

What is a Church school?



A place of education
A place of community
A place of safety
A place where all are served and enabled to serve

One of the great strengths in Church School education in the Diocese of Lincoln is its **Bishop's Visitors**.

By enrolling as a **Bishop's Visitor**, you can be instrumental in developing links with the local church and clergy and further strengthening the school's links with the community

If you find yourself with some hours to spare and would be willing to share yourself, just as you are, with your individual interests and talents, with a Church school close to you, then why not get in touch? Your school needs you to celebrate and contribute to its distinctive Christian character, to pray with it and for it.

Bishop's Visitors are a visible sign of God's presence in our schools, a witness to the possibilities of faith allowing pupils to see faith in action and to consider their responses to it, a sign of the church's willingness to serve God by meeting the needs of His schools and communities. A high calling indeed!

You might feel, after reading this leaflet, that you would like to share your faith and talents with one of our Church Schools in the Diocese of Lincoln in the role of Bishop's Visitor; we welcome your interest in celebrating the possibilities of education in a Christian context and invite you to apply for further information.

An application pack can be requested from the Diocesan Education Centre by contacting Sally Doughty by email: sally.doughty@lincoln.anglican.org or by phone: 01522 504010.

With the role of our clergy changing to that of leading multiple parishes, it becomes increasingly difficult for them to fulfil the role of providing the weekly visits and support that we have been used to; Bishop's Visitors are now more than ever a crucial part of maintaining that church connection whether it is a weekly or a termly visit, Bishop's Visitors can provide that sense of church and school in a relationship that is at the heart of every successful church school.



Bishop's Visitors come to schools as individuals with their own set of skills, experiences and enthusiasms. This enables them to work out in partnership with the school their unique role and relationship in that context.

Collective Worship is of central importance to the daily life of the school. You can make significant contribution through:

- Attending Worship as a visitor, participant, leader
- Saying a prayer
- Reading the Bishop's letter to the school community
- Sharing your Christian faith by example, being caring, smiling, honest and trustworthy
- Leading the whole act of worship

The Diocesan Board of Education supports the work of Bishop's Visitors. Each year begins with a conference with contributions from the Bishop's office and education team. The conference provides a training opportunity, a time to share experiences and time for spiritual reflection.

Additionally two regional meetings are held within the Diocese in the spring term. Individual Bishop's Visitors often contribute by showing what they do or by bringing examples from their schools. These meetings are shared with the members of the Diocesan Education Centre team and the co-ordinator for Bishop's Visitors. This is a time to get to know each other better and share both your expertise and experiences.

In the summer a social event is arranged; this event is at the individual visitor's expense.

Through three newsletters during the year, we will share our news and keep you informed of events in the diocese which you may like to attend.

At any time throughout the year you are welcome to contact the Diocesan team or the **Bishop's Visitor** co-ordinator with any queries or concerns you may have. We look forward to hearing from you.

