



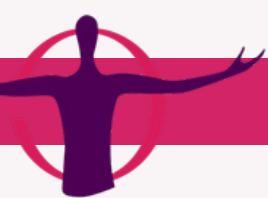
MAY 2026 NEWSLETTER

Those of you who attended our headteacher conference recently may recall Bishop Saju speaking with us and sharing the story of [Bahram Dehqani](#), along with the icon of him from All Saints Loughbrough.

Bahram was the brother of Bishop Guli who was the Bishop of Loughborough before Bishop Saju. Bahram remained in Iran when Guli and her family fled to the UK as refugees. Tragically, he was murdered and I was reminded about this event on the anniversary of his death, 6th May. As I reflected, I came across a prayer that Bishop Hassan wrote for his son's funeral which he sadly could not attend. It was read out by his wife, Margaret and I share it with you here:



*O God,
We remember not only Bahram, but also his murderers;
Not because they killed him in the prime of his youth and made our hearts bleed
and our tears flow,
Not because with this savage act they have brought further disgrace on the
name of our country among the civilised nations of the world,
But because through their crime we now follow thy footsteps more closely in the
way of sacrifice.
The terrible fire of this calamity burns up all selfishness and possessiveness in us;
Its flame reveals the depth of depravity and meanness and suspicion,
The dimension of hatred and the measure of sinfulness in human nature;
It makes obvious as never before our need to trust in God's love as shown in the
cross of Jesus and his resurrection;
Love which makes us free from hate towards our persecutors;
Love which brings patience, forbearance, courage, loyalty, humility, generosity,
greatness of heart;
Love which more than ever deepens our trust in God's final victory and his
eternal designs for the Church and for the world;
Love which teaches us how to prepare ourselves to face our own day of death.*



This prayer reminded me of the centrality of the love of God in my faith. I hope and pray for you all that you will know God's love today and in the days ahead - and that the children and young people in your care will know that too.

With every blessing

Book a slot to meet with the Director

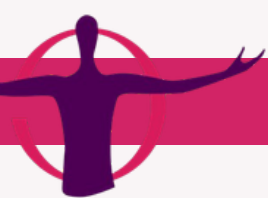
Carolyn is keen to meet routinely with headteachers. These meetings don't necessarily need an agenda but are an opportunity to share news and hear about the school. Most importantly though, they are an opportunity for the headteacher to speak in confidence. There are so many pressures facing school leaders and we are here to listen and support you as much as we can. There is a link in Carolyn's email signature to book a slot for an online meeting which is also found [HERE](#) – do please make use of it!



Complete our Climate Action Planning Survey

We recently sent out our annual climate action planning survey to keep up to date with your progress and offer you opportunities for support. To complete this very short form please click the link below, it should only take a couple of minutes.

Complete the form for your school here:
<https://forms.gle/LPkd7dfM65yezWpE9>



The Archbishops' Young Leaders Award (AYLA)

AYLA continues to grow across schools and dioceses nationwide, equipping children and young people to become courageous, compassionate leaders who are empowered to make a difference within their communities and beyond. Rooted in the Church of England Vision for Education, the programme develops leadership, character, pupil voice, and meaningful social action through engaging and accessible resources for pupils from KS1 through to Post-16.

Schools delivering AYLA consistently report increased confidence, deeper pupil engagement, stronger opportunities for student leadership, and meaningful links to Personal Development, SIAMS, SMSC, and collective worship. At its heart, AYLA encourages young people to recognise that leadership is not reserved for a select few but is something that can be lived out through service, courage, hope, and action.

Whether schools are already delivering the programme or are simply curious to find out more, our upcoming webinars provide a fantastic opportunity to explore the resources, hear about the impact in schools, and ask any questions about implementation.

Primary Webinars:

- 17th June 2026 - 3:45pm
- 1st July 2026 - 3:45pm
- 13th August - 1:15pm

Secondary Webinars:

- 24th June 2026 - 3:45pm
- 2nd July 2026 - 3:45pm
- 12th August - 1:15pm

For further information about AYLA, please contact Victoria Jones:

victoriajones@churchofengland.org

Further details and booking information and online booking can be found here:

www.nse.org.uk/ayla/whats-on



Diocese of Leicester
Board of Education



Leicestershire
County Council

BOOK NOW!

<https://bookwhen.com/l%20dbe/e/ev-s3b3e-%2020260611090000>

THE REVISED LEICESTERSHIRE RE AGREED SYLLABUS LAUNCH

GRAND HALL, ST MARTIN'S HOUSE, LE1 5PZ

11TH JUNE 2026

The 2021–2026 Leicestershire syllabus is updated and upgraded for 2026–2031. The revision takes account of national developments in RE since 2021, including the RE Council's religion and worldviews approach, Ofsted's three types of knowledge, including 'ways of knowing', and demographic changes. The new syllabus will be a **statutory requirement for all maintained schools** without a religious character and voluntary controlled CE schools, and it is recommended for all academies and CE aided schools.

PROGRAMME FOR CONFERENCE

8:50–9:20 Arrivals

9:20–9:30 Welcome and introduction

9:30–11:00 Session 1: Introducing the revised syllabus

Exploring the key features of the revisions to the agreed syllabus; what stays the same, what is new, and why. Focus on classroom ideas to put into action, and an introduction to a religion and worldviews approach.

11:30–13:00 Session 2: Applying 'ways of knowing' in RE: practical strategies

Sharing some active ideas to put the syllabus revisions into practice, exploring and applying 'ways of knowing' in the classroom. Teachers from secondary schools will move around midday for secondary-focused training for the rest of the day.

14:00–15:15 Session 3: Long-term planning; engaging pupils' personal worldviews

Practical guidance on constructing coherent long-term plans and takeaway ideas for embedding learning. This session also explores the complexity of pupils' worldviews and practical ways of exploring non-religiousness in the classroom.

15:15–15:30 Thanks and evaluations

Those attending the day will gain:

- Access to the new RE syllabus
- Access to additional support materials online, including all materials used in the day
- RE network opportunities

There will be the opportunity to order a supporting scheme of work, and to browse and purchase RE Today resources (to buy and take away, with invoices going to your school after the event).

Training led by Stephen Pett and Debbie Yeomans, RE Today

Aims:

- To engage with up-to-date ideas led by RE Today advisers who have a national reputation for high quality RE CPD
- To understand the current moves in RE towards a Religion and Worldviews approach, and to Ofsted's description of 'ways of knowing'.
- To inform schools about how to use the new syllabus as a planning tool, exploring sample teaching units, supportive resources and assessment practice
- To gain fresh insights, strategies and subject knowledge to take away and implement in your own school setting

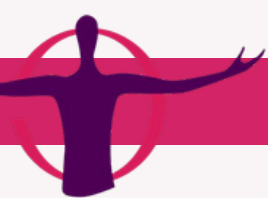
Who should attend?

Primary school teachers of RE, RE subject leaders, headteachers, school leaders, governors

Book Now! Via BookWhen on our website

<https://bookwhen.com/l%20dbe/e/ev-s3b3e-%2020260611090000>

Cost: £100 per delegate



Picture News Spirituality Seminar

Wednesday 20th May, 4-5pm

In this webinar, we'll explore how Picture News can support spiritual development through real-world events and current affairs. Focusing on reflection, big questions and discussion, we'll share practical ways to deepen collective worship and classroom thinking. Joined by special guest headteacher Fiona Booth, we'll also hear how this looks in practice within a school setting.

Suitable for: Teachers, heads and all SLT.

[Register here](#)

NATRE Primary RE Survey

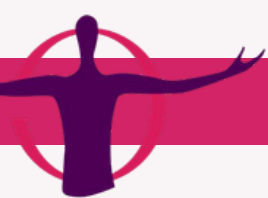
[The National Association of Teachers of Religious Education \(NATRE\) Primary Survey](#) is your chance to make sure the reality of RE in your classroom is heard where it counts. This evidence is used directly with government and inspection organisations to influence decisions on curriculum, training and support. With major decisions about the future of RE in England underway, primary teachers must not be invisible. It takes just a few minutes, is completely anonymous, and is open until 31 July.

Every response makes a difference.

Building Cultures of Welcome in School for People Seeking Sanctuary Webinar

This free AULRE webinar, sponsored by Culham St Gabriel's is taking place on Thursday 21st May, 5-6:30pm. Ahead of World Refugee Day, this session will explore how schools can foster a culture of welcome and belonging for refugees and asylum seekers, drawing on practical ideas and resources to support inclusive, compassionate teaching.

Click [HERE](#) to book



National Education Nature Park Resources

Has your educational setting joined the [National Education Nature Park](#) yet?

Join the thousands of schools, nurseries and colleges who are taking action for nature.

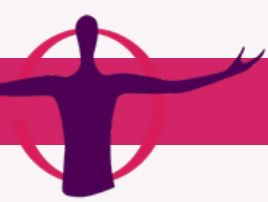
Summer term has arrived! Everything is suddenly buzzing and blooming, so it's a brilliant time to be taking your learning outdoors.

Here are some suggestions of things you can get involved with:

- [Outdoor Classroom Day](#), 21st May – why not try out an activity from our “[getting started](#)” package?
- [Nature Discovery Week](#), 29th June – 3rd July – why not finish off the year exploring your nursery or school grounds?
- For younger learners, check out our [EYFS Guide](#).
- Take part in some community science using our [Pollinator Count](#) or brand new [Grassland Survey](#).
- Many [free resources](#) available for all ages and subjects!

If you'd like to know more, get in touch with your regional team: eastmidlandsnaturepark@ltl.org.uk





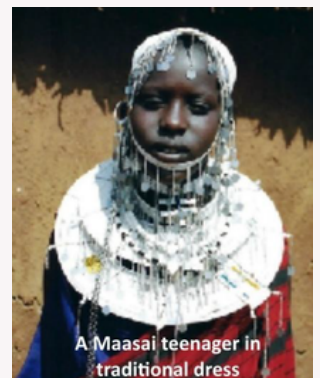
Diocese of Leicester's companion link with the Diocese of Kiteto, Tanzania

We are excited to announce that at the start of Autumn 2026: September to early October, we are expecting a visit from the Revd Noah Kimirey (pictured) from Tanzania.

Noah is Headteacher to the Kiteto Christian Centre (KCC) School in Kibaya, the town in which Kiteto Diocese is based. He holds a degree in Education. He is fluent in English, which is the language medium for KCC.



KCC is for pupils age 4-13 years. The school is keen to establish links to Leicester schools on a whole school, class or even individual pupil basis, bringing educational, cultural and material benefits to all. Links can be maintained using WhatsApp, email or Zoom, alongside conventional letters or presentations. We anticipate that a range of relationships will flow from this, from simple information sharing to financial support of KCC pupils.

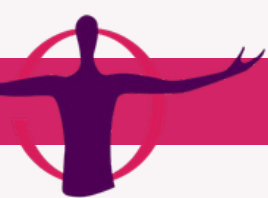


Noah would love to visit schools in our Diocese for half or whole days to establish these links. Originating from the Maasai tribe, in himself he brings a wide range of educational possibility, from his experience of the human geography of semi-nomadic cattle herding, Maasai culture and its dress, to East African languages and describing school life in Tanzania. Meeting / lesson formats can be discussions, Q+A, presentations, as agreed with you.



As his time in the UK is sponsored by supporters of our Diocesan link, there is no charge for this exciting educational opportunity for our schools. Our expectation is that as the possibilities this link provides become apparent, schools will want to join us!

We hope your school will be interested and, if so, please register it by email to noahvisit26@gmail.com, giving contact details and asking any questions you may have. Once we have more details we will be in touch.



Great Big Green Week: 6th - 14th June

Get your school involved in the Great Big Green week, running from 6th - 14th June. Free resource packs are available for primary and secondary schools, linked to the national curriculum, and packed with activities for all ages.

Access these here: <https://www.greatbiggreenweek.com/schools>

Creative for Climate Justice

It's not too late to join in with Christian Aid's learning and arts project 'Creative For Climate Justice'. This learning activity challenges young people to use their creativity to share their messages about climate justice with their communities and with decision-makers. Christian Aid is encouraging schools to join in and then share their work with their local community during Great Big Green Week in June.

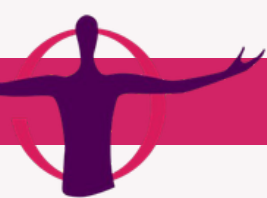
Learn more here: <https://www.christianaid.org.uk/get-involved/schools/creative-climate>

PopUK Song Resources

A reminder of the FREE song bank provided by PopUK, including lots of new Easter songs and a scripted musical covering the Easter story. Access these resources, including their song of the week here: <https://popuk.org/>

Leicester DBE Climate Action Planning Newsletter

We also send out a termly "eco newsletter" covering events, opportunities and news on school sustainability. To sign up for this newsletter please email Iona at admin@leicesterdbe.org



May Half Term at Leicester Cathedral



Make a matchbox house!

Tuesday 26 May

10.30am-12.00pm and
2.00-4.00pm

Use your
imagination and
design your very
own mini home!



Suitable for ages 3+

Drop-in

No charge but donations
welcome.
All children must be
accompanied by an adult.

Design your own peg doll!

Thursday 28 May

10.30am-12.00pm
and 2.00-4.00pm

Using paint pens,
decorate your
own peg doll to
take home.



Suitable for ages 3+

Where is home for you?

Visit our *Living Together*
Exhibition to
make your
mark!



Come and join us for our space themed day!



Fun activities and crafts!

Wednesday 27 May

from 10.30am - 4.00pm

See reverse for details.



**PLANET
PARADE**



www.leicestercathedral.org





Wednesday 27 May

Watch a science show by Sublime Science!

11.00am-12.00pm

No charge but donations welcome.



Suitable for all ages!

Wednesday 27 May

Space themed play sessions for 0-7 year olds

Slots available to book via Eventbrite. Pay what you can.



Wednesday 27 May

Kinetic Sand Tray

Come and play with space toys!



Suitable for all ages!

Wednesday 27 May

Make a moveable rocket craft activity

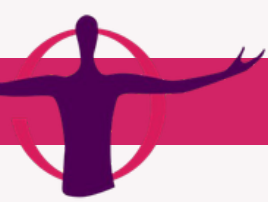
10.30am-12.00pm
and 2.00-4.00pm

No charge but donations welcome



www.leicestercathedral.org





SAVE THE DATE 2025/2026



Church school leadership sessions (held online)

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

- 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.

- 10th June – 12:00 – 13:00

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