

# DBE Schools Bulletin

September 2022

Being deeply Christian and for the common good,  
our schools will be communities which are:

**LOVING**  
in relationships

**AMBITIOUS**  
in aspirations

**BOLD**  
in actions



***So in Christ we, though many,  
form one body, and each member  
belongs to all the others.***

***[Romans 12:5]***

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## Living well together

A new year, a new dawn, a new journey. It is hoped that the summer break has provided a level of rest and recovery and that school leaders, staff teams and pupils begin the new academic year refreshed, revitalised and re-energised. Whilst the disruption of the pandemic is hopefully largely behind us, new pressures presented by spiralling energy bills and the cost of living crisis will be impacting on a personal level, to our schools and the families and communities we serve, as we navigate the demands that lie ahead.

Such challenges bring into sharp focus the importance of 'family', and being there to support and encourage one another. We recognise the importance of partnership and community and how our church schools seek to embody an ethos of living well together. This has been no more evident than in recent years, our schools and churches shining as beacons of hope at the heart of their communities. 'Living well together' is the theme of our annual Headteacher & Senior Leaders' Conference this autumn (see p2).

The central focus of the Diocesan Board of Education's mission is to work together with all of our church schools and academies in the Diocese in enabling you to deliver high quality education founded on Christian faith and values. This is reflected through our 'Family of Schools' membership and offer for 2022-23 and we are immensely grateful and proud that all 115 of our schools subscribe to this service.

We are created and sustained by God for living well together in families and communities. One of the strengths of a Church school is that we encourage everyone to know that they are loved by God, and He knows all of their needs and cares. He loves them so much, he sent his only Son to die for them. May God continue to bless your work in this new school year and the Diocesan Education Team looks forward to journeying with you along the way.

## Headteacher & Senior Leaders Conference 2022



Headteacher & Senior Leaders' Conference

# Living Well Together

School • Church • Community

featuring keynote speakers



**Rev Nigel Genders**  
Chief Education Officer  
Church of England Education Office



**Pastor Mick Fleming**  
Church on the Street

**25 November 2022**

**The Park Royal Hotel**  
[Stretton WA4 4NS]

**Ticket Cost £150**  
[additional tickets purchased at £100]

book now  
**[chesterdbe.co.uk/conference](https://chesterdbe.co.uk/conference)**

 **THE CHURCH OF ENGLAND**  
Chester Diocesan Board of Education

For tickets go to: [chesterdbe.co.uk/conference](https://chesterdbe.co.uk/conference)

# SIAMS 2023 – A National Update



## SIAMS 2023

### A National Update

Led by Margaret James, National Director of SIAMS  
& David Tait, Deputy Director of SIAMS

All staff, governors, and clergy of Church of England and Methodist schools are invited to attend this national online session which will be led by the National Director of SIAMS. Dr Margaret James will set out the ways in which SIAMS will develop from September 2023, explaining what the developments will mean for schools.

Please register to attend either the morning or the early evening session, and encourage members of your school teams to join us.

- Thursday 3 November from 10am to 11.30am
- Thursday 3 November from 6pm to 7.30pm

For further information or any queries please email:  
[siams@churchofengland.org](mailto:siams@churchofengland.org)



THE CHURCH  
OF ENGLAND  
EDUCATION OFFICE

To register for this event, follow the links below:

[Thursday 3<sup>rd</sup> November 10AM](#) or [Thursday 3<sup>rd</sup> November 6PM](#)

## Family of Schools' Membership 2022-23

The DBE's Vision for Education is being deeply Christian and for the common good, in which our schools are communities that are loving in relationships, ambitious in aspirations and bold in actions. Our Family of Schools' membership seeks to reflect this commitment by providing a high-quality service which meets the distinctive needs of our Church schools and academies across the Diocese. Your subscription to the Family of Schools' membership is an important part of making this happen and allows us to provide an Education Team to support our schools. The quality of this partnership and the value that you hold in it, is reflected in every one of our 115 schools being a member of the Family of Schools.



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Membership entitles each school to a face to face session (up to a half day) by an officer or consultant providing advice, support or training in connection with Church school distinctiveness, Religious Education or collective worship. A core element of the DBE's support for schools is provided through our training and career professional development programme. The team have devised a comprehensive schedule for 2022-23 that supports leadership at all levels within the context of church schools, offering multi-session programmes, as well as stand-alone courses. Family of schools members receive a discount (up to 50%) on training courses and conference places. A full list and details of the courses and programmes for 2022-23 can be found here [DBE Courses 2022-23 - Diocese of Chester \(anglican.org\)](https://www.chesterdiocese.org.uk/DBE/Courses/2022-23-Diocese-of-Chester-(anglican.org))

An information pack detailing this year's service and membership fees for 2022-23 will be sent out shortly.

## Picture News – September Trial



We're very excited to launch a free-of-charge 4-week trial for new teachers and schools who would like to give Picture News a try for the new academic year ahead!

For 4-weeks, each Friday our successful schools will receive:

- A poster with our famous 'big question' exploring a current story;
- A ready-to-go whole school news assembly plan;
- KS1 and KS2 class-based resources;
- Classroom discussion/debate club and display materials.

Register here: <https://bit.ly/3QSm0eB>

## Becoming a Trauma Informed School - Emotion Coaching

Over the past year Mossley Primary School has been participating in the initiative - "Becoming a Trauma Informed School". This involved sessions delivered by experts in their field to help us better understand the full context of Trauma, how it manifests itself and how to support children who are experiencing it. The topics covered were: What is trauma and the neuroscience behind it? How bereavement and loss impacts.

How to support children with their learning, social interactions and behaviours. How to move towards a whole school approach to trauma informed practice.

Each session was followed up with a cluster meeting to discuss the expert session, share good practice and to build a network of support.

At Mossley we were keen to find a whole school approach that followed the principles of becoming a Trauma Informed School. Timothy 1:7 "For God gave us a spirit not of fear but of power and love and self-control".

We found an evidenced based programme – Emotion Coaching - which is based on the principle that nurturing and emotionally supportive relationships promote the best outcomes for children.

The whole staff were trained in this approach using an external provider. As we began to alter our practice in school we could see the positive impact it was having on relationships and therefore behaviours.

Alongside this several of our parents were expressing that they were having difficulties managing behaviours at home. How much greater could the impact be if home and school had the same approach? We offered Emotion Coaching training to all of our parents but then targeted specific families who had approached school for help. The turnout was greater than we could have imagined and larger than we had had before.

The impact for school and home has been tangible and measurable. More children are coming straight into school in a morning and are therefore ready to learn. Fewer children are late. Parents are feeling more in control of situations. From our point of view being part of the Trauma Informed School project has been the catalyst to real change at Mossley Primary.

**Mel Smith, Mossley**

Two networks are being run using national material from CEFEL (Church of England Foundation for Educational Leadership); one on the theme of [trauma informed practice](#) and the other on [visionary leadership of SEND](#).



There will be a mix of virtual (after school) national sessions, alongside locally-delivered 'daytime'/twilight sessions which will be led by our team and local leaders. The national sessions should hopefully include some inspirational national/international expert speakers.

We will be co-ordinating the networks for our Diocesan schools and at this stage, we are asking for expressions of interest (without firm commitment) from schools for either/both of the networks. The links above give more detailed information – there is a small cost charged by CEFEL of approximately £75 for each of the two year networks.

If you are interested in joining this year's network please contact either [Sue Noakes](#) or [Mark Whitehill](#) by Friday 16<sup>th</sup> September at the latest.

## Christian Ethics of Farmed Animals Welfare

Last year we asked schools to get involved in an exciting project that we were undertaking in collaboration with the University of Chester/Aberdeen and other organisations including NATRE regarding Christian ethics in farming. There were two opportunities to get involved, one for schools and another for RE teachers. The schools were invited to work through the project developing an action plan in dialogue with the Research Team relevant to the school's context and interests. It is then planned that case studies will be produced at the end of the project highlighting good practice for dissemination to other schools. We have a variety of topics being explored from dairy farming to sourcing school dinners ethically. Tilston CE Parochial primary school shared some news about the project with us

On Wednesday 29th June, we welcomed Bishop Mark, Bishop Julie and Bishop Sam to Tilston Parochial Primary School. They enjoyed joining our family worship led by the House Martins class. The House Martins talked about respecting God's creatures and shared Psalm 8.



The whole school sang 'One Little Voice', to show how powerful little voices can be in making a difference to the world we live in.

To launch our project for CEFAP we welcomed Mrs Jones, a parent and local dairy farmer, to speak to the children. Mrs Jones explained each of the five freedoms and shared pictures and videos of how their dairy farm care for the cattle on their farm. Mrs Jones explained how they respect all of the

animals on their farm.

Bishop Mark, Bishop Sam and Bishop Julie spent the morning visiting classes, meeting staff and talking to our Worship Leaders- Evie, Eve, Fraser, Joe and Megan. It was a very special day.



Bishop Mark, Sam & Julie enjoyed talking to the Children at lunch time and sampling our roast Dinners!

We have collected our ex-battery hens and they are enjoying their new free range lives. We are showering them in lots of love and wonderful living conditions and look forward to seeing them blossom over time.



## Spring Dance Company

Following on from the success of our **Good Samaritan** workshops, we will be offering these again to schools for the Autumn term. Click here for details: [Good Samaritan leaflet](#).

We are also starting to book schools for our **Christmas Story: Refugee** workshops. Click here for details: [Christmas Story leaflet](#).

## Harvest Song from Resound Worship

For anyone planning a harvest celebration this half term, this may be a great creation song to include - [Heaven's Voice Brings The Dawn](#)

## Worship and Communion

### Children from St Bridget's West Kirby sharing in Holy Communion

A number of years ago, our then incumbent of our parish, encouraged children in Year 4 to share in Holy Communion. This always proved to be a very special event filled with awe and fellowship. However, like many things in the past couple of years, this was hampered by the pandemic. As a school, we were faced with a problem, we had children in years 5 and 6 who had missed their opportunity to take part and we were very keen to involve Year 4 children as we had done in the past. But we kept coming back to a number of questions in our minds:

Who were we doing this for? Why were we doing this? When would children have further opportunities to join in Communion after the initial service? How could children and their families make an informed decision on whether sharing in the Communion meal was the right thing for them? And all these questions, before we'd even considered the logistics of "how" we would make this work and what we could do for those older children who had missed their chance due to Covid.



children enjoyed them, plus the thematic approach allowed our children to make connections with other faiths and belief systems.



After time of thought and prayer, a plan revealed itself to us. We decided to utilise our RE lessons for all KS2 children and during the first half of the Summer Term we spent our RE lessons learning about the sacrament of Holy Communion. We explained this to our parents and informed them that when these lessons were complete, they would have chance to consider (as a family) if they wanted their child to receive Holy Communion. Our lessons covered themes of forgiveness, belonging and prayer within the sacrament of Holy Communion. We knew that we couldn't possibly explain everything about the Eucharist, but it would at least give the children some idea of what they were deciding upon.

The lessons were very successful and the

After 6 lessons in school, we asked our families if they would like to share in Holy Communion. There was a superb take-up, many children from Year 4, but also children from Years 5 and 6. The children had a final session in church with our Rector, Reverend Alex, where they learned about some of the more practical elements of the service and could ask questions to relieve their curiosity and any nerves!

At the end of summer term, we celebrated with two beautiful Holy Communion Services: one for our Year 4 children, accompanied by their Year 4 peers, their families, our Year 3 children and members of our church and similarly for our Year 5 and 6 children a couple of days later. These services really were a "team effort", with members of the church and teaching staff sharing in reading prayers and the school choir leading the singing. There was a very special feeling in church and many people (of all ages) commented on how glad they were to be part of it.

So what happens now? Our church's next All Together Worship (a monthly family service) is a very special one! The Bishop will be attending to confirm some young people...of course, all the families of our school are invited to attend and this will give further opportunity for those children who chose to receive Communion. They are welcomed to share in the meal again and again.

And for those children who didn't feel it was for them, the door is always open...what a wonderful demonstration of church and school working together, but also of an inclusive community where everybody is valued.

**Nadine Smith, St Bridget's West Kirby**

Offering Holy Communion in the school context has been the subject of much conversation over the years. The current SIAMS schedule encourages schools to ensure that children are aware of the central importance of this to Christian worship, **and where appropriate**, that it forms part of the variation of worship offered. There is no compulsion for schools to be offering a Eucharistic service, but if this is something you are exploring with your church team, you may want to consider some other case studies included in this Grove book; [Holy Communion-in-primary-schools](#) We will also be sharing ideas at our [Collective Worship Leaders' Network meeting](#) in January.

**DBE team contact details to enable schools to contact officers by phone or e-mail.**

<a href="mailto:chris.penn@chester.anglican.org">chris.penn@chester.anglican.org</a>	Director of Education	07540 722667
<a href="mailto:sue.noakes@chester.anglican.org">sue.noakes@chester.anglican.org</a>	Deputy Director of Education	07540 722668
<a href="mailto:mark.whitehill@chester.anglican.org">mark.whitehill@chester.anglican.org</a>	School Effectiveness Officer	07540 722669
<a href="mailto:jenny.mcilveen@chester.anglican.org">jenny.mcilveen@chester.anglican.org</a>	Christian Character & CPD Officer	07581 245812
<a href="mailto:simon.geddes@chester.anglican.org">simon.geddes@chester.anglican.org</a>	Buildings & Finance Officer	07564 901986
<a href="mailto:sandra.jones@chester.anglican.org">sandra.jones@chester.anglican.org</a>	School Assets Administrator	07549 109589
<a href="mailto:charlotte.somers@chester.anglican.org">charlotte.somers@chester.anglican.org</a>	Director's PA & Administrator	07549 109578
<a href="mailto:linda.boys@chester.anglican.org">linda.boys@chester.anglican.org</a>	DBE Administrator	07549 109590

## Headteacher Cluster Meetings

Autumn			
Cluster Name	Chair / Agenda Contact	Date & Time	Venue
Chester		Mon 3 October 1.30pm	tbc
Congleton/ Nantwich		Tue 15 November 10am	tbc
Macclesfield		Mon 10 October 1.30pm	tbc
Northwich	Caroline Mackenzie	Wed 12 October 1.30pm	tbc
Rural Chester		Wed 16 November 1.30pm	tbc
Stockport/ Tameside	Vicki Hewitt-Lee	Thu 29 September 10am	tbc
Trafford		Tue 1 November 1pm	Altrincham Primary
Warrington/ Halton		Mon 7 November 1.30pm	tbc
Wirral	Amanda Donelan	TBC	tbc
<b>Secondary Heads</b>		Wed 9 November 9.30am	Bishop's Blue Coat CE High School

## RE Cluster Leader Groups

Launched by the Diocese in 2019, our primary RE subject leader cluster groups give RE leaders from church schools opportunity to network, share good ideas and ensure sustained good practice in RE across our Diocese. Meetings are being arranged for the autumn, details to follow. Groups and leader details below:



Name of Cluster Group	Group Leaders	Meeting & Venue
Cheshire West & Chester South (Chester & Ellesmere Port)	Rachel Inns (Hoole CE) Vicky Sewell (Christchurch Ellesmere Port)	tbc
Cheshire East South	Fiona Pulle (Brereton CE) Liz Taylor (Wybunbury Delves CE)	tbc
Cheshire East North & Cheshire West & Chester North (Northwich)	Carys Clark (St Johns the Evangelist, Macc.) Michael Heathcote (Whitegate)	Tuesday 8 <sup>th</sup> November
Cheshire West & Chester (Rural)	Finola Jackson (Saighton CE)	Tuesday 27 <sup>th</sup> September Saighton CE
Tameside & Stockport	Amelia Wassall (Hyde St Georges )	tbc
Trafford	Natalie McLoughlin (St Anne's Sale)	Tuesday 20 <sup>th</sup> October 3:40pm St Anne's Sale
Wirral	Charlotte Fenwick (Christchurch Birkenhead) Rachel Clark (St Andrews Bebington)	tbc

Please contact your RE Cluster Group Leader or [charlotte.somers@chester.anglican.org](mailto:charlotte.somers@chester.anglican.org) for further information.

## Links with schools in Melanesia and climate resources.

You may not be aware, but a number of our schools have links with schools in Melanesia, one of our linked dioceses. Covid has had an impact on both sides of the world and so some of the links have fallen away. I have been in contact with those schools that historically had a link and if you haven't had the chance to respond please do get in touch as we are hoping to help relaunch the links.

We are also hoping to encourage further links so if you would be interested in developing a link with a Melanesian school, please let me know and we will add you to the list.



In addition to this, the education arm of the Melanesian Mission UK that supports these links has been developing resources around climate change which is having a particular impact in Melanesia and will continue to do so. We have some schools who have offered to pilot them and so please keep a look out for these (if you would be willing to pilot the resources please also let me know). Further resources and videos are also planned in addition to those already on the MMUK website.

This is a great opportunity for your children to get to know children/students from across the globe, experience and understand their way of life as compared to their own and to become aware that actions that happen here have an impact on the climate for other nations that we don't necessarily see. It is not about charitable giving but about creating strong links, gaining a deeper understanding and thus an opportunity to help make a change working together. It is also a fantastic way of looking at global Christianity and how we worship in different communities.

Please visit their website for current resources and information about Melanesia at [www.mmuk.net](http://www.mmuk.net). Click on the resources tab and you will find a number of videos, fact sheets and PowerPoint resources which would be a great introduction to setting up a link.

Please forward this information on to any staff that may be interested and if you, or a colleague would like to get involved please email me at [Sue Noakes](mailto:Sue.Noakes@chesterdbep.org).

## Professional Development Courses for 2022-23.

Over the summer we launched our Professional Development and Training courses for the 2022-23 academic year

Courses are listed on our [courses web page](#) and new [Ticket Tailor](#) site

We also have details of school improvement courses administered by CDAT here: [CDAT CPD Offer 22-23](#)

## September & October 2022 Courses

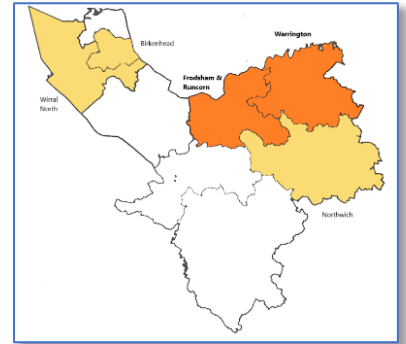
Date	Month	Course	Location
16 <sup>th</sup>	Sept	<a href="#">New to Church Schools</a>	Church House
19 <sup>th</sup>	Sept	<a href="#">New Headteacher Support - 1 Year Programme (1<sup>st</sup> of 3 Sessions)</a> <i>Date of 1<sup>st</sup> session may change.</i>	Church House
20 <sup>th</sup>	Sept	<a href="#">Headteacher Wellbeing for Governors</a>	Zoom
21 <sup>st</sup>	Sept	<a href="#">Building Work and Capital Funding in VA Schools</a>	Church House
23 <sup>rd</sup>	Sept	<a href="#">Heads, Chairs and Incumbents briefing</a>	Zoom
26 <sup>th</sup>	Sept	<a href="#">Christian Vision in Church Schools</a>	Church House
3 <sup>rd</sup>	Oct	<a href="#">Ethos Group - Wow Worship Leaders, A Pupil Conference</a>	Church House
4 <sup>th</sup>	Oct	<a href="#">Early Careers Teachers - Welcome to the Diocese 2022!</a>	Church House
4 <sup>th</sup>	Oct	<a href="#">Early Careers Teacher Support - 1 Year Programme 2022-23</a>	Church House
4 <sup>th</sup>	Oct	<a href="#">Headteachers Surgery</a>	Zoom
5 <sup>th</sup>	Oct	<a href="#">Visionary Subject Leadership</a>	Church House
5 <sup>th</sup>	Oct	<a href="#">Chairs clinic and networking group</a>	Zoom
11 <sup>th</sup>	Oct	<a href="#">Collective Worship Leads network</a>	Zoom
12 <sup>th</sup>	Oct	<a href="#">Preparing for Ofsted Inspection - A Governors' Guide</a>	Zoom
17 <sup>th</sup>	Oct	<a href="#">Being a Governor of a Church School / Academy</a> <i>Repeated 19<sup>th</sup> Jan &amp; 25<sup>th</sup> Apr</i>	Zoom
19 <sup>th</sup>	Oct	<a href="#">Equality &amp; Diversity in Education</a>	Church House
19 <sup>th</sup>	Oct	<a href="#">Clergy with church schools network</a>	Zoom
20 <sup>th</sup>	Oct	<a href="#">Help! I am a new Religious Education Subject Leader in a church school.</a>	Church House
<b>Other Courses &amp; Events</b>			
13 <sup>th</sup>	Sept	RE Cluster Review meeting	Church House
15 <sup>th</sup>	Sept	Headteacher wellbeing Session 1 – Group 1	Foxhill
16 <sup>th</sup>	Sept	Headteacher wellbeing Session 1 – Group 2	Foxhill
6 <sup>th</sup>	Oct	Christian Leadership Course Day 1	
13 <sup>th</sup>	Oct	RE Syllabus Pilot	Wrightington

Any enquires about courses, dates or further details please contact [Charlotte Somers](#).

## Governor Vacancies Appeal

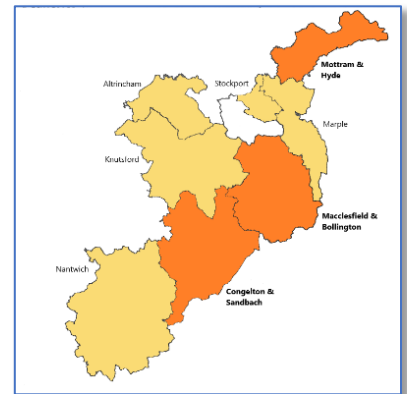
The appeal we launched at the end of last term has helped connect some of our schools to people who are interested in becoming governors, but there are still places available where you, or someone you know could support a local church school.

Many of the schools across the Diocese are seeking people to complete their governing boards, but especially in the following areas:



### Higher number of vacancies      Moderate number of vacancies

- |                             |                |
|-----------------------------|----------------|
| • Congleton & Sandbach      | • Altrincham   |
| • Frodsham & Runcorn        | • Birkenhead   |
| • Macclesfield & Bollington | • Knutsford    |
| • Mottram & Hyde            | • Nantwich     |
| • Warrington                | • Northwich    |
|                             | • Marple       |
|                             | • Stockport    |
|                             | • Wirral North |



You don't have to live in a specific school's parish to become a Foundation governor, whilst there is a commitment to regular Christian worship this can be from any denomination. You don't have to have a background in Education, in fact a wide variety of professional and life skills add strength to a governing board.

If you would be interested in exploring this opportunity to support your local community or you know someone else who may, please contact [Linda Boys](mailto:linda.boys@chester.anglican.org) for further information.

### Does your school have any news to share from this month?

We are always keen to hear from our schools and aim to include all contributions received. We would particularly like to hear from you if your school has not previously been featured.

Please send a short article with a couple of photographs to

[linda.boys@chester.anglican.org](mailto:linda.boys@chester.anglican.org)

# News from Schools

## Dawpool



This year, as part of their curriculum work, all our Year 5 pupils entered the 'Design a Garden' competition for the Southport Flower Show. Hundreds of entries were received from across the country. Huge congratulations to Chloe Stirling (Y5) who won the competition overall and had her garden created and exhibited at this year's show. Chloe was presented with a framed copy of her



design, by one of the judges in a special assembly in school.

Chloe visited the Flower Show to watch her garden design being created. She also attended a special presentation at the Show and met Adam Frost, award winning garden designer and presenter of BBC Gardener's World.

Well done Chloe!



**Halton St Mary's**

In the summer term, Year 5 completed their Archbishop of York Young Leaders Award. The programme has seen them think about the qualities needed to become a leader and shown them that they can really make a difference to the local and wider community. As part of their project, they went litter picking around our local area; collecting over 20kg of rubbish!

We are very proud at how seriously they took their role in improving the local community and hope that they continue to look for ways they can make a difference to their own and the global community as they grow.