



**Belonging To The Diocesan Family**  
**A Year in the Diocese of York**  
**DISCOVER ~ JOURNEY ~ CELEBRATE**

# Introduction

Church Schools are part of the diocesan family. As a diocese, we have vision that shapes how we grow and work together.

The vision of the York Diocesan Board of Education (YDBE) is to

Build flourishing communities in its schools, parishes and homes where every child, young person and those who care for them has a transforming encounter with the Christian faith and the person of Jesus Christ.

The vision of the YDBE is set within the wider vision of the Diocese of York, which is to be *Generous Churches Making and Nurturing Disciples* with the three goals:



These support materials are designed as a starting point for your school to **DISCOVER** what it means to be a part of the diocesan family. This getting started section is to support you in making visible in school what it means to belong to the diocesan family and to help us think about the diocesan vision and explore how we can live out this vision in our schools and local communities.

All the resources are on our website here: <https://dioceseofyork.org.uk/schools-and-youth/schools-education-homepage/the-year-of-the-diocese/discover/>

These sit alongside our collective worship materials, which help us to **JOURNEY** through the Bible and the Church year together as a diocesan family and the Children of Light Festival, which will **CELEBRATE** children and young people at the heart of our diocesan family.

Whatever you do, in word or deed, do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God.' Colossians 3:17

# Our Diocesan Family

## Getting started

We would love our family of schools over the next year to spend some time **DISCOVERING** more about 'Our Diocesan Family'. Here are some ways you could choose to do this across the whole school or as class or phase projects:

### Collective Worship

In our **JOURNEY** resource, we have included a collective worship for the beginning of the year on what it means to be a part of the diocesan family. You can find it here <https://dioceseofyork.org.uk/schools-and-youth/schools-education-homepage/the-year-of-the-diocese/journeythroughbible/>

### Display

Use the map provided to create an 'our diocesan family' display in a classroom or central area.

- Encourage pupils to add their school, their parish church and other key buildings such as York Minster, Beverley Minster, Selby Abbey etc. on to the map.
- Add visits and visitors to the map as the year progresses.
- Add photos around the map of services and celebrations you hold in church. You could also print photos from York Minster at key festival times to reflect worship in the diocese (York Minster tweet and upload photos to their website <https://www.yorkminster.org/home.html> @York\_Minster )
- Regularly visit the diocesan website. There are lots of stories and events sharing what is happening in our diocese. <http://dioceseofyork.org.uk/news-events> some of these could be added to the display
- You could even write some of your own good news stories to share on the website. If you have a good news story to share then do email [Olivia.Seymour@yorkdiocese.org](mailto:Olivia.Seymour@yorkdiocese.org) and we will share it with our Comms team.

### Reflection areas

Here are some resources from Prayer Spaces in Schools on the theme of community / family that could be used to develop class or central reflection areas:

Family tree <https://www.prayerspacesinschools.com/resources/29>

Plasticine people <https://www.prayerspacesinschools.com/resources/67>

Pray for your community <https://www.prayerspacesinschools.com/resources/84>

Little people <https://www.prayerspacesinschools.com/resources/130>

Love your neighbour <https://www.prayerspacesinschools.com/resources/85>

## Who's Who in our Diocesan family

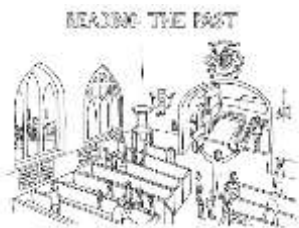
- Watch the video and find out about our new Archbishop of York Stephen Cottrell, the 98<sup>th</sup> Archbishop of York
- Find out more about our 3 suffragan Bishops using the video and information sheets
- Find out more about what Archdeacons, Bishops and Archbishops do using the factsheets
- Find out more about the symbols a Bishop and Archbishop wear and what they mean using the factsheets
- Why not invite in your local vicar and interview them about what it means to a vicar and be a part of a diocesan family?

## Finding out

- Find out more about the shape of our diocese and its buildings: what a diocese is, what an archdeaconry is, what a deanery is, and what a parish is? Using the factsheets
- Find out more about our Mother Church – York Minster here: <https://yorkminster.org/>
- Why not plan a visit. York Minster invites all church schools in the diocese to a diocesan day with the York Minster Centre of School Visits on rotation. To find out when your visit is contact [bookings@yorkminster.org](mailto:bookings@yorkminster.org)
- Think about a class project on your church. Find out about its history, about worship in the church and how it serves your community today. This would be a great church and school in partnership project.
- You could even do a project all about your school to display in church to help the parish learn more about your school family.

Here are some resources that might help inspire some ideas:

**Reading the Past, Writing the Future** is an educational project, devised by The



Laurence Sterne Trust, which aims to encourage primary schools to visit their local church and to stimulate creative work inspired by the stories that can be found there.

<https://www.laurencesternetrust.org.uk/wp/reading-the-past/about/>

**Caring for God's Acre churchyard and burial ground education pack** is a resource to support primary aged pupils engaging with the church grounds as a part of the curriculum.

<http://www.caringforgodsacre.org.uk/index.php/useful-information/downloads/education-pack-english/entire-teachers-pack/teachers-leaders-notes.html>





**Inspired Classrooms** is a unique partnership between the Diocese of Norwich, the Aylsham & District Team Ministry, the National Lottery Heritage Fund and the Aylsham Cluster Trust of Schools. It is designed as an accessible way to open up churches as 'creative classrooms' – spaces in which pupils can enjoy cross-curricular learning inspired by their fabulous surroundings. There are a range of lesson plans and class challenges here:

<https://www.inspiredclassrooms.org/lesson-plans-and-challenges>