



YORK DIOCESAN BOARD OF EDUCATION

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Andrew Smith
Diocesan Director of Education

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Dear Colleague

Director's Newsletter – Summer Term 2017

Welcome back to the summer term and I trust you feel refreshed after the Easter break.

It is clear that the announcement of the General Election will impact on any new policy and current work with the DfE is subject to purdah until 8th June. The new Education White Paper will now be delayed and we will wait to see if education is a major component of the election campaign. My feeling is that other issues may dominate the political discussion and we will wait and see how education policy develops following the outcome of the election.

As usual I have tried to summarise some of the key pieces of information in this newsletter. More detail is available through the weekly email or on the diocesan website.

New Service Level Agreement (SLA)

The 2017 - 2019 SLA document with a sign up form will be arriving in school by the end of this week.

The SLA covers the next two year period and I hope you will continue to support the work of the Diocese by subscribing to the SLA. As I write in the introduction to the SLA, your membership of the SLA is an important part of providing an Education Team that is in place to support our schools. As we receive no public funding from the Government, our viability depends on contributions from the SLA, income from investments held by the Diocese and contributions from the wider diocesan budget, ultimately deriving from the giving of those in parish communities. Through subscribing to the Service Level Agreement, you help to commit your school to working in partnership with the family of diocesan schools and academies and that is greatly appreciated.

I hope you find it good value for money and that it makes a real difference to your work in school.

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Manchester & York**

To view an electronic copy please, follow this link:

<http://dioceseofyork.org.uk/supporting-schools/what-we-do/sla-201719/>

***Annual Education Conference – Tuesday 20th June, York Racecourse
"Vision into Being: Living life in all its fullness"***

This year's conference is the second in a series of three based around the Church of England's Vision for Education. The first looked at creating the vision; this year's focuses on bringing the vision into being; and third will look at the impact of the vision, both nationally and from across the Diocese.

Our keynote speakers and seminar leaders will help us think through how we can bring the vision alive in the four areas of educating for wisdom, hope, dignity and community and we will also be very pleased to welcome pupils and staff from Aberford CE Primary School who will lead our worship.

The attached flyer has a breakdown of the agenda for the day; please share it with staff, governors and clergy. A copy will also be in the envelope that you will be receiving shortly with the SLA.

Bookings are now being taken through Eventbrite. This is the first time that we have used Eventbrite to take the delegate fees for us so please bear with us as it may take a bit of getting used to, but it will hopefully save quite a bit of administration time. Please try and use a school purchasing card to pay if at all possible but we have also given the option to request an invoice as we realise that not all schools will have access to school credit cards. Invoices will be sent manually if you choose this option so may take a little longer. The Eventbrite link for bookings is:

<https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/diocese-of-york-annual-education-conference-tickets-33921846155?aff=es2>

Please complete the booking as soon as possible and by Tuesday 30th May at the latest. If you require further information or have any queries, please do not hesitate to contact us at the Diocesan Education Office.

I do hope that you and representatives from your school and parish will be able to join us.

Admissions Summary for Voluntary Aided & Foundation Schools, and former VA/Foundation academies – September 2018 admissions

If you haven't already done so, please could the schools/academies referred to above send their determined admissions policies and supplemental information forms for September 2018 admissions to Claire Graham-Brown (claire.graham-brown@yorkdiocese.org) as soon as possible. Please send as a word document.

Diocesan Board of Education (DBE) Admissions Guidance – Admissions for September 2019

We have published our revised admissions guidance for Admission Authorities of Church of England schools. The guidance can be found here:

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The guidance is very similar to last year, but amended mainly to make it clearer how the guidance applies to schools and academies of different types. **The guidance will principally be relevant to Governing Bodies of Voluntary Aided Schools and Foundation Schools, and Boards of Directors of Academy Trusts/Local Governing Committees in respect of Academies that were formerly Voluntary Aided or Foundation schools.** However, whilst the guidance in relation to faith based oversubscription criteria will not generally be relevant to all schools/academies, we would encourage all Admissions Authorities to consider the wider messages in the guidance when determining admissions arrangements.

In line with the Admissions Code, Admission Authorities will need both to take into account the DBE's Guidance and to consult with the DBE when reviewing or revising admissions arrangements. In particular:

Admission Authorities of Church of England schools must

- **have regard to any guidance from the DBE when constructing faith based admission arrangements;**
- **consult with the DBE when deciding how membership or practice of the faith is to be demonstrated; and**
- **consult with the DBE about proposed admission arrangements before any public consultation and as part of the required public consultation**

In line with the timetable on the last page of the guidance, **we would request that Admission Authorities commence review of their admission arrangements, considering the DBE's admissions guidance, during the Summer Term.** This will enable you to carry out initial consultation with us on any proposed changes to the previous year's policy and consider our advice prior to the consultation window (1 October 2017 - 31 January 2018). Please note that we have a number of schools who will all be considering their admissions arrangements at the same time, so please do make every effort to provide us with information at the earliest opportunity. Documents that need our input should be sent to Claire Graham-Brown (claire.graham-brown@yorkdiocese.org). Please again send word documents.

DBE Review of Admission Arrangements

During the course of last year, the DBE carried out a review of admissions policies of all VA/Foundation schools (and some academies) providing comments related to compliance with our guidance and the Schools Admissions Code. Specific comments were provided to the relevant schools/academies. These comments have not been picked up in a number of cases. **Please could you ensure that September 2019 admission arrangements are reviewed in light of these previous**

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comments. Please contact Claire (claire.graham-brown@yorkdiocese.org) with any queries.

iSingPOP

I have met with representatives from iSingPOP recently as it was an organisation recommended by another diocese.

iSingPOP is a primary school singing and recording project that brings together school, church and community. It involves teaching pupils a set of high energy, fun-filled, current sounding pop songs - each one based around a Christian value. This is followed by a recording session with a sound engineer and then up to two concerts involving every member of the school community.

iSingPOP gives the chance for families and the local community to see the children perform at their concert in church and the school will be left with a set of songs that can be used as resource for assemblies and worship, along with a recording of all the songs.

For further information please visit their website; <http://www.isingpop.org/>

Strategic School Improvement Fund

The Strategic School Improvement Fund is now open for applications. Teaching schools, local authorities and multi-academy trusts can submit applications to support eligible schools in their area. The application round closes at midday on Friday 23 June 2017 and can be accessed at <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/strategic-school-improvement-fund>

The £140 million Strategic School Improvement Fund is aimed at ensuring resources are targeted at schools most in need of support, to drive up standards and deliver more good school places. The fund will support evidence-led, outcome-driven applications, each to provide improvement support to multiple schools to address local improvement priorities.

Teaching and Leadership Innovation Fund

The DfE has announced the first round of bidding for the £75 million Teaching and Leadership Innovation Fund - to enable new, high-quality continued professional development (CPD) provision to be delivered where it can make the most difference, including in the 12 opportunity areas. For details on how to apply to deliver this CPD, see <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/teaching-and-leadership-innovation-fund>

With my best wishes for the summer term,

Andrew Smith
Diocesan Director of Education

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