



# **Pupil Experiences**

## **Autumn 2025 – Summer 2026**

*Please note that we respond to the needs of our schools throughout the year and our website is kept updated with changes and additions, please check the website for the most current training available.*

<https://www.leicesterdbে.org/training-and-events-2/>

## Introduction

The pupil experiences booklet has been introduced for the first time during the academic year of 2025-2026. This is to ensure that all schools are aware of experiences and opportunities that already exist for pupil educational visits across the Diocese, as well as new events and competitions that we have created for the 2025-2026 academic year. This is to support Church Schools in living out their Christian Distinctiveness and to live out our DBE vision which is to 'Transform the lives of Children and Young People' by being:

**Effective** - As a result of visionary leadership and inspirational teaching, children and young people in the Diocese of Leicester achieve excellence. They are well-rounded and confident with a strong sense of self-worth. As learners transformed, they in turn transform their communities.

**Distinctive** - Unequivocally Christ-like, our schools offer children and young people the opportunity to hear the Christian response to life's big questions. Christian Worship is invitational, offering the whole school community an opportunity for renewal and to encounter the person of Jesus Christ. Religious Education is exemplary, enabling a genuine understanding of the role of faith and belief in modern society.

**Rooted** - Our schools are rooted in prayer, partnership with parish and wider community and the teachings of Jesus Christ. Children and young people receive excellent Religious Education equipping them with a firm knowledge of the Christian faith and other key faiths.

**Inclusive** - Like Jesus himself, our schools are 'scandalously inclusive'. Children and families from all faiths and none are welcomed, respected, and cherished. Serving the community in which they are placed, our schools exemplify, 'love your neighbour'.

The events and experiences outlined in this document are just as useful for Community Schools and would help them add richness to the RE curriculum and SMSC offer.

This document should be read in conjunction with the DBE partnership agreement and CPD programme so that schools are aware of everything on offer.

If a school has another idea that they would like to explore such as an RE pupil day or something else, please email [tracey.manns@leicesterdbbe.org](mailto:tracey.manns@leicesterdbbe.org) who can explore possibilities with you.

Detailed information or bookings can be made available by emailing the DBE office email at: [Officedbe@leicesterdbbe.org](mailto:Officedbe@leicesterdbbe.org)

## Educational visits

### Leicester Cathedral

Leicester Cathedral is situated in the heart of a vibrant and diverse city and welcomes school visits from all faiths and religious denominations. Our school programme has been newly developed, and from 2025 we are excited to be able to share our new Heritage and Learning facility.

The Cathedral sessions can be adapted to meet SEND requirements, and the workshops follow the National Curriculum and the Leicestershire Agreed Syllabus for RE.

They offer inclusive, fun and engaging workshops and our education team look forward to welcoming you for a visit.

Each visit begins with a welcome from the education team and a chance for pupils to soak in the surroundings. If you would like to include a prayer of thanks and the chance to light a candle for your school at the end of your session, please let them know.

There are numerous workshop options to choose from and this allows schools to create a bespoke package suitable to your requirements. Suitability for Key Stages is shown on each workshop with each session adapted to meet the needs of the age you are booking for. Click the link below for more details and to book your visit.

<https://leicestercathedral.org/school-visits>

### Pupil Spirituality Day

This pupil workshop gives pupils an opportunity to explore who they are and what makes them unique. This is then used to initiate a discussion to explore what spirituality is and how it *can* be understood (recognising that it can be different for everyone). The workshop will include activities to explore connections to self, others, the world and God and will include time to engage with prayer spaces. The workshop is 2 hours and there is a maximum of 55 pupils for each workshop. This could be a good opportunity for spirituality ambassadors or your worship council to get together with other schools within a trust or collaborative and work together. This can be run within your school or at St Martin's House, Leicester (led by Tracey Manns). If coming to Leicester, it can also be combined with a visit to the Cathedral. The pack can be sent into school for you to run yourself for free, or there will be a small cost if you would like it to be led by the DBE.

If you would like to arrange this workshop for your school, trust or collaborative, then please contact [Officedbe@leicesterdbe.org](mailto:Officedbe@leicesterdbe.org) where costs and dates can be discussed.

### Pupil Collective Worship Day

This pupil workshop gives pupils an opportunity to explore the purpose of Collective Worship and what is meant by different spiritual styles. The workshop will include activities to help pupils know how to effectively plan and lead their own Collective Worship and how to maximise spiritual styles that pupils may have in their own contexts. Pupils will plan their own Collective Worship whilst in the workshop. The workshop is 2 hours and there is a maximum of 55 pupils for each workshop. This could be a good opportunity for your worship council to get together with other schools within a trust or collaborative and work together. This can be run within your school or at St Martin's House, Leicester. If coming to Leicester, it can also be combined with a visit to the Cathedral. The pack can be sent into school for you to run yourself for free, or there will be a small cost if you would like it to be led by the DBE.

If you would like to arrange this workshop for your school, trust or collaborative, then please contact [Officedbe@leicesterdbe.org](mailto:Officedbe@leicesterdbe.org) where costs and dates can be discussed.

## Eco Schools Extravaganza

5<sup>th</sup> March 2026, St Martins House

Leicester Diocesan Board of Education invites your school to this exciting day event full of challenges, workshops, and an opportunity to showcase and win awards for pupil's climate projects with other schools. These activities are designed to enrich pupil engagement with environmental action and understanding, with relation to the 4 key strands of the Department of Education's Climate Action framework:

- Decarbonisation
- Adaptation and Resilience
- Biodiversity
- Climate Education and Green Careers

This extravaganza is a great opportunity for pupils to share and develop their understanding of climate action within their school, across the diocese and beyond, while having lots of fun. This event is free, but places are limited. You can register your interest in this event by emailing [Officedbe@leicesterdbe.org](mailto:Officedbe@leicesterdbe.org)

## Drama experiences

### Easter performance

Easter commemorates the trial and crucifixion of Jesus Christ in around 30AD and his resurrection, which is celebrated on Easter Sunday. Easter Sunday is the most significant date in the Christian calendar. This marks the day that Jesus rose from the dead. His followers discovered that his tomb was empty. Many Christians believe he appeared to them and hundreds of other people over a period of six weeks. The performances below are a theatrical retelling of the Easter story which are sure to engage pupils and help them to learn more about this important Christian festival. These live performances are organised and performed in partnership with Holy Trinity Leicester. The date below will be confirmed once we have gauged interest from schools for this performance.

**23<sup>rd</sup> March 2026 (AM), Holy Trinity Church, Leicester**

Limited places available. Please register interest by emailing [Officedbe@leicesterdbe.org](mailto:Officedbe@leicesterdbe.org) Please DO NOT organise transport until you have received an confirmation email.

**Fee:** Free (please consider using the Alderman Newton fund for transport costs <https://anef.org.uk/> )

## Escape rooms

In partnership with Holy Trinity Leicester, the DBE have produced escape room activities to engage with the Christian festival of Pentecost. The escape room has been created to need minimal resources or preparation time. Schools who would like the materials will be sent the printable resources which have full instructions on how to set up and run the escape room along with materials needed. The escape room is created for a whole class to complete at any one time. To access this resource, please email [Officedbe@leicesterdbe.org](mailto:Officedbe@leicesterdbe.org)

## Competitions

### Christmas Card

The DBE run an annual competition for pupils to design the DBE Christmas Card. The winning Christmas Card design will win a prize as well as the design being produced and sent round to the 97 Church Schools within the Diocese of Leicester. The design will also be showcased on our website. Please send your entries by **Friday 21<sup>st</sup> November** either digitally to [Officedbe@leicesterdbbe.org](mailto:Officedbe@leicesterdbbe.org) or through the post to:

### Celebrating 100 years of the Diocese

The Diocese of Leicester celebrates its 100 years during 2026 and we would love you to get involved with the Celebrations. In the Autumn term of 2025, you will be sent an email asking if you would like to get involved with the Bishop and Youth Council listening exercise (see page 8) which will be focused around community, and getting pupils to reflect on what community means and what impact it can have both on individuals and groups. You will also be sent Collective Worship resources to engage with this idea of community, to celebrate 100 years of the diocese and how a Diocese and the Church School family is an example of a community. The listening exercise will prompt pupils to create something around community like a piece of Art, poem, dance, music or drama etc... This creation will help them show what they have learnt about communities and their impact. In 2025, the NATRE spirited ARTs competition included a question around community and so any schools who answered this question could use their entry for this competition as well. <https://www.natre.org.uk/about-natre/projects/spirited-arts/>

Entries will need to be sent in either physically or digitally by **Friday 16<sup>th</sup> January 2026**. Winning entries will be displayed in the Cathedral during an event around February half term 2026. More details will be sent to those involved. Please send entries to the email or address found in the Christmas card competition.

### End of year hopes and prayers

As pupils near the end of an academic year, it can be a time to think about what they have learnt over the past year, the friendships they have cultivated and the skills and abilities they have acquired. It can also be a time to think about what is important to them and what they hope and/or pray for over the next year. It can also be a time to process any worries, doubts or uncertainties. This competition asks pupils to create something which helps them reflect on the year they have had and the year that is ahead of them. It could be something from the list below or their own idea.

- Poem
- Prayer
- Piece of Art
- Creation of a prayer/reflective space

Entries must be sent to the DBE using the same details as above for the Christmas Competition by **Friday 19<sup>th</sup> June 2026**.

## Listening exercises

### **Bishop Youth Council**

Bishops' Youth Council has been meeting in Leicester Diocese for more than 15 years. During that time, it has evolved through its members and focus. The Youth Council has met with Archbishops, organised events, attended General Synod and visited link dioceses. The one constant has been representing young voices. Currently in the Diocese, we are experimenting with a termly children and youth-led listening process. This process involves engaging young people in a specific topic through fun activities and discussion and allowing their voice to be heard. You can get involved in this within your own schools by clicking the link below for more information. The Autumn term 2025 listening exercise will be focused around the theme of community and links with the Centenary of the Diocese (see page 5).

<https://www.leicester.anglican.org/info-for-parishes/children-families-and-young-people/bishops-children-and-youth-council-bcyc/>

## Events and celebrations

### **Primary Leavers Collective Worship**

This is a zoom CW for year 6 or year 2 pupils (if in an infant school) to celebrate their time in primary school and look ahead to their next step. Every school that signs up for this will receive the zoom link a week before the event. It will last approximately 20 minutes and could be accessed as a whole school or in individual classrooms.

- 25<sup>th</sup> June 2026, 10.30am.

### **Secondary leavers Collective Worship**

This is a recorded assembly that could be used for year 11 or year 13 pupils. It allows them space to reflect on their time at school, their next step and thinking about their skills, talents, and gifts. Please email [Officedbe@leicesterdbe.org](mailto:Officedbe@leicesterdbe.org) to access this worship.

