

From the Education Office - Special Bulletin

Dear Colleague,

We hope that you and your staff are keeping safe and well and that you are successfully navigating the often competing expectations placed on you by the DfE, your staff and your pupil's parents and carers. The national and regional picture is constantly changing too so I can only imagine the emotional demands that this is making on your well-being. It is good to note that the DfE are promising a teachers' well-being charter and to keep under review the levels of anxiety within the sector. I guess many of you have added this vital aspect to your current school improvement plans as I am sure that this will feature in your priorities for the next year or so at least. The DfE decision to introduce Relationships, Sex and Health Education from September 2020 is timely in this respect and the increased flexibility that is now included should not add unnecessary curriculum pressures immediately. Given the emphasis on mental health and well-being for staff, as well as children, we have tried to add supportive web links to our diocesan website. If you would like us to arrange an on-line training/briefing session in July do contact Angela on (education@exeter.anglican.org) and we will provide this but a new DfE approved training package is expected to be out soon.

Given the financial storm that has accompanied this pandemic we are currently looking at the implications this will have for us as a diocesan education team. Our financial well-being is under pressure too from a three pronged attack; investments held on behalf of education are yielding lower returns, our income through the SLA and training is expected to be down and lastly common fund contributions to the diocese are bound to be impacted too. To mitigate this position half the team were quickly furloughed but we will soon need to find new and creative ways to fund our work with you. The majority of CofE schools do contribute to our SLA and we ask that this continues, even though, in the short-term, it may be difficult to visit and provide direct support. On-line training via Zoom or Teams will feature in our programme next year and we ask for your continued loyalty to our SLA in the coming year as we find many new opportunities for practical and effective support in partnership.

God bless

John Searson

Join weekly **collective worship sessions**, led by Church of England's schools and in partnership with those of other faith traditions. Suitable for those of all faiths and none. Click [here](#). You can find out future themes on the Church of England [website](#).

Teaching about Mental Wellbeing: The DfE has published [practical material](#) for primary and secondary schools to use to train staff about teaching mental wellbeing. The training module supports the physical and mental wellbeing section of the statutory relationships, sex and health education curriculum.

Talking to children about illness and death: The department of Child and Adolescent Psychiatry at the University of Oxford has developed a [guide](#) to support school staff with talking to children about illness and death. They have also provided two short journal articles discussing the importance of communication with children.

- [Protecting the psychological health of children through effective communication about Covid-10;](#)
- [Talking to children about illness and death of a loved one during the Covid-19 pandemic.](#)

Public Health England have launched a national study that will assess and monitor the prevalence of COVID-19 in schools. [Find out more...](#)

Family Reflections Community Arts Project: This is an open invitation for anyone within the community to utilise their creative skills to create a bank of family reflection activities for Early Years, Primary and Secondary-aged young people. Please promote this in your schools and wider community. More details can be found [here](#).

Statement on Racial Equality: The Bishop of Exeter, Bishop of Plymouth, Bishop of Crediton and the Reverend Tanya Hockley-Still, the BAME Advisor for the Diocese of Exeter, have issued a [joint statement](#) in response to the protests in America over the killing of African-American George Floyd in police custody.

We have set up a webpage which we will continue to update during this period.
You can access this page using the following link:

<https://exeter.anglican.org/schools/coronavirus-resources/>

We also have a Facebook Page. Please like and join our page and group 'Exeter Diocese's Education Team'