



Diocese of **Leicester**
Board of Education

JUNE 2026 NEWSLETTER

Last week, I spent two days with Diocesan Director of Education colleagues from around the country. We were joined by Dave Tomlinson who is an Anglican priest and founder of The Holy Shed community. He's the author of many books including *How To Be A Bad Christian*, *Black Sheep & Prodigals* and *The Post-Evangelical*. Dave's a popular speaker and regular contributor to *Pause For Thought* on BBC Radio 2.

Through his writing and speaking, Dave has shared views over the years that are often very thought-provoking. Many people disagree with his views and Dave welcomes questions, reflections and challenge about his perspectives.

One thing that he did say which really struck me was how he responds when people ask what he believes about certain things. He described how he replies, 'why do you ask me this? I wonder whether what you should be asking me is how I treat people or how I spend my money? I speak and how I behave is surely what is important?'

Fundamentally, Dave challenged us to think about the word Christian not as a noun but as a verb. He shared with us the work of British religious historian, Karen Armstrong who gave a Ted Talk back in 2008 and so began the development of the 'Charter for Compassion'.

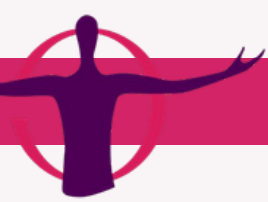
Access here: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=SJMm4RAwVLo>

The work of the Charter for Compassion was to bring together people from multi-faith and multi-national backgrounds and to codify what really matters. And what they articulated was remarkable and sits at the heart of what it is to be human. To be human is to be compassionate.

Access here: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=wktlwCPDd94>

In Church schools, the heartbeat of compassion is rooted in what Jesus showed us:

As they were leaving Jericho, a large crowd followed him. There were two blind men sitting by the roadside. When they heard that Jesus was passing by, they shouted, 'Lord,[h]have mercy on us, Son of David!' The crowd sternly ordered



them to be quiet; but they shouted even more loudly, ‘Have mercy on us, Lord, Son of David!’ Jesus stood still and called them, saying, ‘What do you want me to do for you?’ They said to him, ‘Lord, let our eyes be opened.’ Moved with compassion, Jesus touched their eyes. Immediately they regained their sight and followed him.

Matthew 20:

So, let us be compassionate. Let us be ‘moved with compassion’ as Jesus was – to one another and to ourselves. Let us teach our children and young people what it means to be compassionate.

With every blessing

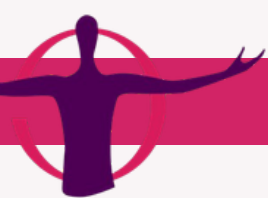
Carolyn Shoyer

Diocesan Director of Education

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!





Partnership Agreement Reminder

It's that time of year again! Make sure you sign up for our 26/27 DBE Partnership Agreement before the 3rd July to access the early bird deal.

Access the form [HERE](#)

Admissions Appeals Guidance for Schools

Lisa Fish, the Chair of the appeals panel has created a short video for schools explaining the appeals process and what Schools **MUST** do to prepare for them. If your school is attending appeals we urge you to watch this video to ensure you are equipped to state your case.

Please find this video, alongside our other appeals guidance [HERE](#)

Leicester DBE Primary Leavers Worship

Our Primary Leavers Worship Event taking place on Zoom on **Thursday 25th June 10:30-11am**, and it is now available to book on Bookwhen!

This is much-loved chance to celebrate your year 6 pupils with schools across the Diocese through collective worship.

Book here: <https://bookwhen.com/ldbe/e/ev-st9e7-20260625103000>

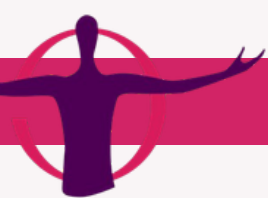
RE Online Resources

RE: Online have a new website with more free teaching resources for all age groups as well as free leadership and professional development support.



RE:ONLINE
THE PLACE FOR EXCELLENCE

Explore what they have to offer [HERE](#)



Diocese Marks Centenary with Celebrations of Faith, Hope, Diversity and a Visit from the ABC



The Diocese of Leicester will mark its Centenary in 2026-27 with a rich programme of worship, storytelling, civic events and church community participation, giving thanks for 100 years of God's faithfulness and looking ahead with hope.

Key moments include the Centenary Day on Thursday 12 November 2026 and the Centenary of the Cathedral's hallowing on Sunday 21 February 2027, framed by a series of engagements and activities across Leicester and Leicestershire.

The Diocesan Board of Education would like schools to be involved with these events and activities as much as possible, but we do recognise that most of the celebrations will be taking place at the weekend. Please do make note of any of the dates below that you can attend as school staff, but there are also a range of activities that you can do within school with your pupils as well.

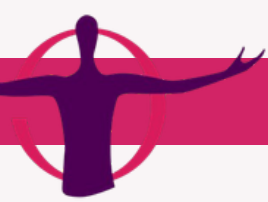
Celebrations will begin with a service at Leicester Cathedral on Saturday 12 September and a diocesan gathering on the afternoon of Sunday 13 September, to which **everyone** is invited, and will welcome the newly enthroned Archbishop of Canterbury, Sarah Mullally, to Leicester.

Send us your smiling group photos by the end of the summer term 2026

As part of our diocesan centenary celebrations, we would love to feature every single Church school in a special picture slideshow that will be on display at events throughout the centenary period.

So, we're appealing to our school communities to send us your smiling group photos. We want to see our diocesan people, gathered together in God's glory.

Please email your images to officedbe@leicesterdbe.org by **Friday 10th July 2026**.



Please remember to ask permission from everyone included in the photo. Each picture will be labelled with who you are, as a collective – e.g.: Packington CofE primary school - and will be on rolling display including at the Cathedral, during our event in September, and on the centenary pages of our diocesan website.

Send us your multilingual celebration videos by the end of the summer term 2026

Leicester DBE would also like to represent the diversity within our school communities by asking all schools to send a short video (3-4 seconds) of groups within your school communities saying one of the following celebratory messages in languages that represent your community. Please can you let us know which message out of the 4 choices and which language it is spoken in. Schools are also welcome to record more than one message if there are more languages spoken in your school community.

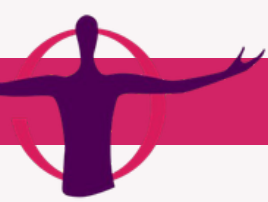
1. Congratulations Leicester Diocese
2. Happy Centenary Leicester Diocese
3. Jesus Christ; the same yesterday, today and tomorrow
4. For the Lord is good, his love endures forever

Please email your videos to officedbe@leicesterdbe.org by **Friday 10th July 2026**. Please remember to ask permission from everyone included in the videos. Each video will be labelled with who you are, as a collective and will be used within some of the Diocesan events across the Centenary year.

Other special services at the Cathedral, and a Thanksgiving Eucharist on Centenary Day (12th November), alongside services held in parishes around the Diocese and stories of faith and hope at the heart of it, will help mark 100 years since the Diocese was formed. Civic and community partners will also be involved, with invitations extended to leaders and organisations across the city and county.

Leicester DBE will send all schools a bundle of resources that they can explore with pupils during the Autumn term including Collective Worship resources and activities to explore themes of community, faith and hope.

Together, these events and initiatives will celebrate our Diocese's past,



affirm our present calling, and renew our commitment to serve future generations.

For the Lord is good; his steadfast love endures for ever, and his faithfulness to all generations.

Psalm 100: 5

The Rt Revd Martyn Snow, Lord Bishop of Leicester said: “The Centenary is a time to give thanks for God’s faithfulness to our Diocese across a hundred years and look forward with hope to all that God is still calling us to be. Rooted in prayer, shaped by our stories, and enriched by our diversity, we mark this milestone not simply to remember the past, but to renew our commitment to serve the people of Leicester and Leicestershire through Christ Jesus for generations to come. As the centenary period unfolds, I look forward to the opportunities we will have to come together, to listen, to worship, and to share this celebration across our communities.”

For now, please diarise with you can complete the photo and video activities before the end of the summer term, and plan in when you will be able to utilise the Centenary resources which will be sent to you before the end of the summer term for use in the Autumn term 26-27.

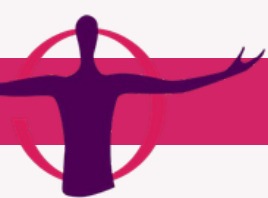
NATRE Primary RE Survey

[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 **31st July**.

Every response makes a difference.



National Association of Teachers
of Religious Education



Leicester DBE Pupil Experiences

Have you visited our pupil experiences webpage? Tracey Manns has created several resource sets of free pupil experiences that you can run! This includes spirituality and collective worship workshops as well as a Pentecost escape room.

Visit the webpage to try these resources out in your school:

<https://www.leicesterdbe.org/pupil-experiences/>

SEND Chaplain Job Advert

St Peter's Market Bosworth are looking for a SEND Chaplain. The deadline for applications is Tuesday 23rd June at midday. You can view this job advert for more details [HERE](#).

INEQE Safeguarding Audit

Everyone is invited to take part in the independent INEQE safeguarding audit, designed to strengthen and support best practice in safeguarding in the Church of England.

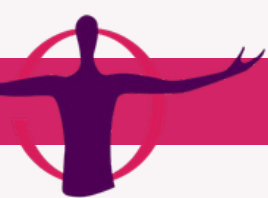


The surveys provide an opportunity to share your experiences and perspectives of safeguarding across the Diocese of Leicester and Leicester Cathedral, including what's working well and where things could be better.

School leaders and indeed anyone with any connection to the diocese is welcome to complete the survey for Parish community members, and any other categories which may apply to them personally.

The Survey is open to complete until **Wednesday 5th August 2026**

Complete the Survey [HERE](#)



The Enduring Inclusion Toolkit



The Enduring Inclusion Toolkit is a professional, evidence-rich resource for church schools and trusts seeking to strengthen inclusion, reduce suspensions and exclusions, and deepen their Christian vision of belonging and flourishing. Built around carefully curated evidence libraries, practical guidance, faith-sensitive reflection and lived experience, the toolkit helps leaders and staff move beyond behaviour management towards relational, restorative and trauma-informed practice that promotes flourishing for adults and children alike. Users receive a year-long licence for all staff, with immediate access to comprehensive training videos and accompanying evidence libraries. There are also conversations with experts from around the globe on topics such as transitions, coaching, parental engagement, school avoidance, internal AP and many more. The toolkit is available anywhere, has hours of content available anytime and also includes staff-wide Q&A and direct support from Tier Blundell, helping schools turn evidence, theology and experience into confident, practical action for the children who most need to know they still belong.

Tier Blundell was permanently excluded at the age of eleven after suffering years of abuse and adverse childhood experiences. He attended a pupil referral unit and left at age sixteen with no qualifications. He later turned his life around by talking his way on to an access course and attending university, eventually going on to the University of Oxford to study for a PhD, the first person from a PRU to do so. He found faith that same year and founded Excluded from School, which is dedicated to bridging lived experience with research in an effort to improve outcomes for disadvantaged young people in the education system. This toolkit is a synthesis of that and the Christian faith.

If your school or Trust is interested the toolkit please contact Tier at tierblundell@outlook.com Cost is available on request.

Find out more by watching the introduction video on our website <https://www.leicesterdbe.org/inclusion-resources/>

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