

# Dear Friends and Colleagues -



The Diocesan  
Board of Education

I was delighted to attend the opening ceremony of the new Early Years Foundation Stage outdoor area at William Stukeley Church of England Primary School recently. It was a joyful and uplifting occasion, marked by the cutting of the ribbon in front of pupils, staff, and governors. There was a palpable sense of celebration, reflecting the care, vision, and dedication that has gone into creating such a thoughtful space for the youngest pupils in the school.

This new outdoor area has been carefully designed to nurture children's curiosity, creativity, and physical development. It provides opportunities for exploration, imaginative play, and active learning—essential foundations for early growth and lifelong engagement with the world. In such environments, children are encouraged to ask questions, test ideas, and delight in discovery.



We are reminded in Psalm 139:14: "I praise you because I am fearfully and wonderfully made." Each child is uniquely created by God, full of potential, and worthy of environments that allow them to flourish fully.

The importance of curiosity in learning is also beautifully reflected in the story of the young Jesus in the temple. In Luke 2:46, we read how he was found "sitting among the teachers, listening to them and asking them questions." Even at a young age, Jesus modelled a deep curiosity and desire to understand more. This reminds us that fostering inquisitiveness and a love of learning is not only educationally important but also deeply rooted in our Christian understanding of growth and wisdom. When we create spaces and opportunities for children to wonder and explore, we are nurturing gifts that honour God's creation.



Across the Diocese of Lincoln, we continue to see inspiring examples of schools living out our shared vision of education: Called, Aspirational, Rooted and Empowering (C.A.R.E.).

This new outdoor provision is a wonderful reflection of that vision—a place where children are called to engage with the world around them, inspired to be creative, rooted in a caring community, and empowered to grow in confidence and strength.

I would like to take this opportunity to extend my sincere thanks to all church school leaders and staff across the diocese.

Your commitment to providing rich, stimulating, and nurturing learning environments is truly valued. Through your dedication, our schools remain places where children and young people can grow academically, socially, spiritually, and physically.

The Diocesan Board of Education team would be delighted to celebrate more of the wonderful work taking place in your schools. If you are planning a special event—whether it be the opening of a new facility, a significant milestone, or a community celebration—please do let us know. It is always a privilege to share in these moments and to recognise the excellent provision you offer.

Thank you once again for all that you do in service of our children, our schools, and our shared vision.



#### **Prayer**

Loving God,

We thank you for the gift of every child, wonderfully made and deeply loved by you.

Nurture in them a spirit of curiosity, that they may delight in the world around them and seek to understand its beauty and complexity.

Inspire their creativity, that they may imagine, explore, and express the uniqueness you have placed within them.

Strengthen their bodies and minds, that they may grow in confidence, resilience, and joy.

Bless all who guide and teach them, that they may create spaces of wonder, safety, and encouragement.

May our schools be places where children flourish, discovering more of your love in all they do.

In Jesus' name

**Amen**

Canon Paul Thompson  
**Diocesan Director of Education**



## **Updates to Flourishing for All - Preventing and tackling sexual harassment and violence against women and girls (VAWG)**

A new consultation document has been added to Flourishing for All, the Church of England's anti-bullying guidance. This update strengthens the focus on preventing and tackling sexual harassment, as well as violence against women and girls, reflecting growing national concern in this area.

The guidance supports school to understand the theological underpinning to this work. It encourages schools to take a proactive approach, ensuring that safeguarding, respect, and dignity are embedded across school life. It highlights the importance of clear reporting systems, staff training, and age-appropriate education to support pupils' understanding of healthy relationships.

As schools prepare for the autumn term and begin reviewing their anti-bullying policies, leaders are strongly encouraged to reference Flourishing for All within their documentation. The final pages of each document include phase specific actions which will support school leaders with the right strategies and actions to prioritise this work.

[Inclusion: Flourishing for all – National Society for Education](#)

## **A suite of new resources has been launched by Culham St Gabriel's called Inclusive Schools: Promoting and Protecting Freedom of Religion or Belief (FoRB).**

<https://www.cstg.org.uk/inclusive-schools-promoting-and-protecting-freedom-of-religion-or-belief/>

This suite of three resources has been designed to help school and trust leaders, governors and teachers embed FoRB principles in meaningful and practical ways. Together, they offer:

- A clear introduction to the concept and legal foundations of FoRB
- Practical guidance for developing policies and inclusive school cultures
- A detailed toolkit to support classroom practice, professional development and leadership
- These materials explore how FoRB can be integrated across curriculum, leadership and professional practice, enabling pupils to develop their own beliefs while learning to respect the beliefs of others.

## Archbishops' Young Leaders Award

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.

### **Upcoming webinars:**

#### **Primary Webinars:**

17<sup>th</sup> June 2026 - 3:45pm

1<sup>st</sup> July 2026 - 3:45pm

13<sup>th</sup> August - 1:15pm

#### **Secondary Webinars:**

24<sup>th</sup> June 2026 - 3:45pm

2<sup>nd</sup> July 2026 - 3:45pm

12<sup>th</sup> August - 1:15pm

We would love to welcome colleagues from across the diocese to join us and discover how AYLA can support schools in nurturing young leaders who are ready to “be the change they want to see.”

For further information about AYLA, please contact Victoria Jones: [victoriajones@churchofengland.org](mailto:victoriajones@churchofengland.org)

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

[www.nse.org.uk/ayla/whats-on](http://www.nse.org.uk/ayla/whats-on)