ideas for schools:
School of Kindness; Worth It; Little Owls

Anti Bullying Week – 16 to 20 November

This year's theme is "Break the Silence", focusing on encouraging conversations, speaking up, listening, and taking action against both face-to-face and online bullying. The week kicks off with "Odd Socks Day" to celebrate individuality and uniqueness.

Odd Socks Day

Free lesson plans, assembly guides, films, and online safety toolkits are available via the BBC Teach Anti-Bullying Resources and the Anti-Bullying Alliance.

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UK Parliament Week (UKPW) 23 – 29 November



UKPW is an annual event, spreading the word about what UK Parliament is, what it does and how you can get involved.

FREE kits are available with booklets tailored for different age groups including primary schools.
You can download an information pack HERE

The Gift of Christmas

This year's theme focuses on the first and greatest Christmas gift of all: the gift of God being born as one of us in Jesus Christ. Read more HERE.

The Gift of Christmas invites us to join with our communities this Advent and Christmas:

- to **celebrate** the great gift God offers to each one of us in the birth of Jesus
- to **receive** that gift – and all God gives to us – with gratitude and joy, and
- to **respond** to God's generosity by serving others, especially those in need

Growing Faith Research Projects (Early Years)

Growing Faith Foundation
Church of England

offer practitioners, advisers and academics the opportunity to undertake small-scale local research exploring how churches, schools and families can work together to support young children's spiritual, faith and overall development. Suggested themes include spiritual flourishing, transitions to school, family partnerships, worship, Forest Church, and early intervention.

Application Deadline: 04 December 2026 Link to Application Guidance

Let's Go Zero

The Let's Go Zero campaign is a national initiative uniting UK schools, colleges, and nurseries to reach zero carbon emissions by 2030.

The OVO Foundation Nature Prize offers 30 prizes of £500 across three categories: Adaptation and Resilience, Community, and Green Skills. Apply HERE

Deadline for applications is 16 November.

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Foundation Governors Needed

Could you use your gifts, experience and generous faith to make a difference for children and young people and help shape the future of our church schools?

Foundation governors play a vital role in enabling our schools to be beacons of hope, upholding the Christian vision and values that sit at the heart of education across the Diocese of Derby. By becoming a foundation governor, you will help nurture courageous hope, life-giving love and strong school communities where every child can flourish.

This is a key opportunity to put children and young people at the heart of the diocesan vision. No previous governance experience is required. We will provide training, guidance and ongoing support to help you grow into the role with confidence.

You can view current vacancies here: Foundation Governor Vacancies If you are interested but can't see a school in your local area listed, please still get in touch. We would love to speak with you about current and upcoming opportunities to serve our church school family.

Together, we can help our schools flourish as places of hope, faith and transformation for the communities they serve. Please get in touch at lindsey.bowe@derby.anglican.org

Flourish

FLOURISH is a Church of England initiative exploring how churches and schools can work together to help children, young people, and families encounter the love of Jesus through worshipping communities rooted in schools. Join a two-hour introduction for clergy with headteachers on **26 November 2026** in **Tideswell** (10:00-12:00) or **Allestree, Derby** (14:00-16:00. Learn about the FLOURISH model, partnership working, examples from the national pilot, and practical next steps.

Book via growingyounger@derby.anglican.org

Free Song Bank

Bright Futures Un-Ltd have recently launched their FREE Songbank: a growing collection of original songs and resources designed to support schools with collective worship, assemblies and celebrations throughout the year.

Their latest song is called Greatest Story - a lovely, uplifting song for schools to use in Christmas services, assemblies and celebrations. For more information see HERE

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Facebook Page

Derby DBE now has a dedicated Facebook page.
If your school has any forthcoming celebration and good news stories to share, do let us know! You can follow us HERE

Springs Dance Company

SPRINGS DANCE COMPANY

offers an active, creative way for pupils to engage with the RE curriculum through dance and drama. Bookings are open for:

- A Christmas Story: Refugee – Inspired by Anne Booth's book Refuge, pupils explore the first Christmas through dance, drama & discussion.
- The Nativity Project - Let Springs Dance Company co-create with your pupils a fresh, bespoke Nativity performance, incorporating your favourite songs and readings.
- The Easter Project – A dynamic look at the Easter story, available as a 1-day session or full project ending in a performance.

"They clearly enjoyed the session - with many asking when the dancers would be back!"
- KS2 Teacher Matlock Bath Holy Trinity CofE Primary School
Find out more HERE



RISE Theatre

"Treasure Within" is a dynamic, all-day experience for primary schools that follows a school child who is set a unique homework assignment - to discover 7 treasures inspired by the principles of Catholic social teaching principles.

Through live theatre, music, classroom activities, and interactive workshops pupils explore values and themes that also complement the **Church of England's principle of the Common Good.** As they journey through the day children reflect on how the treasures help us live well, care of others and play an active role in building communities where everyone can flourish.

The 7 principles explored in 'Treasure Within':

- Life and dignity of the human person
- Call to family, community, and participation
- Care for God's creation
- Rights and responsibilities
- Option for the poor and vulnerable
- The dignity of work and rights of workers
- Solidarity

Click here to watch the Treasure Within trailer or contact admin@risetheatre.co.uk

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Training



See our website for full details of all the courses we offer.

Governor Two-Part Training Programme
Part 2 - 09 November, 18:00-20:00, online
Essential for new governors & a refresher of what it means to be a governor of a church school.

SIAMS
Q5 networking – Justice & Responsibility
18 November, 13:30-15:00, online

Q6/7 networking – Religious Education
26 November, 16:00-17:30, online

Help! New RE Coordinators
18 November

If you have questions about the training we offer, contact Liz

Upcoming Briefings



Headteachers
10:30 Monday 23 November
10:30 January

Governors (chairs, clerks, foundation governors)
19:00 Monday 23 November
19:00 January

Collective Worship
16:00 Monday 09 November

If you would like details, please contact the DBE office

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.

Christmas Card Competition 2026

The winning entry will be used for Derby DBE's official Christmas card for 2026 & will 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 scan entries & email to officeDBE@derby.anglican.org or post 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 20 November

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Key Dates for 2026/2027 Academic Year

Autumn 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
PARTNERSHIP AGREEMENT Sign up via website HERE	
LAND & BUILDINGS COLLECTION RETURN for Academy Trusts More information HERE	
KEY CONTACTS & EMAILS School office to complete online form HERE	31 October
ADMISSIONS: CONSULTING - *VA schools & Academies only* Review policy for 2 years ahead & send draft to DBE. Guidance on website HERE	01 November
FOUNDATION GOVERNORS Deadline to submit application form & reference for TOO ending before 28 Feb	15 October
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
CHRISTMAS CARD COMPETITION Deadline for submission	20 November
ADMISSIONS: NOT CONSULTING - *VA schools & Academies only* Review policy for 2 years ahead & send draft to DBE. Guidance on website HERE	30 November
HEADTEACHER CONFERENCE 22 June 2027 at The Hayes Conference Centre Booking form HERE	ASAP
EXEC / HEADTEACHER / HEAD OF SCHOOL 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 nina.hern@derby.anglican.org

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Admission Appeal Hearings for Academic Year 2026-2027

APPEALS LODGED BETWEEN		SCHOOL CASE SENT TO DBE No later than	DBE SEND OUT PAPERS	HEARING
FRI 13-Jul	THURS 23-Jul	FRI 04-Sept	THURS 10-Sept	THURS **17-Sept**
MON 07-Sep	FRI 25-Sep	FRI 02-Oct	THURS 08-Oct	THURS **15-Oct**
MON 28-Sep	FRI 23-Oct	FRI 30-Oct	THURS 05-Nov	THURS **12-Nov**
MON 26-Oct	FRI 20-Nov	FRI 27-Nov	THURS 03-Dec	THURS **10-Dec**
MON 23-Nov	FRI 04-Dec	FRI 11-Dec	THURS 17-Dec	THURS **07-Jan**
MON 07-Dec	FRI 08-Jan	FRI 15-Jan	THURS 21-Jan	THURS **28-Jan**
MON 11-Jan	FRI 05-Feb	FRI 12-Feb	THURS 18-Feb	THURS **25-Feb**
MON 08-Feb	FRI 05-Mar	FRI 12-Mar	TUES 16-Mar	TUES **23-Mar**
MON 08-Mar	FRI 19-Mar	FRI 16-Apr	THURS 22-Apr	THURS **29-Apr**
MON 22-Mar	FRI 23-Apr	FRI 30-Apr	THURS 06-May	THURS **13-May**
MON 26-Apr	FRI 14-May	FRI 28-May	THURS 03-Jun	THURS **10-Jun**
MON 17-May	FRI 11-Jun	FRI 18-Jun	THURS 24-Jun	THURS **01-Jul**
MON 14-Jun	FRI 02-Jul	FRI 09-Jul	TUES 13-Jul	TUES **20-Jul**
MON 05-Jul	THU 23-Jul	FRI 03-Sept	THURS 09-Sep	THURS 16-**Sept**

School holiday dates:

Half Term 26-30 October / Christmas Holidays 21 December-01 January / Half Term 16-20 February / Easter Holidays 26 Mar-09 April / Half Term 31-04 Jun