



# JANUARY 2026 NEWSLETTER

## Visit from the Bishop of Kiteto

Harby CofE Primary School recently had an amazing visit from the Bishop of Kiteto in Tanzania, the Rt Revd Bethuel Mlula, and his wife, Bishop Mama Agnes. The Harby pupils enjoyed learning about how life, the land and animals are different in Kiteto and asked some really good questions. They presented the Bishops with some welcome cards they made while sharing what their life is like in rural Leicestershire. Take a look at the pictures!



## Holocaust Memorial Day Resources

Holocaust Memorial Day is a national day that takes place on 27 January. It is a commemoration the six million Jewish men, women and children murdered during the Holocaust and the millions more murdered under Nazi persecution, as well as in other countries more recently. The Holocaust Memorial Day Trust have created a whole series of [new resources](#) to help you teach pupils more about the Holocaust and plan your own Holocaust Memorial Day activities and commemorations.

## Weekly Wellbeing Reflections

This is a reminder that the DBE team releases a [weekly reflection video which is available free of charge on our website](#). These videos become available every Friday, ready for the next week of term. Please do take a moment to have a look at these short videos and share them with your teams as you feel appropriate too.



## The Service Children's Progression Alliance

The Service Children's Progression (SCiP) Alliance is a partnership of organisations focused on improving outcomes for children from Armed Forces families. Bringing together practitioners, researchers, policymakers and funders to build a stronger evidence-base, better policy, and enhanced support for Service children's education and their progression.

Underpinned by rigorous research and thoroughly tested in schools, the organisation offers a **free Thriving Lives Toolkit**, which provides schools with a framework of 7 principles through which to reflect on their practice and a 3-tier set of CPD resources. The resources in this toolkit have been developed in collaboration with a range of partners across the UK, and consist of:

- An introductory animation;
- A detailed resource introducing the evidence base, what schools can do to support their Service children and who can help and;
- School case studies

To access this free self-assessment tool for your school or trust, click [HERE](http://www.scipalliance.org/thriving-lives-toolkit)

Service Children's Progression  
**ALLIANCE**

helping schools support Armed Forces children

**Thriving Lives toolkit**

**Simple** 7 principles of effective support

**Accessible** Easily review and prioritise support online

**Evidence-led** Backed by research and testing in diverse primary and secondary school settings

**Effective** Supports learner engagement and wellbeing, and family-school relationships

**Support** Linked to school case studies and training

Start using the toolkit today at:  
[www.scipalliance.org/thriving-lives-toolkit](http://www.scipalliance.org/thriving-lives-toolkit)

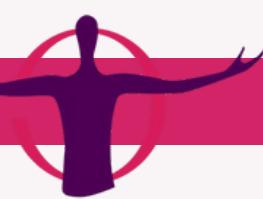
"Practical, real-life advice, supported by educational research"  
Service Pupil Coordinator, secondary school

#thrivinglives

helping schools "identify children, upskill staff and improve support"  
Family Support Advisor, primary school

Ministry of Defence

UNIVERSITY OF WINCHESTER



## Farmington Scholarships

The closing date on applications for the Farmington Scholarships 2026-27 is soon, on the **25th January 2026**.

These scholarships are open to Primary and Secondary teachers of RE. The scholarship provides a tutor and 30 days release from teaching, paid for by the scholarship. [Find out more and apply here.](#)

## Whose Worldviews? Resource

["Whose Worldviews?" is a free resource](#) for you to use with your pupils by RE Today. It is best suited for use with secondary pupils but could be used by pupils age 9-11 in the primary classroom.

Pupils (and anyone else!) can respond to questions about their idea of God, and the impact their worldviews have in their lives, and have their responses turned instantly into a graphic representation. These can then be compared across a group or a cohort, sorted according to age, location, religious or non-religious worldview. Teachers can [set up a group](#) to enable pupils in their classrooms to see visual representation of their ideas about God and how far ideas of religion have an impact on their personal worldview.

Please note that this is a public website and take care with any names/labels that identify your pupils too easily.

## Update to our Strategy for Small Church of England Schools

Please note that as of 09/01/26 Leicester Diocesan Board of Education's Strategy for Small Church of England Schools Document has been updated. We urge those in small schools to visit our website to review the new document in order to keep up-to-date. [CLICK HERE TO VIEW](#)



## Right of Withdrawal for RE and Collective Worship

Guidance published by the DBE has been updated recently to reflect the Supreme Court's recent ruling in Northern Ireland about a parent's right to withdraw their child from RE and/or Collective Worship. School leaders and governors should read the guidance published [HERE](#). Any guidance on your school's website should also be updated.

The key message is that in the event that a parent/carer requests for their child to be withdrawn from RE and/or Collective Worship, then this request should be granted without any delay. Schools should not insist that parents/carers meet with them before granting the request.

Please do contact Carolyn or Tracey if you require any further advice or guidance.

## Leicester Cathedral Price Increase

From February 23rd Leicester Cathedral's school pricing structure will be increased. Due to rising operational costs, it has become necessary for Leicester Cathedral to increase their prices and they have worked hard to keep these at a competitive rate and in line with similar establishments. Please be reassured that any bookings made prior to these changes will be honoured at the original rate.

The new prices, which will apply to all school visits booked from **23rd February**, are outlined below:

- Self-Led visit was 50p per student and the **new price will now be £1.00 per student**
- Taster Visit was £2.50 per student and the **new price will be £3.00 per student**
- Half Day visit was £4.50 per student and the **new price will be £5.50 per student**
- Seasonal Half Day visits (Like Easter and Christmas workshops) was £5.00 per student and the **new price will be £6.00 per student**
- Big Questions was £60 per group and the **new price will be £72 per group**
- Multi-Faith visit was £6.50 per student and the **new price will be £8.00 per student.**



## Update to RE Statement of Entitlement

Please see the link below for the new 2026 RE Statement of Entitlement. There are important updates in this version that schools and MATs must be aware of, see the new document [HERE](#).

## SAVE THE DATE 2025/2026



## Church school leadership sessions (held online)

Please use the [BookWhen](#) system on our website to reserve your place.

- 11th February – 09:30 – 10:30 – Pupil led CW
- No headteacher briefing in March owing to Headteacher conference
- 16th April – 13:00 – 14:00 – Creating positive working cultures
- 20th May – 10:00 – 11:00 – Inspirational Collective Worship
- 10th June – 09:30-11:30 (in person at St Martin’s House) – headteacher carousel

## **Governor Briefings (held online)**

Please use the [BookWhen](#) system on our website to reserve your place.

- 11th February – 11:00 – 12:00
- 17th March – 10:00 – 11:00
- 16th April – 14:00 – 15:00
- 13th May – 11:00 – 12:00
- 10th June – 12:00 – 13:00

Do remember to visit our [website](#) for lots of useful information and guidance. See below for information on our upcoming [Headteacher's Conference](#) and [RE Syllabus Launch](#) event.



**BOOK NOW!**

<https://bookwhen.com/ldbe/e/ev-s3b3e-20260611090000>

# 2026 RE SYLLABUS LAUNCH

**11<sup>TH</sup> JUNE 2026**

**9AM – 3:30PM**

**THE GRAND HALL, ST MARTIN'S HOUSE  
CONFERENCE CENTRE,  
7 PEACOCK LANE, LEICESTER, LE1 5PZ**

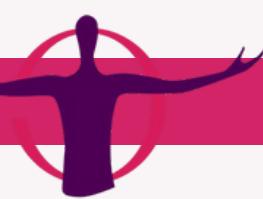
## **WHAT TO EXPECT:**

- Training led by a primary and secondary National RE advisor from RE today, open to all schools within Leicestershire.
- Key note speakers will talk through the changes to the 2026 syllabus and give resources and information to help teachers with the implementation of these changes.
- All schools will receive the syllabus on the day.
- Opportunities to take part in round table discussions and network with other colleagues.
- Refreshments and hot lunch included.

**BOOK NOW!**

<https://bookwhen.com/ldbe/e/ev-s3b3e-20260611090000>

Please note that there are only 100 spaces available for the 11<sup>th</sup> June, but an additional date of 18th June has been reserved for a duplicate event for if all tickets are booked.



**12-13  
MARCH  
2026**

**ST MARTIN'S HOUSE**  
7 PEACOCK LN, LEICESTER  
LE1 5PZ

**HOLIDAY INN**  
129 ST. NICHOLAS  
CIRCLE LEICESTER,  
LE1 5LX



Diocese of **Leicester**  
Board of Education

# **HEADTEACHER CONFERENCE**

## *Flourishing Leaders*

**A SPECIAL RESIDENTIAL GATHERING AS  
A FAMILY OF CHURCH SCHOOLS**

- A chance to stop, reflect and recharge while connecting with colleagues
- Refreshments, lunch and dinner
- Entertainment



**Bishop Saju**

**OPENING THE  
CONFERENCE WITH  
REFLECTIONS ON  
LEADERSHIP**



**Elizabeth Olulari**

**KEYNOTE ON CREATING  
SCHOOL CULTURES OF  
EQUITY, DIVERSITY,  
INCLUSION AND JUSTICE**



**Andy Wolfe**

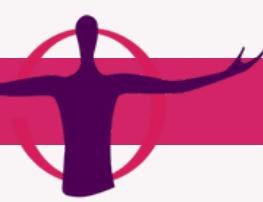
**KEYNOTE ON WHAT  
FLOURISHING LEADERSHIP  
LOOKS LIKE**

### **WHAT TO EXPECT?**

- Opening reflections from Bishop Saju
- Keynote from Elizabeth Olulari, the National Lead for Racial Justice at the Church of England Education Office
- Keynote from Andy Wolfe, the Executive Director of Education from The National Society for Education
- The opportunity to visit the Stephen Lawrence Research Centre
- Seminars to reflect on your leadership:
  - Stuart Burns and Matt Long on authentic partnerships between school and Church to hear the voices of children and young people.
  - Leading in a SEND crisis
  - Professional development
  - RE and creating pupil leaders

**BOOK YOUR PLACE BY THE END OF JANUARY 2026**

<https://bookwhen.com/ldbe/e/ev-s0xp-20260312110000>



<h1>February</h1>						
Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
26 International Day of Clean Energy	27 Holocaust Memorial Day	28 International Lego Day	29 National Puzzle Day	30 Draw a Dinosaur Day	31 International Zebra Day	1 Yorkshire Pudding Day
2 National Hedgehog Day	3	4	5	6 Time to Talk Day / NSPCC Number Day	7	8
9 National Pizza Day	10 Safer Internet Day	11 International Day of Women & Girls in Science	12 Darwin Day	13 Red Nose Day / World Radio Day	14 Valentine's Day / Global Movie Day	15 World Whale Day
16	17 Lunar New Year / Random Act of Kindness Day	18	19	20 World Day of Social Justice	21	22
23	24	25	26 Tell a Fairy Tale Day	27 National Retro Day	28	1 Zero Discrimination Day
2	3 World Wildlife Day	4 National Grammar Day	5 World Book Day	6	7 Cereal Day	8 International Women's Day



 Picture News

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