



Love your neighbour as yourself



Paul Dunning
Diocesan Director of Education

The story of the Good Samaritan in Luke 10 verses 25-37 is how Jesus brings to life the practicalities of loving your neighbour as yourself. In fact, he challenges his listeners (and us) to not only love those we might obviously

call our physical neighbours but those whom we may have difficulties with.

The Jews, who Jesus was talking to, and the Samaritans did not get on, so the fact that it was a despised Samaritan who helped a Jew who had been beaten up and robbed was totally radical! Can we 'go and do likewise' (verse 37)?

Schools are wonderful places where every day we see those on the edges included, supported and loved. This includes pupils and adults across the school and wider community. These are challenging times in schools with budget pressures affecting staff capacity but every week I see examples of those in our church schools demonstrating their

love of neighbour. Thank you!

Both examples in this edition of Footprints show the importance of investing in staff and equipping them to carry out their work with pupils. This also shows the value of staff collaborating and supporting and encouraging one another within school, across a federation or within a multi academy trust. We are not alone and have an amazing network of colleagues and friends within our Diocesan school family. As we continue to live out Jesus's command to love our neighbours and one another I pray we too will feel loved, valued and supported by those around us.



Kellie Egleton
Headteacher
Kessingland and Hopton
CofE Primary Academies

Kessingland School: A Journey of Transformation and Community

In 2012, Kessingland was a school in the midst of profound challenges, having been placed in special measures. Those who visited recognised the difficulty of the situation and there was a distinct sense of uncertainty about what the future held.

However, in 2013, hope and love began to shine through when Kessingland joined the Diocese of Norwich Education and Academies Trust (DNEAT). Andy Mash, the Director of Education, "parked Kessingland in safety" and from that moment, the school began a remarkable journey of recovery. The community was reconnected with its diocesan neighbours and the school found itself welcomed into a strong, supportive and extensive network. Through this collaboration, exceptional professional development opportunities enabled the team to grow and flourish.

This transformation meant that in

2019, Kessingland was recognised by Ofsted as "thriving" and rated "Good," a testament to the tireless work of the entire school community. This was a moment of celebration, not only for the staff and children but for the wider community, our neighbours, who had supported the school on its journey.

With outstanding support from DNEAT, Kessingland began to recognise the skills and expertise it could share further. Partnerships were re-established with the local church, Africa Alive, Hands on Heritage and the Parish Council. These relationships became central to the school's vision of "Living life in all its fullness by being the best that you can be". The commitment to education extended beyond the classroom, with leaders gaining national accreditation and playing a pivotal role in mentoring and coaching other school leaders to success.

In line with the Christian vision, which is rooted in the example of 'the Good Shepherd,' staff have ensured that both pupils and adults flourish and succeed within their community. The school's vision drives every aspect of the educational experience. The curriculum is now rich and varied, reflecting the school's values and is designed to promote curiosity, knowledge and the development of the whole child.

This is evident in the many learning opportunities that Kessingland offers, from the arts to outdoor education, from local visits to community engagement. The recent SIAMS inspection praised the school for creating "a sanctuary for pupils who are deemed vulnerable and/or disadvantaged," highlighting the school's commitment to inclusivity and care for all its children. The school now holds the highly valued Inclusion Quality Mark award and is recognised as a Centre of Excellence in providing the very best education for all children irrespective of differences.

In addition to internal expertise, the recent partnership with Hopton CofE Primary Academy has created new opportunities for collaboration not only for staff development but also enriching the culture of aspiration and respect that defines the school. Pupils are at the centre of this work and are encouraged to show compassion and empathy to their 'neighbours', with numerous opportunities to contribute to their local and global community. Fundraising for charities, creating meaningful links with Malawi and learning about the care for the elderly in the local care home reflect the core values of compassion, respect and responsibility that are central to our ethos.

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Perhaps one of the most profound aspects of Kessingland's transformation is the partnership with the local church. The relationship between the school and St Edmund's Church is a truly reciprocal one, with pupils creating thoughtful guides for the church and regularly celebrating Christian festivals together. The church has become an important place for pupils to worship and deepen their spiritual lives. This partnership enriches the overall experience of being a church school, where faith, community and education come together in a meaningful way.

Kessingland's journey has been one of hope, resilience and renewal. Through all the challenges and successes, Kessingland has become a shining example of what can be achieved when a community comes together to nurture, support and empower each other. And as we continue on this journey, we remain committed to the words of Jesus in Luke 10:25-37, which remind us that a neighbour is anyone we come into contact with. At Kessingland, we are fortunate to experience the extraordinary relationships that are born from compassion, respect and a shared commitment to making a difference.



Esme Sexton
Executive Headteacher
The Saints Federation

At the Saints Federation, we recognised that our community, like others, was juggling the complex nature of life today and that if we were truly committed to fulfilling our vision for all to 'Shine as lights in the world!' (Philippians 2.15), we must first meet the emotional needs of our children and adults. Having trained Thrive Practitioners working directly with our children had been the first step towards this goal, but we wanted a wider approach.

Emotion coaching uses moments of heightened emotion, which result

in behaviour, to guide and teach the child or young person about more effective responses. Through empathetic engagement, the child's emotional state is verbally acknowledged and validated, promoting a sense of security and feeling 'felt'. This activates changes in the child's neurological system and allows the child to regulate, physiologically and psychologically.

Staff have found it fascinating to learn how the brain works emotionally, and it also made us think carefully about our own emotional response to pupil behaviour. We became more curious around the reasons for behaviours, recognising that all behaviour is a communication. Adults stop and think before responding to ensure they

themselves are regulated. We discovered that a brain does not fully mature and develop until the age of 25, and that repeated positive experiences can rewire our ability to manage our regulation. Through the continued development of an Emotion Coaching culture, we have seen the positive impact on attendance, engagement and pupil progress.

The Bible teaches our children to "love your neighbour as yourself" and through emotion coaching we can become more able to care for each other and acknowledge our individual struggles. When we see someone upset or dysregulated, we label their feeling, tell them 'I can see that you are...'. This is our continued approach to supporting everyone to shine.

Board of Education update



Caroline Hutton
Chair of the Diocesan
Board of Education

2025 sees the start of the new committee for the Diocesan Board of Education (DBE).

This wonderful board works behind the scenes to help our Church of England schools and academies to be 'immeasurably more than we can imagine' Ephesians 3 v20. We seek to help schools and academies fulfil the Church of England's national vision for education supporting you all to flourish with hope, dignity and wisdom. As part of the Diocese of Norwich we also have an Education Strategy that helps us

work out the Diocese of Norwich Vision, transformed by Christ; Prayerful, Pastoral and Prophetic.

As a board we are made up of a mixture of Clergy, Headteachers, and Laity with experience in education, children and youth and a representative from Norfolk County Council. We work closely with the Diocesan Education team to help fulfil our Education Strategy and Diocese vision.

This new term of office sees new faces joining us. We would like to welcome: Revd Coryn Stanforth, Revd Carl Melville, Nicola Rowland (Headteacher at Corton), Weiwei Cossey from the parish in Watton and James Wilson from Norfolk County Council. We are grateful to those who continue to serve on the DBE.

They are: Bishop Ian Bishop, Fr. Harri Williams, Revd Derek McClean, Revd Andrew Whitehead, Jan Pierson, John

Neenan (Headteacher at Drayton), Mat Tuckwood (Headteacher at Whitefriars, King's Lynn) and Teresa Osborne.

Our new term also brings with it another change and I would like to take this opportunity to introduce myself. My name is Caroline Hutton, and I am the new Chair of the Diocese Board of Education. For those of you who do not know me, I am a committed Christian, a vicar's wife, a mother of three, a schools worker/chaplain to our benefice schools, Chair of Governors to the Kingfisher Federation, a member of the Board of Education for the last three years and I am passionate about Church of England schools and academies.

All of us desire to see our schools and academies be 'immeasurably more than we can imagine' so that all can flourish and shine.

Welcome

New DSSO

Jane Gardener

Headteachers starting

Hilary Myhill

Great Massingham & Harpley CE Schools Federation

Bex Starman

Heartwood VC Primary School

SIAMS congratulations

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

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

Necton CE VA Primary School

Peterhouse CE Primary Academy

Castle Acre CE Primary Academy

Catfield CE Primary Academy

Caston CE Primary Academy

Blakeney CE VA Primary School

Gayton CE Primary Academy

Overstrand The Belfry CE VA Primary School



Headteachers Conference 2025

Thursday 27 March – Norwich Cathedral

To book your place please visit:

www.DofN.org/Headteachers2025 / Password: HTConference25