

# Footprints

THE CHURCH  
OF ENGLAND  
Diocese of Norwich

Your newsletter from the Diocesan Board of Education

January 2025

## Building together for wisdom, knowledge and skills



**Paul Dunning**  
Diocesan Director of Education

**I am writing this as we come to the end of another tumultuous year. Like every year there is a mixture of joy and sadness, challenge and victory, regret and delight.**

These raw emotions are often seen in the Bible where prophets, kings, disciples and all sorts of people cry out to God in lament and praise. Christmas is a wonderful time to remember the hope we have in a Saviour who is with us through all life's ups and downs. I pray that you have enjoyed this holiday season

and feel refreshed and ready for 2025!

Footprints is one way we celebrate the joys, victories and delights in our church school family. The curriculum and personal development examples that follow demonstrate the aspiration of the Church of England's Vision for Education which says that:

*Good schools foster confidence, delight and discipline in seeking wisdom, knowledge, truth, understanding, know-how, and the skills needed to shape life well. They nurture academic habits and skills, emotional intelligence and creativity across the whole range of school subjects, including areas such as music, drama and the arts, information and other technologies, sustainable development, sport, and what one needs to understand and practise in order to be a good person, citizen, parent, employee, team or group member, or leader.*

I love the concept of wisdom sitting alongside knowledge and skills and the added dimension that can bring to a curriculum. There are verses in Proverbs (24:3-4) that we use in our own Diocesan Board of Education (DBE) Strategic Plan, and which inform DNEAT's trust vision that say:

*By wisdom a house is built; and by understanding it is established: By knowledge the rooms are filled with all precious and pleasant riches.*

Every room in our family of schools is filled with the 'precious and pleasant riches' that are the children and young people in our care, alongside the adults exercising that care. We know there are challenges ahead in 2025, but we can meet these together leaning into our Christian vision and values, enabling our pupils to grow in wisdom, knowledge and skills.



**Rebecca Newman**  
Executive Headteacher  
Eden Federation (DNEAT)

Our curriculum 'journey' started in earnest in 2019 along with many other schools. We had worked with a topic-based approach across the then three schools in the Trinity Federation for several years. The teachers and children enjoyed it, but there was not enough thought given to progression in skills and knowledge across the school. It became clear that this approach was not robust enough to sustain the deep dive methodology and we needed a change.

The three schools in the Trinity Federation included Hockering Primary (PAN 7) – two classes, Great Witchingham Primary (PAN 15) – three classes and St Peter's Primary, Easton (PAN 30) – seven classes. Having been federated as the three schools for over eight years, we were used to working together, sharing planning, resources and subject leadership. We did not want to lose this approach.

Our schools are quite diverse. Our smallest school has a high level of SEND and rural deprivation with the vast majority of children being white British. Our largest school with its proximity to the NNUH, Research Park and UEA has seen an increase in diversity where numbers of children with EAL equal that of Pupil Premium and exceeded those with SEND.

As staff we agreed it was important for all to have access to a global curriculum that enabled pupils to embrace cultural diversity and develop an awareness of conservation issues and the role they have to play. We needed to prepare them for their future in a multicultural society, leaving no-one behind and living out our Nurture, Nourish, Flourish vision based around the parable of the Lost Sheep.

We looked at a few 'off the shelf' curricula and were drawn to the Dimensions 'Learning Means the World' (LMTW) scheme as it gave a good basis for us to realise these aims. Organised under the four 'C's Communication, Culture, Conflict and Conservation, the resources gave a challenge to the curriculum that we had not had before.

The units are either designed for EYs, KS1, LKS2 or UKS2. Due to the differing structures in our schools we organised these in to a single year, two, three and four year rolling programmes. Planning and leadership are shared and whilst the bones of the curriculum remain the same, the schools have autonomy to ensure that it meets the needs of the particular cohort. We found we were able to map the Christian Values against the 'C's to ensure that Collective Worship themes also complimented what was being learned in class.

The wider curriculum is considered carefully, and trips and visits planned to

compliment the curriculum and broaden the children's horizons. We use museums, local history groups, musicians and have even had a visit from an arctic explorer. We also take UKS2 children to sing at the O2 with thousands of others – many have never been outside Norfolk before.

Over the last five years the curriculum has developed and changed. We review the curriculum annually, taking feedback from children and staff. Last year we officially became the Eden Federation as Cawston Primary joined us and took on the LMTW curriculum. Another class structure – but we already had a model to work with.

Ofsted have visited both our largest and smallest schools within the last year recognising the work we have done across the Federation to develop a challenging, broad, balanced, inclusive curriculum and enrich the learning beyond the classroom.

Each term we have an overarching enquiry question. Currently the question for our UKS2 children is 'What can we learn from the history of discrimination to make a better future?' I asked them why they thought that we teach them about Rosa Parks, Nelson Mandela, Martin Luther King and Malala Yousafzai. One boy answered '... because they are history makers. We need to learn how their history has an impact on today.' Have we reached our destination? No, the curriculum will never be finished, but maybe we are getting there.

**Kerry Savage**  
Headteacher  
Homefield CofE VC Primary School

### Building Our Curriculum

In September 2022 I had the privilege of joining Homefield C of E Primary School as the new substantive Headteacher. Prior to my arrival the school had experienced a period of instability which had affected standards and the overall quality of education.

The school curriculum was reviewed in the Autumn term 2022 and it became clear that a new curriculum was needed. The school needed a curriculum that was underpinned by a consistent pedagogy that was based on research and evidence led principles. We wanted a curriculum that facilitated our school vision of 'Curious Minds, Open Hearts and Joy of Learning'.

During the Spring term 2023 we visited other schools and researched pedagogical approaches. We needed to develop a school wide pedagogy that enabled children to be curious and involved in their learning. We wanted a diverse curriculum that taught children about the wider world and most of all we wanted children to experience a sense of 'Joy' in their learning. We wanted a curriculum that



was sequential, where all children had the opportunity to build on prior knowledge through deliberate repetition and practice.

Spring 2023 the CUSP complete curriculum was purchased, and all teaching staff embarked on a journey of high quality CPD that enabled us to have the skills and knowledge to implement the new curriculum design. During our most recent Ofsted Inspection in October 2024, the staff shared how valuable the CPD has been and how it has empowered them to implement the new ambitious curriculum in a way that inspires and excites children.

The school implemented the complete CUSP curriculum through a phased roll-out of subjects from March 2023. The phased roll-out gave us time to really think about

each subject and make adaptations to meet the needs of all learners. We took time to make the CUSP curriculum our own and we have developed our own Early Years Curriculum that enables children to revisit and apply their knowledge within an inspiring learning environment. As children transition from EYFS into Year 1 they continue learning through continuous provision with a curriculum that challenges them and allows them time for uninterrupted deliberate practice.

Homefield C of E Primary now has a curriculum from Nursery to Year 6 that we are proud of! The children demonstrate high levels of involvement in their learning and the impact has been evident in the children's outcomes.

**Julia Norman**  
Headteacher  
Ingoldisthorpe CofE VA Primary School

At Ingoldisthorpe Church of England Primary School we are very proud of the secure, friendly, family environment of our school. We are proud of our long history and Christian ethos: a family school where everyone matters. Everyone who comes to visit comments on our positive, happy and enthusiastic pupils. Children really thrive and succeed at our school. Our Ofsted inspection in early October stated that:

*Ingoldisthorpe is a warm, welcoming and inclusive school. The school's strong Christian ethos emanates through everything that the school does. Pupils are polite, articulate and respectful.*

Our children are at the heart of our curriculum, we want our pupils to enjoy school and their time with us. Our curriculum is bespoke to us, topic led with carefully chosen high quality texts to support learning. At Ingoldisthorpe outdoor learning is part



of the curriculum from Nursery to Year 6. We are blessed with lovely grounds and have access to a local site called Mount Amelia where classes visit for their outdoor learning sessions. We plan in a range of collapsed curriculum days throughout the year where pupils work in vertical groupings on a particular focus for the day such as British values, or our recent spirituality day.

The personal development of our pupils is of paramount importance.

We offer a broad range of enrichment opportunities for our pupils, through sport, music, dance and performing arts. We encourage our pupils to take on additional areas of responsibility through our school Council, sports leaders, ethos group or becoming team captains. At the end of their time with us we aim for all pupils to be able to read music and play an instrument. We have whole class teaching of recorders and ukuleles in Key Stage 2. Children are also offered the opportunity to have individual music lessons and play as part of a band through Rock Steady. Ofsted recognised the importance of our pupil's personal development when they visited awarding us outstanding in this area; they stated:

*The wider opportunities pupils have are exceptional. The rich and varied offer enables all pupils to develop their talents and interests. Pupils have sporting, musical and performing opportunities at local and, on occasion, regional level. Every pupil learns to play a musical instrument. This enriches their school experience considerably.*

## The Bishop's Lent Appeal 2025

Raising money for

# YANA

to help fund its  
telephone helpline

**This year's Lent Appeal aims to raise money for YANA to help fund its telephone helpline.**

YANA provides rural mental health support for those involved in agriculture and other rural businesses affected by stress and depression. YANA's mission is to improve mental health in agriculture and rural businesses in East Anglia.

**[www.yanahelp.org](http://www.yanahelp.org)**

YANA means 'You Are Not Alone'. It was launched as a project in 2008 by the Norfolk farming charity, the Clan Trust and became a charity in its own right in 2020.

Working in agriculture and the countryside is usually a good way of life but it can be a demanding and stressful

occupation. So it's not surprising that many people involved can feel isolated, depressed or unable to cope as well as normal. That's where YANA can help.

The Bishop of Norwich, the Rt Revd Graham Usher says:

*"YANA is doing vital work by being alongside people working in farming and rural businesses and offering help and hope to those struggling with stress or depression. Those living and working in rural areas are often facing increasing challenges and I have been very impressed by all YANA does to care for people."*

As well as a confidential helpline, YANA is also investing in mental health training and suicide prevention.

In 2023 YANA had a 20% increase in the requests for help made to the helpline. The telephone helpline 0300 323 0400 is available for confidential support every Monday to Friday between 10am to 1pm. Outside of these hours, people can leave a message and receive a callback. Or can email **[helpline@yanahelp.org](mailto:helpline@yanahelp.org)**

Any money raised from the Bishop's Lent Appeal 2025 will go towards funding YANA's telephone helpline, offering confidential support to those in need. For schools to get involved please visit the Diocesan website in the spring and search for Lent Appeal 2025.

**[www.dioceseofnorwich.org](http://www.dioceseofnorwich.org)**

### Welcome

#### Headteachers starting

**John Neenan**  
Drayton Junior

**Bex Starman**  
Heartwood Primary (interim)

### Farewell & thanks

#### Heads leaving

**Alison Read**  
Drayton Junior

**Emily McMillen**  
Heartwood

### SIAMS congratulations

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

**Necton CE VA Primary**

**Peterhouse CE Primary Academy**

**St Michael's CE Primary Academy,  
King's Lynn**