

Footprints

Step by step together

Your newsletter from the Diocesan Board of Education

January 2023

Global Christianity in our schools



Paul Dunning
Diocesan Director of Education

Happy New Year and welcome to 2023! I hope and pray our schools will continue to be places where children and adults flourish as we seek to live out our national vision for education and each school's theologically rooted Christian vision – to use the language of SIAMS!

Our Diocesan Vision – Transformed by Christ: Prayerful, Pastoral, Prophetic – has a 12 month focus on the pastoral element, and this started in Advent. One of the stated priorities says:

We will encourage every church community and church school to be engaged somehow, often in partnership, in loving service to its local, diocesan and world neighbours.

That chimes perfectly with the theme of this edition of Footprints with its focus on Global Christianity.

My mind jumps to the fact that Christianity began thousands of miles from the UK in the Middle East over 2,000 years ago. Those in the early church were first called Christians at Antioch (Acts 11:26), now part of modern Turkey. Christianity has spread all over the world since then. Not surprisingly styles of

worship and Christian traditions reflect these different cultures as the people of God across the globe live out their lives as disciples of Jesus. Don't think the church and its traditions in the UK are replicated globally. Apparently, there are 330,000 Christian denominations in the world!

Therefore, it is vital that children in our schools learn about this rich diversity of Christianity, and I am grateful to Chris Allen (RE adviser) and all the RE leads in our schools for the great work they do as they teach RE. There is a lovely example of this from St Michael's, King's Lynn in this edition.

As we seek to live pastorally this year, I know there are many examples where schools have shown pastoral concern to those across the globe: read on to see the example from Hopton. If you have similar examples, please share them with us and we can publish and celebrate them.



Kellie Egleton

Headteacher

Hopton Primary Academy, DNEAT

At Hopton, our vision is to create a warm, inclusive and stimulating environment for all children, where joy and a love of learning are central to everything we do. At the heart of this ambition is supporting each and every pupil to develop a sympathetic understanding of the Christian faith and a respect for the other major world religions. This is achieved by promoting positive relationships with parents, the Church and the wider community to enable us to provide the best possible learning experiences for our children.

We have spent time carefully considering Global Christianity as part of our RE Curriculum and Collective Worship by including the global and diverse dimensions of Christianity into our core teaching. We have developed a broad and balanced curriculum which meets the needs of our children and promotes their spiritual, moral, cultural, mental and physical development. We encourage our children to develop personal independence, so fostering an attitude of love and respect towards others and towards God's world. We have developed our teaching of Christianity as a multi-cultural worldwide faith.

Our vision and values underpin everything we do and in turn shape the curriculum. At Hopton, we believe in

developing the whole child through a creative, purposeful curriculum, full of inspiring experiences, which develops a curiosity in God's creation. Pupils live out the school ethos of **#CARE**, (Compassion, Aspiration, Respect, Equality and Equity), through their thoughts and actions.

There are many opportunities for our pupils to take on responsibilities. This includes for example, becoming a Diversity Leader. This makes sure that our pupils have a voice that is listened to. As a school family, we spend one week each half term exploring diversity through "Unique Week". Our Equality Team take over the curriculum, and collaborate with Miss Jo, our Pastoral Lead, to encourage the children to look beyond Hopton into the wider world around them.

The best example of this was the pupil's reaction to the war in Ukraine. Following the media coverage of events in Russia and Ukraine, our pupils had become increasingly curious about the global dimension of the conflict and what role the United Kingdom may play within it. The Diversity Team asked that the focus during Values Day should take place through the lens of compassion, making connections to the Christian parable of 'The Good Samaritan'. The Diversity Leaders planned opportunities for children to explore and develop an understanding of the events taking place in our world, appropriate to their age and phase.

Inspired by their learning, a number of pupils decided to take action! Three pupils raised over £1000 selling dog biscuits

to passers-by on Gorleston Cliffs whilst another pupil raised a further £250 selling bags of home-made sweets. Two pupils in Year 2 completed Readathons and Litter picks. These incredible children raised close to £2000! We were humbled by the compassion shown by our pupils. Their consideration and empathy demonstrated a maturity which far exceeds their age.

If we see education as a lifelong journey, for our pupils and our staff, then our aim should be to prepare pupils with all the skills needed for life, ensuring they become well-rounded individuals, both academically, emotionally and spiritually. At Hopton, staff plan and promote pupils' personal, social, and health education and personal development well. As a result, pupils know the importance of respect and tolerance. This ethos, alongside a comprehensive RE curriculum, helps pupils to be respectful, tolerant and resilient citizens. At Hopton, our inclusive Christian ethos is embedded in the compassion we show for others, ourselves and our community. Faith is at the root of our school community, with love and #care being at the heart of everything we do.





Emma Scarisbrick

Headteacher

St Michael's Academy, DNEAT, King's Lynn

St Michael's Church of England Academy is a school with 37% EAL children made up of Lithuanian, Russian, Romanian, Portuguese, Indian, South African, and Chinese heritages. This makes our school community, truly one reflecting Christian values through different cultures, ethnicities, and faiths.

Recently I asked a new parent of Sikh faith, if our Christian based worship and

teachings were an issue in any way for their children and his reply really struck a chord; 'No, because we are all one under God eyes and we are all following the same path'.

This generosity of spirit and curiosity to share values and beliefs within faiths, makes for a powerful message to our children. We aim to add a global perspective to our curriculum and RE teachings. For example, linking the work of Christian based charities in other cultures to global issues such as clean water and climate change in our geography units of work or linking with the Ukrainian Church in Peterborough to donate items for the victims of the war in Ukraine.

Recently during advent, we learnt about a community in Africa with links to the Church of England. The women in the community had decided to help fundraise by making jewellery and Christmas decorations which had then been flown to the UK to be sold via the church. I had bought two lovely hand-made angel decorations into school and reflected with the children why angels might not always look the same. This led us onto further learning about the way the nativity is represented all over the world and the children were really curious to see how different cultures, features and dress influenced this truly global scene.

All staff! CPD opportunities through NPQs – act now!

The Diocese of Norwich has linked up with St Edmundsbury and Ipswich Diocesan Multi Academy Trust to offer a range of **NPQs** from **February 2023** as a delivery partner for the Church of England Foundation for Educational Leadership – **NPQH, EHCO, NPQLTD, NPQLBC, NPQSL, NPQLTD.**

All courses are fully funded and will provide excellent professional development opportunities for heads and other members of staff. Anyone interested in applying for one of the above NPQ courses and finding out more should go to www.cefel.org.uk/npq or you can attend one of the information webinars in January.

Course	Time & Date	Webinar Zoom links
EHCO	10 January 2023, 3.30-4.30pm	www.DofN.org/EHCO
NPQLBC	11 January 2023, 3.30-4.30pm	www.DofN.org/NPQLBC
NPQH	11 January 2023, 3.30-4.30pm	www.DofN.org/NPQH
NPQSL	19 January 2023, 3.30-4.30pm	www.DofN.org/NPQSL
NPQLT	23 January 2023, 3.30-4.30pm	www.DofN.org/NPQLT
NPQLTD	25 January 2023, 3.30-4.30pm	www.DofN.org/NPQLTD

Global Christianity and School Governors



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The Religious Education in Church School's Statement for Entitlement (2019) is the key document used in SIAMS to benchmark a school's RE and for the inspector to make an accurate judgement about the school. It is the responsibility of the governors of a church school to monitor RE based on what this statement says. In the statement it references Global

Christianity from the very beginning, stating: *Central to religious education in Church schools is the study of Christianity as a living and diverse faith, focused on the teaching of Jesus and the Church.* It goes on to state in one of the key aims of the statement: *To know about and understand Christianity as a diverse global living faith through the exploration of core beliefs using an approach that critically engages with biblical text.*

Both extracts clearly expect schools to ensure Christianity is taught in a multi-cultural, global and diverse way. It is important our schools in the diocese do this to enable children to appreciate how the lived experience of a Christian looks different outside of Norfolk and around the world. That Christianity is a living, breathing and vibrant religion. That Christianity is not necessarily experienced everywhere in the same way as we experience it in our local church.

As governors, we need to ensure our

children can encounter and engage in learning that opens pupils' eyes to the wider world. Governors need to ensure their schools are helping to prepare pupils to be informed and curious citizens of the world they live in. It is our job as governors to unpick the RE curriculum we offer and explore whether when we teach Christianity are we meeting the requirements of the statement of entitlement? When we speak to children about RE do they talk about diversity in Christianity and see it as a multi-cultural worldwide faith?

In ensuring pupils are exposed to Christianity in its global sense we will then also meet further expectations of the statement for entitlement: *all governors understanding of the distinctive role and purpose of RE within church schools.* In doing so we can also evaluate the effectiveness of the governors as they should be better placed to *monitor the standards in RE effectively.*

Welcome

Headteachers starting

Maureen Burns – Interim Exec HT at Lighthouse Federation

St Benet's MAT conversions

1 January 2023

Scole VC Primary

SIAMS congratulations

Congratulations to the following schools that have had their SIAMS inspections this term.

Good
Cawston Primary Academy, DNEAT

Good
St Mary's (endowed) VA Primary, Roughton

REQM congratulations

Gold Award
Acle VC Primary

Silver Award
Ditchingham & Gillingham (Kingfisher partnership)

Silver Award
Swaffham Primary Academy, DNEAT