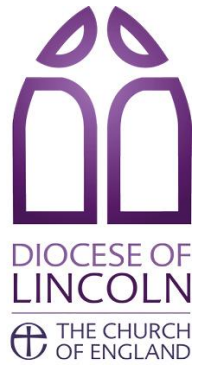


19 March 2020



Jackie Waters-Dewhurst
Diocesan Director of Education

Dear Friends and Colleagues

What unprecedented times.

I know that you are at the moment deep in trying to prepare for the unknown. Like you we have heard the government announcement, about school closures and, like you, we also have no idea of the details which will translate the announcement into reality in your settings.

I am not writing to request information or suggest actions. You will already be receiving a plethora of advice from unions, local authorities and networks to which you belong.

I write to simply say we recognise how difficult it is to be a leader in schools, at this time, to carry such a burden of responsibility. You have done an amazing job over the last week keeping your school open for as long as you can amidst the fears of parents and staff. We have been praying for you and we will continue to do so.

We are arranging a section of our website to include updates including resources, such as Collective Worship, which could be used electronically, prayers and messages.

The office here at 103 will be functioning virtually, but we are all still available by phone or email, or using Microsoft Team. Please use us!

Once we know more about the expectations for schools there may be things you need us to support you with, please just ask.

In the meantime, our prayer board at 103 reads:

Pray for:

All of our DBE and LAAT schools and their staff,
All of our 28,500 pupils and their families,
Remembering that we have a God of hope and love
who promises not a lack of trials,
but that he will be with us through them and in them.

We will stand with you in prayer, in support, in friendship.

Please call on us.

God Bless

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'JD', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Jacqueline Waters-Dewhurst
Diocesan Director of Education