

Director's Jottings

Better Together



'Collaboration' is a much used word these days. Schools, parishes, even dioceses are being urged to consider new ways in which they might work more closely together. In some cases the driving force can be simple economic necessity; in others it is a strong conviction that we can 'do better together'.

In this Diocese, we published a report called 'All Good Gifts Around Us' in 2002 which has been widely influential and which continues to underpin strategic planning. Its three main thrusts were that mission and ministry are God's work in which Christian people are called to participate; that many people are invited to share in this activity and should be equipped and supported to work together and that Christian people and local churches can be encouraged to form 'mission communities' together so that they can more effectively further God's work in a locality. So we have encouraged local ministry teams, developed a range of training programmes and are now embarking on 'mission action planning' which involves churches looking outwards to discern how most effectively to serve their neighbourhood. Church schools have an important and distinctive role to play in God's work in the community, and we hope that they are invited to become involved in the local mission action process in appropriate ways. After half term we will be distributing widely short documents to assist the process as we also prepare to celebrate our 900th anniversary and also the *Year of the Child* in 2009. We will be using the strapline 'Growing Younger', mindful that one of the important signs of growing and healthy churches is their engagement with children and young people in parishes and schools.

Schools too are being encouraged to work more closely together. I have been to several schools lately to explore embarking on various new arrangements for closer collaboration; through clusters, federation and trusts. Church schools are in any case already 'Trust Schools'; their trust is in most cases the Diocese of Ely. Of course that does not preclude closer co-operative relationships (sometimes misleadingly dubbed 'soft federation') and even formal federations where these make it possible to do new things or 'do better together' at a local level. The Diocesan Trust can also collaborate formally with a newly formed local Trust. The bewildering number of constitutional arrangements that are now open to schools can be daunting and it is vital that discussion of structures does not over-

take discussion of purpose.

Developing closer collaboration may sometimes be driven by efficiency, economy and security. But one of God's greatest gifts is *imagination*. In both church and school, energy, flourishing and effectiveness flow from creative imagination. We want to support such conversations and encourage them, especially between parishes and schools and between local groupings of schools.

Of course some schools already share resources, including staff. There are examples of developing good practice such as shared bursars, family support workers, even head-teachers. There are also examples where new arrangements could provide greater security for the future; a live issue in small schools and at a time when recruitment and budgeting can be challenging.

Equally, in many localities the relationship between school and parish is thriving and both are deeply aware that together they go about God's service to the community.

In all conversations we urge that the focus be on *vision* and *outcomes*; discerning the most effective practical and constitutional arrangement only when a shared vision emerges.

There can be no single blueprint; in many situations it is better to start by setting aside time and space for people to glimpse the 'big picture', and dream dreams. In this way often the most creative ideas emerge. But the first step, is to set aside the time and to make the opportunity.

This is my final 'Jottings' for some time as I am commencing a three month period of sabbatical next week. Although I will be embarking on a couple of projects—a writing project and a month in Hong Kong as a guest of St John's Cathedral—I hope that it will be for me also a time to glimpse the 'big picture', and dream dreams. My colleagues probably already dread my return in the New Year!

In my absence, please contact the Team as usual; between them Shirley, Jeremy, David and Debbie will between them be covering all the usual aspects of the work and service we offer.



Tim Elbourne

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The Schools Bulletin is published fortnightly in term. We are pleased to publish news and notices. Please send details and pictures (jpeg) and we will try to include them. Send to: debbie.jordan@ely.anglican.org

Popularity of RS Exam Grows



This term we welcome Ann Pittaway, the new head of RE at St Bede's Inter-Church Comprehensive School, so it is a good time to celebrate the fact that nationally in 2008 more school students than ever before – nearly half a million – took public examinations in

religious studies (RS).

The publication of the latest GCSE results showed that more than 179,000 sat the full RS course, and almost 294,000 took the short RS course, which counts for half a GCSE... Earlier in the month, 20,100 students who took A-level RS also received their results.

The huge number of students opting to take the GCSE short course in Year 11 – 55% of all GCSE candidates – coincides with the tenth anniversary of the creation of the examination.

Short-course candidates have almost trebled since 1998. Numbers taking the full course have also grown.

Overall, RS has seen a greater rise in popularity than any other subject and is now the most popular examination subject after English, maths and science.

Students performance in RS is also high, with one in four of these taking GCSE awarded an A or A*. At A-level, 91% of candidates were awarded A-C grades.



The Charities Act 2006

The Department is currently in discussions with the Office of the Third Sector (OTS) and the Charity Commission about the implementation of provisions in the Charities Act 2006 which will affect the exempt status of the governing bodies of foundation and voluntary schools.



being exempt and may have to register with the Charity Commission.

These changes do not affect charitable status; governing bodies of foundation and voluntary schools are, and will continue to be, charities.

We will undertake to update you in good time when arrangements are finalised but in the meantime, we can confirm that it should be “business as usual” in this regard for local authorities.

As background, the governing bodies of foundation and voluntary schools have to date been exempt charities and have not been required to register with, or be regulated by, the Charity Commission.

However, once the relevant provisions of the Charities Act 2006 are commenced (expected to be late 2009), exempt charities will be split into two categories:

A priority for the Department in discussions with the OTS and the Commission is to ensure that the transition is as seamless as possible and that burdens on schools are kept to a minimum.

We are currently exploring the key features of both options and will issue a communication to local authorities and schools when implementation arrangements have been agreed.



Those groups of exempt charities that already have a close working relationship with an organisation - other than the Charity Commission - which has agreed to take responsibility

for promoting compliance with charity law requirements (i.e. a principal regulator) for that group of exempt charities;

Those groups of exempt charities for which no suitable principal regulator has been identified, which will stop

School Funding Unit, DCSF
August 2008

From the Schools Team

Shap World Religions in Education

The Shap Calendar of Religious Festivals is an invaluable resource for the teaching profession, students, businesses, chaplaincies, those in health care and public services, to name but a few.



It provides:

- * a colourful A2 wall planner
- * A5 laminated year planner with an accompanying A5 booklet
- * a brief description of each religious festival
- * an overview of 17 months from August of one year to December of the next
- * details on 12 different faiths from Bahai to Zoroastrian (Parsee) and including Buddhism, Christianity, Islam, Hinduism, Judaism and Sikhism
- * a version from the European working party members with parallel text in French, English and German

Also available is the Shap Pictorial Calendar—2009—This beautiful calendar is ideal for display on a classroom wall, has different photographs for each month, which will arouse curiosity and questions about the religious belief tradition represented.

The beautifully photographed images from around the world are accompanied by brief background information.

To order any of the above resources you can log onto:

www.shapworkingparty.org.uk

or alternatively email: admin@shapworkingparty.org.uk



The Shap working Party,
PO Box 38580
London SW1P 3XF—Tel: 0207-8981494

Fairlymade: Fair trade School Uniforms

Fairlymade is a recently established fair trade children's clothing company, which supplies a full range of school uniform garments for primary and secondary school children. The clothes are made from 100% organic cotton, and are competitively priced.

Fairlymade is founded upon the principles of fair trade. Fair prices, decent working conditions, local sustainability, and fair terms of trade for those working in the garments industry. These factors are independently verified for all the products they sell.

Fairlymade understand the concerns of schools to ensure fair and ethical sources of supply for their uniforms. Their commit-

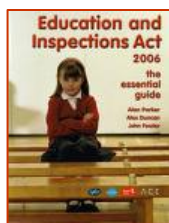
ment to fair trade is fully aligned with the guidance of the Department for Children, Schools and Families regarding sustainable sourcing. Fairlymade can help schools to demonstrate their commitment to sustainability through its guarantee that the garments it supplies have been produced in a fair trade environment.

For further information, please contact : Fairlymade LLP, First Floor, 52 Broad Street, Hereford, HR4 9AB; Tel: 0845 299 7032, or log onto www.fairlymade.com



From the National Society

New Employment Regulations



You will have seen the publicity about Accord and read about the new regulations on employment which came into force on 1st September 2008.

These regulations are snappily titled *The Education and Inspections Act 2006*. This means that headteachers of foundation and VC schools with a religious character can now be 'reserved teachers' – teachers specifically employed to teach RE in accordance with the tenets of the religious designation.

Voluntary Aided schools can now apply religious criteria when employing support staff, but being a Christian/Anglican must be a genuine occupational requirement of the post.

Support staff are subject to the Employment Equality (Religion or Belief) Regulations 2003, which prevents the Govern-

ment from discriminating on religious grounds except where being of a particular religion or denomination is a genuine occupational requirement.

Note that these changes are not retrospective - so anyone in such a post in a Church of England school who is not Christian can't be removed from the post. Neither of these amendments apply to Wales.

The regulations also amend the 1996 Education Act and this allows children attending a school with a religious character which is not their nearest school free travel if the school is more than the statutory walking distance of three miles away (for secondary schools).

Ofsted is now under a general duty to inspect and report on community cohesion. This is an amendment to the 2005 Education Act Section 5 (5).

From our Schools

International Award—Babraham CE Primary School

We are delighted to let you know that we have just received the International Award. This accreditation was the recognition of last year's curriculum based international work.

It had many facets, for example our Christmas Around the World Carol Service, Class 2's India Day, Class 3's Greek Day, World Book Day, creating links with Swiss children and with the Esther Ministries, receiving visiting teachers in training from Florida, Our International Week and the wonderful quilt in the picture.



Every child in the school made a

face and Juliette and Emma's wonderful grandmother sewed it together for us. It will be seen hanging in the hall.

It is recognition for Babraham that at the heart of our ethos is the belief that we instill a global dimension into the learning experience of all our children.

'By 2020 the Government would like all schools to be models of good global citizenship, enriching their educational mission with activities that improve the lives of people living in other parts of the world.'

Suzanne Berry
Headteacher

For Governors

Welcome to newly appointed Foundation Governors

New (or re-appointed) Foundation Governors:-

- ◆ Revd Michael Goater—St Bede's Inter-Church Comprehensive School
- ◆ Revd David Chamberlin—St Bede's Inter-Church Comprehensive School
- ◆ Dr Shailaja Fennell—Park Street CE Primary School
- ◆ Michael Younger—Linton CE Infant School

May I ask all Clerks to keep a check on the terms of office of all Foundation Governors and advise me of any re-appointments.

Thank you

Debbie



Full Governing Body Minutes



It would be very helpful if Clerks to the Governors in all our church schools could send Debbie Jordan copies of their Full Governing Body Minutes on a regular basis.

These particular details are very useful in enabling us to keep up-to-date with what's happening in all our schools.

Sending them by email is preferable to:

debbie.jordan@ely.anglian.org

Alternatively, they can be sent hardcopy to the Diocesan Office, Barton Road, Ely, Cambs CB7 4DX marked for the attention of Debbie Jordan

Thank you.

Debbie

Diocese of Ely

Meetings for Governors—2008

Cambridgeshire County Council, Governor Services have just published their Term Briefing & Consultation Meetings for Governors for the Autumn Term 2008 as follows:-

18th September—Oliver Cromwell Hotel, March
23rd September—Hinchbrooke House, Huntingdon
25th September—Cottenham Village College

All meetings begin at 6.45pm for 7.00pm and provide an opportunity for governor networking and should end at about 9pm.

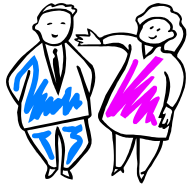
The programme will include:

Cambridge Culture
Fixed Term Exclusions
Domestic Violence Policy
New Secondary Curriculum
One Vision Update
National Assessment Strategy
Sexual Health & Teenage Pregnancy Awareness
Suggested Agenda Items/News Items

NO NEED TO BOOK—JUST TURN UP!

Long onto www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/governors for more details

Hellos and Goodbyes

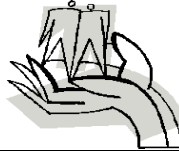


Mrs Suzanne Carter has been appointed as the Acting Headteacher this term at Barrington CE Primary School

Dates for the Diary



In our Prayers over the next month



Day	School
20th September	St Anne's CE Primary School, Godmanchester
23rd September	Gt. Wilbraham CE Primary School
29th September	Duchy of Lancaster CE Primary School, Methwold

Professional Dev. Collective Worship	25th Sept 4.15-5.15	Farcet CE Primary School, near Peterborough
Professional Dev. Collective Worship	1st Oct 4.15-5.15	Thriplow CE Primary School
Professional Dev. Collective Worship	2nd Oct 4.15-5.15	Gt. Paxton CE Primary School
Professional Dev. Collective Worship	8th Oct 4.15-5.15	St Peter's CE Junior School, Wisbech
Professional Dev. Collective Worship	9th Oct 4.15-5.15	Teversham CE Primary School
Professional Dev. Collective Worship	16th Oct 4.15-5.15	Diocesan Office, Ely
Governor Training "Governing in a Church School"	4th Nov 7pm-9pm	Diocesan Office, Ely
Professional Dev. Collective Worship	5th Nov 4.15-5.15	All Saints CE Primary School, March
Professional Dev. Collective Worship	6th Nov 4.15-5.15	Wormegay CE Primary School, West Norfolk
Professional Dev. Collective Worship	13th Nov 4.15-5.15	Linton CE Infants School
New Headteacher Induction Day	10-3pm 20th Oct	Bishop Woodford House, Ely

Vacancies

SCHOOL	VACANCY	CLOSING DATE
Wilburton CE Primary School	Headteacher	26.9.08
Oakington CE Primary School	Headteacher	26.9.08
Barrington CE Primary School	Headteacher	19.9.08
Fordham CE Primary School	Year 5/6 Teacher	26.9.08
Milton CE Primary School	PPA Teacher (50%)	26.9.08
Swaffham Bulbeck CE Primary School	Classroom Teacher	26.9.08
St Philip's CE Community Primary School	KS2 Teacher (Temp)	24.9.08
William de Yaxley CE Primary School	Classteacher (Maternity Cover)	24.9.08

SIAS Reports

Inspection Reports (Ofsted and Statutory Church School Inspection) were published recently for the following schools:

Nothing to report this issue

These Inspection Reports can be read directly via the link on our website. Click on:

"Information about Individual Schools" on the Education or Schools homepages

We're on the web!

www.ely.anglican.org/education

Also visit

www.casias.org.uk

Contact details for all schools can be found on our website:
www.ely.anglican.org/education/schools/Info/Sch