

## **Carlisle Diocesan Director of Education**

Thank you for taking an interest in the DDE role. Here in Carlisle Diocese we have been fully engaged with, and indeed in the vanguard of, many recent developments within the Church of England's role in Education. We intend to appoint someone committed to that Vision for Education, and able to give relational and visionary leadership as we move forwards.


At the heart of recent strategic work by the DBE here has been the time spent engaging across the Diocese with that Vision for Education. In developing our own clear Vision here, we have seen our local Ecumenical context as the lens to focus a national vision into real life on the ground in Cumbria. This has been well received across our partners – from parents to Synods, from governors to Diocesan staff, from pupils to those outside of any contact with the Church of England. As is explained in the attached paperwork, this Vision Document has now been worked out into a Strategy Document to ensure that we are realistic and focussed in seeking real change in the lives every child and young person in Cumbria. The incoming DDE will be excited to provide leadership in taking that vision forward to make a real difference 'on the ground' here.

As a DBE we have also been fully engaged in such things as the Church of England Foundation for Educational Leadership, encouraging a good number into their NPQH programme, as well as being at the forefront of developing their Peer Support Network. As a member of DBE Services (a company consisting of the North West dioceses, with York) we also fulfil a strategic role within the wider English education context. Not only that, but we have recently renewed our Board with excellent, highly-skilled and well-motivated appointments.

The DBE in Cumbria has many opportunities and challenges, as you will see. Many of the schools in the County are Church of England schools, but a large proportion of those are small or very small, and some are isolated within complex community changes. Our Diocesan MAT is a real success story recently too, both in terms of school outcomes and financially, with our new Chief Executive a respected Head locally.

We have already noted the ecumenical nature of our work here in Carlisle Diocese. Two other things distinguish us from many other Dioceses: we have a God for All strategy, desiring that everyone hears more about God and his purpose for their lives by the end of 2020, and we are pursuing Mission Communities, where parishes and partners work closely together towards that aim. We see the recent 'Growing Faith' document as having much applicability to our context and needs, and welcome its contents, priorities and strategic direction.

As Chair of the DBE I am leading on +James' appointment of the incoming DDE. If you would like an informal conversation about the role, do feel free to be in touch. Please be assured of our prayers for you as you read and reflect on the attached papers.

A handwritten signature in dark ink that reads "Andrew Towner". The signature is written in a cursive style with a long horizontal stroke above the name.

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