DIOCESE OF Hexham & Newcastle

DEPARTMENT FOR EDUCATION

Professional Development & Formation Programme







2026 - 2027

Table of Contents

5 Welcome Message

6 Meet the Team

7 Our Mission

8 Our Strategic Priorities

School Leaders

9 Catholic Education Leaders and Clergy Conference

10 Bishop's Day Conference

11 Governance Conference

12 Primary and Secondary Headteachers

13 New Permanent and Acting Headteachers / Heads of School

14 New Permanent and Acting Deputy Headteachers

14 Retreat for Deputy Headteachers

15 Catholic School Inspection for School Leaders

16-17 Foundation Governors and Directors

18-19 Chair of Governor Briefings

20 National Catholic Leadership Programme 2026-2028

Aspiring School Leaders

21 Aspiring Deputy Headteachers

22 Growing Middle Leaders in a Catholic Primary School

23 Middle Leadership in a Catholic Secondary School

Catholic Life and Mission

24 An Introduction into Catholic Education

Religious Education

25 New Primary RE Subject Leaders

26-27 Primary RE Subject Leaders

28 Secondary Heads of RE

29 RE Conference

30 Creative Prayer

31 Supporting Teaching and Learning in the Classroom

32 Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion for Schools

33-36 RED Rapid Review Sessions

Lay Chaplaincy

37 Termly Meetings

Catholic School Inspection

38 Termly Training for Catholic School Inspectors

Recruitment

39 Termly Training for Diocesan Recruitment Advisers

Booking Information

40 Making a Booking

Yearly Planner

41-46 Diary Dates

Venue Information

47 Venue Information

Contact Information

47 Diocese of Hexham and Newcastle Contact Information

Welcome Message



Welcome to our professional development and formation handbook for the academic year 2026 - 2027.

Pope Leo, in his Apostolic letter: Drawing New Maps of Hope states:
"...educators must be willing to learn and develop knowledge or be open to the renewal and updating of etholodologies, but open also to spiritual and religious formation and sharing."

"It is necessary to cultivate a heart that widens, a gaze that encourages and an intelligence that discerns."

It is hoped that whatever role you undertake in our schools, that you will find an opportunity for professional development within this programme.

Furthermore, as a department it is also our intention to support you all on your career journey. You will note that we offer support and development for middle leaders in Catholic schools, to Aspiring Deputy Headteachers through to our very successful National Catholic Leadership Programme. This is led by experienced leaders from the diocese, our schools and Catholic Education Trusts and intends to support future headteachers on their developmental journey.

Headteachers, subject leaders and governors are also invited to join us on a termly basis for meetings which include national and diocesan updates. We always enjoy opportunities to meet with you at these events.

We look forward to working in partnership with you.

CM Craig

Catherine Craig
Director of Education

Meet the Team



Canon Simon Lerche
Episcopal Vicar
for Education



Catherine Craig
Director
of Education



Alison Dunne
Deputy Director
of Education



Michelle Ross
RE & Ethos Adviser



Clare Rice
Education Business
Manager



Eimear Hurley
Choral Director



Viv Fawcett
Senior Administrator



Rebecca Daglish
Administrator



Aleah Oyagbohun
Administrator

Our Mission

The Diocesan Department for Education:

- assists the Bishop to ensure the promotion, preservation, protection and future development of Catholic education within the Diocese of Hexham and Newcastle
- is committed to education and formation as a lifelong process is there to support those involved in education; to address current and future needs and faithfully express and promote the Church's pastoral mission in education
- works collaboratively and in active consultation, in accordance with Church teaching, with those who are involved professionally or voluntarily within our diocesan schools

We will do this by:

- assisting the Bishop in discharging his responsibilities for all diocesan schools;
  - articulating confidently and clearly our diocesan vision of Catholic education which
- has Christ at the centre;
  - providing a high-quality service to all members of our school communities, incorporating both support and challenge, to enable them to fulfil this mission;
- supporting our schools in delivering the highest quality Catholic Life and Mission, Religious Education and Collective Worship experiences and opportunities through providing a range of professional development and formation opportunities for those working in and governing our schools;
- ensuring that our schools are at least as academically distinguished as that in other schools of the area (Canon 806);
  - maintaining strong partnerships with the diocesan family of schools and with the wider educational community;
  - collaborating with curial departments and partnerships;
  - liaising and consulting with national and local public bodies, the Catholic Education Service (CES) and church agencies to promote, manage and protect Catholic education throughout the diocese.

Our Strategic Priorities

1. Walking with Jesus and enabling encounters with Him
2. Living justly and caring for our common home
3. Growing as one diocesan family
4. Being formed and developed by Christ and one another for mission

School Leaders

Catholic Education Leaders and Clergy Conference

Thursday 3 December 2026 09:30-17:00
Ramside Hall Hotel, Carville, Durham DH1 1TD

We are delighted to welcome Danny Curtin to our diocese and look forward to hearing his key note address.



Danny has worked in the faith based and voluntary sector from a very young age. Growing up on the grounds of a Leonard Cheshire Home for people with physical disabilities he was surrounded by an environment of equality, empowerment and dedication to genuine human dignity. Previously, he was a leader in Catholic youth work and Catholic social justice for over 20 years, as President of the YCW in England and Wales, and helping to found the Catholic Youth Ministry Federation and Million Minutes, the Catholic youth charity. He has also worked with CAFOD, Mission, the Caritas Social Action Network, and charities such as Trussell and Clinks. He is author of youth resources and social action programmes, and facilitated the development of the Adventurous Accompaniment programme, designed to equip Catholic communities in the 'art of accompaniment'. Danny now works as a facilitator and coach with dioceses, religious orders, schools and charities. He describes himself as being 'passionate about helping people achieve their purpose more fully'.

Cost of Conference: £120
How to book: Please book via our online booking system at www.diocesehncourses.org

School Leaders

Bishop's Day Conference

Thursday 10 June 2027 - 09:30-14:00
The Durham Centre, Belmont Industrial Estate, Durham DH1 1TN

Bishop Stephen Wright invites all headteachers, Catholic Education Trust leaders and executive teams to join him at this event.

The morning will be an opportunity for the Diocesan Department for Education to provide you with national and diocesan updates.

This will be followed by Mass to which all school staff who are retiring will be invited.

The conference will end with lunch.

Cost: £50

How to book: Please book via our online booking system at www.diocesehncourses.org

For school staff who are retiring in 2027, please RSVP a place by emailing education@diocesehn.org.uk



Image re-produced with the kind permission of
Gilbert Johnston Photography

School Leaders

Governance Conference

Wednesday 30 June 2027 at 9:30 - 14:30
The Durham Centre, Belmont Industrial Estate, Durham DH1 1TN

Members, Directors, Governors & Catholic Education Trust Executive teams are invited to attend the Diocesan Governance Conference.

Mass will be celebrated by The Right Reverend Bishop Stephen Wright.

Further information to follow.

Cost: No cost

How to book: Please book by emailing education@diocesehn.org.uk

"Each star has its own brightness, but together they chart a course... unity is our most prophetic strength."

Drawing New Maps of Hope, Pope Leo XIV

School Leaders

Primary and Secondary Headteachers

Our Primary and Secondary Headteacher meetings provide an opportunity for all headteachers or their representatives to join the Director, Deputy Director of Education and RE Adviser. It is a chance for Headteachers to receive updates on current issues.

Representation from each school is an expectation please.

Session	Date	Time	Venue
Autumn Session (Primary North)	Tuesday 20 October 2026	09:30-11:30	Grand Hotel, Gosforth Park
Autumn Session (Primary South)	Wednesday 21 October 2026	09:30-11:30	Durham Centre
Autumn Session (Secondary)	Wednesday 21 October 2026	13:30-15:30	Durham Centre
Spring Session (North)	Tuesday 9 February 2027	09:30-11:30	Grand Hotel, Gosforth Park
Spring Session (South)	Wednesday 10 February 2027	09:30-11:30	Durham Centre
Spring Session (Secondary)	Wednesday 10 February 2027	13:30-15:30	Durham Centre

Target Audience: Primary and Secondary Headteachers

Cost: No Cost

Session Leaders: Catherine Craig, Alison Dunne and Michelle Ross

Session Outline:
- Current national and diocesan updates
- Catholic School Inspection updates
- Sharing good practice
- Bespoke topics will be included to suit the group

How to book: Please book via our online booking system at www.diocesehncourses.org

School Leaders

New Permanent and Acting Headteachers/Heads of School

As well as termly Diocesan Headteacher meetings, there are planned opportunities for new Headteachers to meet with diocesan officers. New Headteachers and Heads of School are asked to attend all sessions to receive support in their new role.

These sessions focus on the specific Catholic elements of headship and are in addition to any training provided by the Catholic Education Trusts.

Session	Date	Time	Venue
Welcome Session	Friday 25 September 2026	09:30-15:30	Copthorne Hotel

Target Audience: New Headteachers/Heads of School

Cost: No Cost

Session Leaders: Catherine Craig and Alison Dunne

Session Outline:

- Context and background of Catholic Education
- Being a faith leader; the role of the Headteacher
- Diocesan admission guidance
- Working with the local governing committee
- Catholic School Inspection
- Arrangements for visit by Director/Deputy Director of Education

How to book: New Headteachers/Heads of School will receive a personal invitation with booking instructions

"Leadership in Catholic education is not about power or prestige, but about service, sacrifice, and the formation of souls. "

Pope John Paul II

School Leaders

New Permanent and Acting Deputy Headteachers

Welcome day for all new permanent and acting Deputy Headteachers. This day will provide an opportunity for new Deputy Headteachers to become familiar with the work of the Diocesan Department for Education and the support available. It is a chance to meet other new Deputy Headteachers and attend Mass together at the Cathedral Church of St Mary.

Session	Date	Time	Venue
Welcome Session	Friday 16 October 2026	09:30-15:30	Copthorne Hotel

Target Audience: New Deputy Headteachers

Cost: No Cost

Session Leaders: Catherine Craig and Alison Dunne

Session Outline:
- Context and background of Catholic education
- Being a faith leader; the role of the Deputy Headteacher
- Nurturing the Catholic ethos in school

How to book: New Deputy Headteachers will receive a personal invitation with booking instructions

Retreat for Deputy Headteachers

An opportunity to join with colleagues for prayer, reflection and time to connect with God in a meaningful way.

Session	Date	Time	Venue
Deputy Headteachers' Retreat	Friday 2 July 2027	13:00-15:30	Minsteracres TBC

Target Audience: Deputy Headteachers

Cost: £50

Session Leaders: Father Shaun Purdy and Alison Dunne

How to book: Please book via our online booking system at www.diocesehncourses.org

School Leaders

Catholic School Inspection for School Leaders

This day will provide guidance on preparing for the National Framework for Catholic School Inspections.

Session	Date	Time	Venue
Catholic school inspection training for schools	Wednesday 16 September 2026	09:30-15:30	Durham Centre

Target Audience: Headteachers/Heads of School, Deputy Headteachers and RE Subject Leaders

Cost: £90

Session Leaders: Alison Dunne and Clare Rice

Session Outline:
- Background to Catholic School Inspection
- Inspection cycle
- The inspection process
- Preparing a Catholic self evaluation document (CSED)
- Latest CSI updates

How to book: Please book via our online booking system at www.diocesehncourses.org

CATHOLIC SCHOOLS INSPECTORATE

THE NATIONAL FRAMEWORK FOR THE INSPECTION OF CATHOLIC SCHOOLS, COLLEGES AND ACADEMIES

"Jesus Christ: yesterday, today, forever."

Hebrews 13:8

Inspection at the service of the educational mission of the Church

School Leaders

Foundation Governors and Directors

This course will welcome foundation governors and directors new to their role and discuss the statutory and canonical responsibilities of the foundation governors in a Catholic school.
It is expected that all new governors and directors attend this training and also complete the Formatio governor training modules available here: Formatio/Governors

Session	Date	Time	Venue
New Foundation Governors Welcome	Tuesday 22 September 2026	17:00-18:00	Online
New Foundation Governors Welcome	Tuesday 12 January 2027	17:00-18:00	Online
New Foundation Governors Welcome	Tuesday 13 April 2026	17:00-18:00	Online

Target Audience: Governors and Directors

Cost: No Cost

Session Leaders: Catherine Craig, Alison Dunne and Michelle Ross

Session Outline:
- Role of governors in Catholic schools
- Responsibilities of the local governing committee

How to book: Please book via our online booking system a www.diocesehncourses.org

"Truly I say to you whoever receives the one I send receives me, and whoever receives me receives the one who sent me."
John 13:20

School Leaders

Foundation Governors and Directors

This course will welcome foundation governors and directors new to their role and discuss the statutory and canonical responsibilities of the foundation governors in a Catholic school.
It is expected that all new governors and directors attend this training and also complete the Formatio governor training modules available here: Formatio/Governors

Session	Date	Time	Venue
Admissions & Appeals	Tuesday 20 October 2026	16:30-18:00	Online
RE and RHSE	Tuesday 2 February 2027	14:00-15:30 or 18:00-19:30	Online
Catholic School Inspection	Tuesday 27 April 2027	14:00-15:30 or 18:00-19:30	Online

Target Audience: Governors and Directors

Cost: No Cost

Session Leaders: Catherine Craig, Alison Dunne and Michelle Ross

Session Outline:
- Role of governors in the admission and appeals process
- RE and RSHE - statutory requirements
- Catholic School Inspection process and responsibilities

How to book: Please book via our online booking system at www.diocesehncourses.org

"It is in relationships, in our communion with each other, rather than in isolation from others that we find fulfillment."

The Sign we Give, Bishops' Conference

School Leaders

Chair of Governors' Briefings

Bishop Bewick Catholic Education Trust (BBCET)

Gilly Box - Head of Governance
Tel: 0191 2747373 ext. 268

This academic year, Diocesan representatives will attend these briefings to provide an update on current issues. These dates are subject to change. Please refer to your respective Catholic Education Trust's governance lead for more information.

Session	Date	Time	Venue
Chairs' Briefings	To be confirmed		

Bishop Chadwick Catholic Education Trust (BCCET)

Debbie Phippen - Governance Manager
Tel: 07749 498576

This academic year, Diocesan representatives will attend these briefings to provide an update on current issues. These dates are subject to change. Please refer to your respective Catholic Education Trust's governance lead for more information.

Session	Date	Time	Venue
Chairs' Briefings	Tuesday 22 September 2026	17:00	Online
Chairs' Briefings	Tuesday 19 January 2026	17:00	Online
Chairs' Briefings	Tuesday 27 April 2027	17:00	Online

Target Audience: Governors

Cost: No Cost

How to book: Please contact your governance team for details.

School Leaders
Chair of Governors' Briefings

Bishop Hogarth Catholic Education Trust (BHCET)

Joanne Barker - Governance Manager
Tel: 01325 523418

This academic year, Diocesan representatives will attend these briefings to provide an update on current issues. These dates are subject to change. Please refer to your respective Catholic Education Trust's governance lead for more information.

Session	Date	Time	Venue
Chairs' Briefings	Monday 9 November 2026	17:00	Online
Chairs' Briefings	Monday 12 July 2027	17:00	Online

Bishop Wilkinson Catholic Education Trust (BWCET)

Jacqui Ridley - Governance Manager
Tel: 0191 8239203

This academic year, Diocesan representatives will attend these briefings to provide an update on current issues. These dates are subject to change. Please refer to your respective Catholic Education Trust's governance lead for more information.

Session	Date	Time	Venue
Chairs' Briefings	Wednesday 16 September 2026	17:00	Online
Chairs' Briefings	Tuesday 19 January 2027	17:00	Online
Chairs' Briefings	Wednesday 28 April 2027	17:00	Online

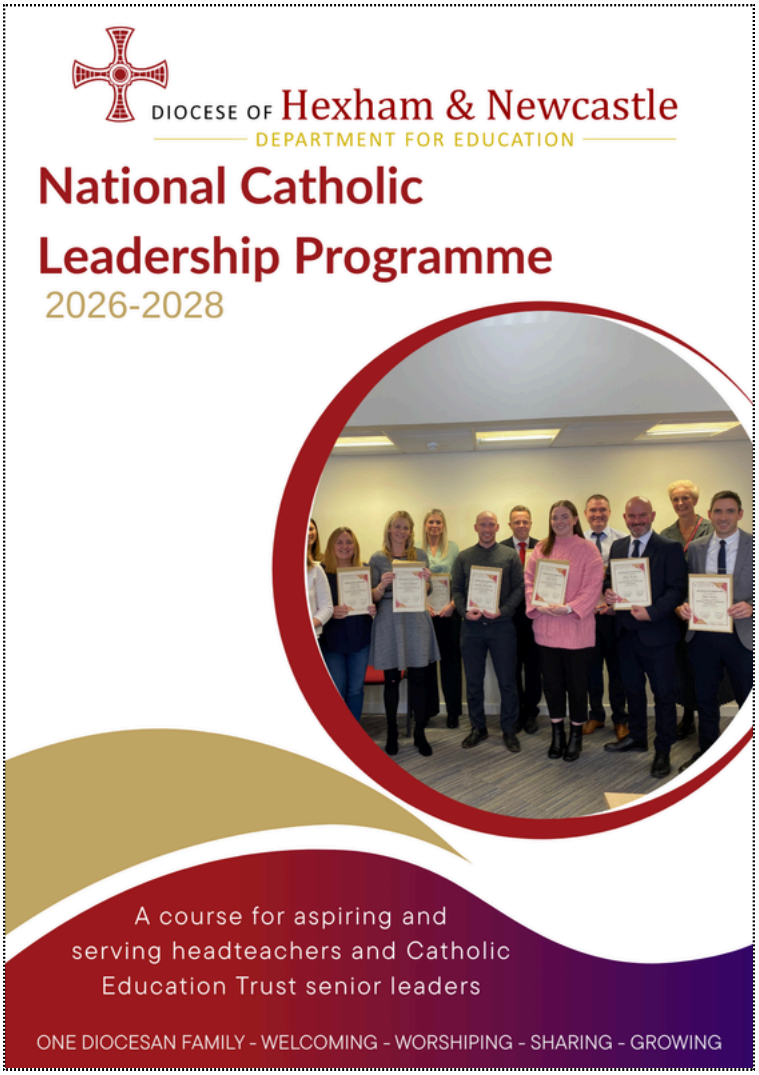
T**arget Audience:** Governors

Cost: No Cost

How to book: Please contact your governance team for details.

School Leaders

National Catholic Leaders Programme 2026-2028



Session	Date	Time	Venue
Information Session	Tuesday 6 July 2027	12:00-15:30	Durham Centre

To learn more and book a place on the information session, please contact Catherine Craig - catherine.craig@dioceshn.org.uk

"Christ leads us to go out from ourselves more and more, to give ourselves and to serve others."

Pope Francis

Aspiring School Leaders

Aspiring Deputy Headteachers

The aim of this course is to explore the role of the Deputy Headteacher in a Catholic school and fully prepare the participant for the application process.

Session	Date	Time	Venue
Session 1	Thursday 22 October 2026	09:30- 15:30	Copthorne Hotel
Session 2	Friday 8 January 2027	09:30- 15:30	Durham Centre
Session 3	Wednesday 3 March 2027	09:30- 15:30	Durham Centre

Target Audience: Middle leaders who are ready for deputy headship

Cost: £270 for all three sessions

Course Leaders: Carol Devine, Mo Wilkinson and Alison Dunne

Course Outline:
- Aims of the course
- The core principles of Catholic leadership
- Moving to Catholic leadership
- The role of a Deputy Headteacher in a Catholic school
- Working with leaders at all levels
- School improvement initiatives
- Application process including interview techniques

How to book: To register, please email: education@diocesehn.org.uk

"Do not fear for I am with you; do not be dismayed, for I am your God. I will strengthen you and help you; I will uphold you with my righteous right hand."

Isaiah 41:10

Aspiring School Leaders

Growing Middle Leaders in a Catholic Primary School

This course is developed in collaboration with St John Vianney Catholic Primary School - Teaching School Hub. The aim of this course is to identify, develop and nurture middle leaders for our Catholic schools.

Session	Date	Time	Venue
Growing Middle Leaders in a Catholic Primary School Session 1	Wednesday 3 February 2027	12:30-15:30	Durham Centre
Growing Middle Leaders in a Catholic Primary School Session 2	Wednesday 24 February 2027	12:30-15:30	Durham Centre

Target Audience: Primary school teachers wishing to become middle leaders or existing middle leaders

Cost: £100 for both sessions

Course Leader: John Hardy and Alison Dunne

Course Outline:
- Develop and nurture middle leaders for our Catholic schools
- Recognise the characteristics of excellent middle leadership
- Know how data is used to inform leadership
- Understand the tension of leading strategically and operationally
- Support career pathways and applications

How to book: Please book via our online booking system at www.diocesehncourses.org

Aspiring School Leaders

Middle Leadership in a Catholic Secondary School

Aimed for existing and aspiring secondary middle leaders, this course explores the "why" of Catholic schools and what it means to lead with a Catholic identity.

Session	Date	Time	Venue
Middle Leadership in a Catholic Secondary School	Wednesday 16 June 2027	09:30-15:30	St Cuthbert's House Newcastle

Target Audience: Secondary school teachers wishing to become middle leaders

Cost: £90

Course Leaders: Jude Wallis, Senior Assistant Headteacher (Teaching & Learning) at St Anthony's Girls' Catholic Academy
Rachael Gundlach, Deputy Headteacher at St Cuthbert's Catholic High School

Course Outline:
- Why do we have Catholic schools?
- What is Catholic middle leadership?
- Dealing with challenges of being a Catholic leader
- The Catholic curriculum

How to book: Please book via our online booking system at www.diocesehncourses.org

"Humble yourself before the Lord, and he will lift you up."

James 4:10

Catholic Life and Mission

An Introduction into Catholic Education

The aim of the day is to equip new teachers with the knowledge, skills and understanding to teach in our Catholic schools.

Session	Date	Time	Venue
An Introduction into Catholic Education	Friday 18 September 2026	09:30-15:30	Copthorne Hotel

Target Audience: Early career teachers and teachers who are new to Catholic education

Cost: £90

Course Leader: Michelle Ross

Course Outline:
- Context and background of Catholic education
- Core principles of Catholic education
- Catholic curriculum - Religious Education Directory
- Prayer and liturgy
- Ethos and mission in a Catholic school

How to book: Please book via our online booking system at www.diocesehncourses.org

"Educating is an act of hope and of passion that is renewed because it manifests the promise we see in the future of humanity."

Drawing New Maps of Hope, Pope Leo XIV

Religious Education

New Primary RE Subject Leaders

This is an opportunity for new RE Subject Leaders to meet with the Religious Education and Ethos Adviser. It is also an opportunity to develop a deeper understanding of the role as well as meet with other new colleagues.

Session	Date	Time	Venue
Welcome Day	Friday 11 September 2026	09:30-15:30	Copthorne Hotel

Target Audience: New RE Subject Leaders

Cost: £90

Course Leader: Michelle Ross

Course Outline:
- Religious Education as a core subject
- Role of the RE Leader including Religious Education Directory and Prayer and Liturgy Directory
- Catholic School Inspection
- Self evaluation - how to complete the Catholic self evaluation document (CSED)
- Audits and monitoring
- Arrangements for visit by RE & Ethos Adviser to schools

How to book: Please book via our online booking system at www.diocesehncourses.org

"Catholic Education exists not in isolation, but as part of the wider civic and educational landscape of this country."

Bishop Marcus Stock

Religious Education

Primary RE Subject Leaders

Session	Date	Time	Venue
Autumn Session (North)	Thursday 12 November 2026	09:30-15:30	Holiday Inn, Seaton Burn
Autumn Session (Central/East)	Thursday 19 November 2026	09:30-15:30	Durham Centre
Autumn Session (South)	Friday 20 November 2026	09:30-15:30	Hallgarth Hotel, Darlington

Target Audience: Primary RE Subject Leaders

Cost: £90 per session

Session Leader: Michelle Ross

Session Outline:
- RE subject leader business meetings
- Current issues and updates
- Sharing good practice
- Bespoke topics will be included to suit the group

How to book: Please book via our online booking system at www.diocesehncourses.org

"Encourage one another to build each other up, just as in fact you are doing."

1 Thessalonians 5:11

Religious Education

Primary RE Subject Leaders

Session	Date	Time	Venue
Summer Session (North)	Tuesday 15 June 2027	09:30-15:30	Grand Hotel, Gosforth Park
Summer Session (Central)	Tuesday 22 June 2027	09:30-15:30	Durham Centre
Summer Session (East)	Wednesday 23 June 2027	09:30-15:30	BIC Sunderland
Summer Session (South)	Friday 25 June 2027	09:30-15:30	Hallgarth Hotel, Darlington

Target Audience: Primary RE Subject Leaders

Cost: £90 full day session

Session Leader: Michelle Ross

Session Outline:
- RE Subject Leader business meetings
- Current issues and updates
- Sharing good practice
- Moderation of pupils' books
- Bespoke topics will be included to suit the group

How to book: Please book via our online booking system at www.diocesehncourses.org

"*Those who hope in the Lord will renew their strength.*"

Isaiah 40:31

Religious Education

Secondary Heads of RE

Session	Date	Time	Venue
Autumn Term	Thursday 1 October 2026	13:30-15:30	Durham Centre
Spring Term	Friday 8 January 2027	09:30-15:30	Durham University St John's
Summer Term	Thursday 1 July 2027	13:30-15:30	Durham Centre

Target Audience: Secondary Heads of RE, members of the RE Department

Cost: £50 half day session
£90 full day session

Session Leader: Michelle Ross

Session Outline:
- Heads of RE business meeting
- Sharing good practice
- Moderation
- Bespoke topics will be added to suit the group

How to book: Please book via our online booking system at www.diocesehncourses.org

"Create in me a pure heart, O God, and renew a steadfast spirit within me."

Psalms 51:10

Religious Education

RE Conference

For all leaders of religious education. This day will be an opportunity to focus upon the new Religious Education Directory and development of the new resource.

Session	Date	Time	Venue
RE Conference	Friday 19 March 2027	09:30-15:30	Durham Centre

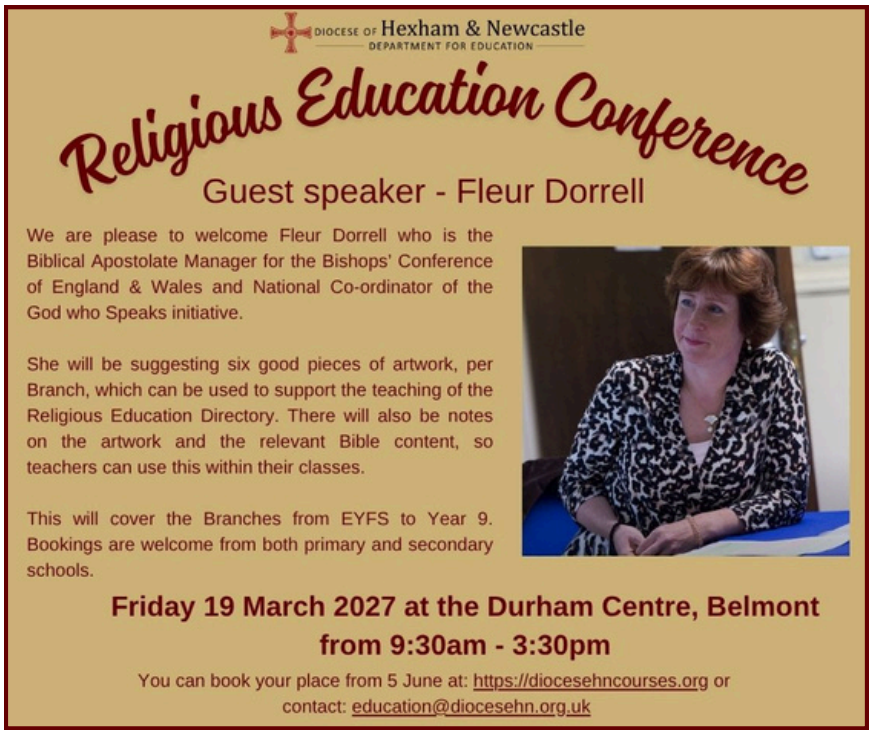
Target Audience: Headteachers, Subject Leaders and School Lay Chaplains

Cost: £90.00

Course Leaders: Catherine Craig, Alison Dunne and Michelle Ross

Course Outline: Further details to follow

How to book: Please book via our online booking system at www.diocesehncourses.org



Religious Education

Creative Prayer

This course is for all primary school staff and School Lay Chaplains. It is held at the beautiful location of Minsteracres. It will introduce delegates to a wide range of creative prayer and prayer styles to use with children and adults.

Session	Date	Time	Venue
Creative Prayer	Friday 28 May 2027	09:30-15:30	Minsteracres Retreat Centre

Target Audience: Primary school staff and School Lay Chaplains

Cost: £90

Course Leader: Michelle Ross

Course Outline:
- Types of prayers
- Examples of prayer stations
- Taking part in creative prayer
- Opportunities for stillness and silence

How to book: Please book via our online booking system at www.diocesehncourses.org



Religious Education

Supporting Teaching and Learning in the Classroom

An introductory guide to Catholicism, exploring the basics in Catholic beliefs and practices. It is a simple and straightforward introduction for all staff working in a Catholic school, who would like to develop further their understanding of the Catholic faith.

Session	Date	Time	Venue
Catholic faith and beliefs	Friday 9 October 2026	09:30-15:30	Durham Centre
Sacraments and Christian life	Friday 7 May 2027	09:30-15:30	Durham Centre

Target Audience: Teachers and Teachers Assistants

Cost: £90 per session

Course Leader: Michelle Ross and Alison Dunne

Course Outline:
- Introduction to the Catholic Faith
- An understanding of God as the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit
- Exploring the Church and liturgy
- Deepen knowledge and understanding of the 7 Sacraments
- The importance of Christian life and prayer

How to book: Please book via our online booking system at www.diocesehncourses.org

"Let us love one another, for love comes from God. Everyone who loves has been born of God and knows God."

1 John 4:7

Religious Education

Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion for Schools

This one day programme is a mixture of theory and practice. We look at our understanding of the Mass and Holy Communion as well as what it is to be called to serve others in ministry.

Session	Date	Time	Venue
Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion for Schools	Monday 12 October 2026	09:30-15:00	St Hilda's Resource Centre

Target Audience: School staff who are practising Catholics

Cost: £90

Course Leader: Father Adrian Dixon

Course Outline:
- Opportunities to practise distributing the sacrament
- Practise cleansing of vessels and related issues
- Commissioning ceremony

How to book: Please book via our online booking system at www.diocesehncourses.org

"The Eucharist is my highway to Heaven"

Carlo Acutis

Religious Education

RED Rapid Review Sessions

These are 15-minute online sessions which will be an opportunity to learn about year specific content of the of each branches. It will be an opportunity to look closely at the learning you will be delivering and how it fits in to the curriculum. This will also be an opportunity to ask questions that you may have about the branch.

Target Audience: School staff involved in teaching RED

Cost: No Cost

Course Leader: Michelle Ross

Course Outline:
- Opportunities to learn about year specific branch content
- How the learning fits in to the curriculum as a whole
- Time to ask questions about each RED branch

How to book: Please book via our online booking system at www.diocesehncourses.org

Session	Date	Time	Venue
Branch 1 7th September 2026 - 16th October 2026			
EYFS	Monday 7th September 2026	Nursery - 3:45pm Reception - 4:15pm	online
KS1	Tuesday 8th September 2026	Year 1 - 3:45pm Year 2 - 4:15pm	online
Lower KS2	Wednesday 9th September 2026	Year 3 - 3:45pm Year 4 - 4:15pm	online
Upper KS2	Thursday 10th September 2026	Year 5 - 3:45pm Year 6 - 4:15pm	online

Religious Education

RED Rapid Review Sessions

Session	Date	Time	Venue
Branch 2 19th October 2026 - 4th December 2026			
EYFS	Thursday 15th October 2026	Nursery - 3:45pm Reception - 4:15pm	online
KS1	Tuesday 20th October 2026	Year 1 - 3:45pm Year 2 - 4:15pm	online
Lower KS2	Wednesday 21st October 2026	Year 3 - 3:45pm Year 4 - 4:15pm	online
Upper KS2	Thursday 22nd October 2026	Year 5 - 3:45pm Year 6 - 4:15pm	online
Branch 3 7th December 2026 - 5th February 2027			
EYFS	Monday 7th December 2026	Nursery - 3:45pm Reception - 4:15pm	online
KS1	Tuesday 8th December 2026	Year 1 - 3:45pm Year 2 - 4:15pm	online
Lower KS2	Wednesday 9th December 2026	Year 3 - 3:45pm Year 4 - 4:15pm	online
Upper KS2	Thursday 10th December 2026	Year 5 - 3:45pm Year 6 - 4:15pm	online

Religious Education

RED Rapid Review Sessions

Session	Date	Time	Venue
Branch 4 8th February 2027 - 26th March 2027			
EYFS	Monday 8th February 2027	Nursery - 3:45pm Reception - 4:15pm	online
KS1	Tuesday 9th February 2027	Year 1 - 3:45pm Year 2 - 4:15pm	online
Lower KS2	Wednesday 10th February 2027	Year 3 - 3:45pm Year 4 - 4:15pm	online
Upper KS2	Thursday 11th February 2027	Year 5 - 3:45pm Year 6 - 4:15pm	online
Branch 5 12th April 2027 - 21st May 2027			
EYFS	Monday 12th April 2027	Nursery - 3:45pm Reception - 4:15pm	online
KS1	Tuesday 13th April 2027	Year 1 - 3:45pm Year 2 - 4:15pm	online
Lower KS2	Wednesday 14th April 2027	Year 3 - 3:45pm Year 4 - 4:15pm	online
Upper KS2	Thursday 15th April 2027	Year 5 - 3:45pm Year 6 - 4:15pm	online

Religious Education

RED Rapid Review Sessions

Session	Date	Time	Venue
Branch 6 20th May 2027 - 9th July 2027			
EYFS	Thursday 20th May 2027	Nursery - 3:45pm Reception - 4:15pm	online
KS1	Monday 24th May 2027	Year 1 - 3:45pm Year 2 - 4:15pm	online
Lower KS2	Tuesday 25th May 2027	Year 3 - 3:45pm Year 4 - 4:15pm	online
Upper KS2	Wednesday 26th May 2027	Year 5 - 3:45pm Year 6 - 4:15pm	online



"Did not our hearts burn within us while he talked to us on the road, while he opened to us the Scriptures?"

Luke 24:32

Lay Chaplaincy

Termly Meetings

An opportunity for School Lay Chaplains to meet together to share best practice and for professional development.

Session	Date	Time	Venue	Cost
Commissioning and Recommissioning Mass	Thursday 17th September 2026	12:05	Cathedral Church of St Mary	No cost
Autumn Meeting	Monday 19th October 2026	09:30-15:30	St Andrew's Church, Newcastle	£50
Spring Meeting	Monday 15th March 2027	09:30-15:30	St Mary's Church, Sunderland	£50
Summer Retreat	Friday 18th June 2027	09:30-15:30	TBC	£80

Target Audience: School Lay Chaplains

Course Leader: Father Shaun Purdy and Michelle Ross

Outline:
- Ongoing national and diocesan updates
- Opportunities to share good practice
- Agenda developed collaboratively

How to book: Please book via our online booking system at www.diocesehncourses.org

Catholic School Inspection

Termly Training for Catholic School Inspectors

Training and updates from the Catholic School Inspectorate. These sessions are mandatory and necessary in order for qualified inspectors to carry out inspection.

Session	Date	Time	Venue
Inspector Training (Autumn)	Tuesday 15th September 2026	09:30-12:30	Durham Centre
Inspector Training (Spring)	Wednesday 13th January 2027	09:30-12:30	Durham Centre
Inspector Training (Summer)	Wednesday 14th April 2027	09:30-11:00	Online

Target Audience: Qualified Catholic School Inspectors

Cost: No Cost

Session Leaders: Alison Dunne and Clare Rice

Session Outline:

- Ongoing updates and feedback
- Training provided by the Catholic School Inspectorate
- Opportunity to meet with colleagues and share best practice
- Bespoke training needs to be addressed

How to book: Inspectors will be be notified by email

"*I can do all things through him who gives me strength.*"

Philippians 4:13

Recruitment

Termly Training for Diocesan Recruitment Advisers

These sessions are mandatory to enable Diocesan Department for Education to provide ongoing updates and developments, in addition to opportunities for professional dialogue.

Session	Date	Time	Venue
Recruitment Training (Autumn)	Tuesday 15th September 2026	13:00-15:30	Durham Centre /Online
Recruitment Training (Spring)	Wednesday 13th January 2027	13:00-15:30	Durham Centre /Online
Recruitment Training (Summer)	Wednesday 14th April 2026	13:00-15:30	Online

Target Audience: Diocesan Recruitment Advisors

Cost: No Cost

Session Leaders: Catherine Craig and Alison Dunne

Session Outline:
- Ongoing updates and feedback
- Training provided by education department
- Opportunity to meet with colleagues and share best practice
- Bespoke training needs to be addressed

How to book: Recruitment Advisers will be be notified by email

Booking Information

Making a Booking

Please visit www.diocesehncourses.org to book your place on a course or if specified on the page, please fill in the Microsoft form.

Cancelling a Booking

You can cancel a booking up until **10 working days** before the date of the course with no cancellation fee.

After **10 working days** you will be liable to **pay the full cost** of the course (except in exceptional circumstances).

Should you wish to adjust a booking (e.g. to change a delegate) before or after the cancellation deadline, please contact us.

Full payment will be required for non-attendance on a course.

In the event of cancellation of a course, we will endeavour to inform all participants two weeks before the course is due to take place, although please be aware that this is not always possible. No charge will be made to schools in this event.

Where dates are varied by the Diocesan Department for Education, course participants have the option to withdraw from the course at no cost to the school if the new dates are not convenient.

Should you have any queries or need to cancel your online booking, please contact us on: 0191 2433313 or by emailing education@diocesehn.org.uk



Academic Year Planner

September 2026

07/09/26 - 10/09/26	RED Rapid Review Sessions - Branch 1	Page 33	15:45 / 16:15	Online
11/09/26	New Primary RE Subject Leaders Welcome Day	Page 25	09:30 - 15:30	Copthorne Hotel
15/09/26	CSI Inspectors	Page 38	9:30-12:30	Durham Centre
15/09/26	Recruitment Advisors	Page 39	13:00-15:00	Durham Centre / online
16/09/26	CSI for School Leaders	Page 15	9:30-15:30	Durham Centre
17/09/26	Commissioning and Recommissioning Mass	Page 37	12.05pm	Cathedral Church of St Mary
18/09/26	Introduction into Catholic Education	Page 24	09:30 - 15:30	Copthorne Hotel
22/09/26	New Foundation Governors Welcome	Page 16	17:00-18:00	Online
25/09/2026	New Headteachers welcome	Page 13	09:00 - 15:30	Copthorne Hotel

October 2026

01/10/26	Secondary RE Subject Leaders	Page 28	13:30-15:30	Durham Centre
09/10/26	Supporting Teaching and Learning RE	Page 31	09:30-15:30	Durham Centre
12/10/26	Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion	Page 32	09:30-15:00	St Hilda's
16/10/26	New Deputy Headteachers	Page 14	09:30-15:30	Copthorne Hotel

19/10/26	Lay Chaplains' termly meeting	Page 37	09:30-15:30	St Andrew's Church, Newcastle
20/10/26	Governors & Directors Training	Page 17	16:30-18:00	Online
15/10/26, 20/10/26-22/10/26	RED Rapid Review Sessions - Branch 2	Page 34	15:45 / 16:15	Online
20/10/26	Primary Headteachers (North)	Page 12	9:30 - 11:30	Grand Hotel, Gosforth Park
21/10/26	Primary Headteachers (South)	Page 12	9:30-11:30	Durham Centre
21/10/26	Secondary Headteachers	Page 12	13:30-15:30	Durham Centre
22/10/26	Aspiring Deputy Headteachers Session One	Page 21	09:30-15:30	Copthorne Hotel
November 2026				
12/11/26	Primary RE Subject Leaders (North)	Page 26	09:30-15:30	Holiday Inn, Seaton Burn
19/11/26	Primary RE Subject Leaders (Central/East)	Page 26	09:30-15:30	Durham Centre
20/11/26	Primary RE Subject Leaders (South)	Page 26	09:30-15:30	Hallgarth Manor
December 2026				
03/12/26	Catholic Leaders & Clergy Conference	Page 9	9.30-17:00	Ramside Hall Hotel
07/12/26-10/12/26	RED Rapid Review Sessions - Branch 3	Page 34	15:45 / 16:15	Online

January 2027

08/01/27	Secondary RE Subject Leaders Day	Page 28	09:30-15:30	Durham University, St John's
08/01/27	Aspiring Deputy Headteachers Session Two	Page 21	9:30-15:30	Durham Centre
12/01/27	New Foundation Governors Welcome	Page 16	17:00-18:00	Online
13/01/27	CSI Inspectors Training	Page 38	09:30-12:30	Durham Centre
13/01/27	Recruitment Advisors	Page 39	13:00-15:30	Durham Centre / online

February 2027

08/02/27 - 11/02/27	RED Rapid Review Sessions - Branch 4	Page 35	15:45 / 16:15	Online
02/02/27	Governor and Director Training	Page 17	14:00-15:30 or 18:00-19:30	Online
03/02/27	Growing Middle Leaders (Primary)	Page 22	12:30-15:30	Durham Centre
09/02/27	Primary Headteachers (North)	Page 12	9:30-12:30	Grand Hotel, Gosforth Park
10/02/27	Primary Headteachers (South)	Page 12	9:30-12:30	Durham Centre
10/02/27	Secondary Headteachers	Page 12	13:30-15:30	Durham Centre
24/02/27	Growing Middle Leaders (Primary)	Page 22	12:30-15:30	Durham Centre

March 2027

03/03/27	Aspiring Deputy Headteachers Session Three	Page 21	09:30-15:30	Durham Centre
15/03/27	Lay Chaplains' Termly Meeting	Page 37	9:30-15:30	St Mary's Church, Sunderland
19/03/27	RE Conference	Page 29	9:30-15:30	Durham Centre

April 2027

12/04/27 - 15/04/27	RED Rapid Review Sessions - Branch 5	Page 35	15:45 / 16:15	Online
13/04/27	New Foundation Governors Welcome	Page 16	17:00-18:00	Online
14/04/27	CSI Inspector Training	Page 38	9:30-11:00	Online
14/04/27	Recruitment Adviser Training	Page 39	13:00-15:30	Online
27/04/27	Governor and Director Training	Page 17	14:00-15:30 or 18:00-19:30	Online

May 2027

07/05/27	Supporting Teaching and Learning	Page 31	09:30-15:30	Durham Centre
28/05/27	Creative Prayer	Page 30	09:30-15:30	Minsteracres Retreat Centre
20, 24 - 26/05/27	RED Rapid Review Sessions - Branch 6	Page 36	15:45 / 16:15	Online
	June 2027			
10/06/27	Bishop's Day Conference	Page 10	9:30-14:00	Durham Centre
15/06/27	Primary RE Subject Leaders (North)	Page 27	9:30-15:30	Grand Hotel, Gosforth Park
16/06/27	Middle Leadership (Secondary)	Page 23	9:30-15:30	St Cuthbert's House
18/06/27	Chaplain Retreat	Page 37	9:30-15:30	TBC
22/06/27	Primary RE Subject Leaders (Central)	Page 27	9:30-15:30	Durham Centre
23/06/27	Primary RE Subject Leaders (East)	Page 27	9:30-15:30	BIC, Sunderland
25/06/27	Primary RE Subject Leaders (South)	Page 27	9:30-15:30	Hallgarth Manor
30/06/27	Governance Conference	Page 11	9:30-14:30	Durham Centre

July 2027

01/07/27	Secondary RE Subject Leaders	Page 28	13:30-15:30	Durham Centre
02/07/27	Deputy Headteacher Retreat	Page 14	13:00-15:30	TBC
06/07/27	NCLP Information Session	Page 20	13:00-15:30	Durham Centre

“Catholic education strives to promote a new way of thinking about human life, our society, our cultures, and our relationship in the world.”

Bishop Marcus Stock

Venue Information

The Copthorne Hotel
The Close Quayside
Newcastle
NE1 3RT

0191 2220333

The Durham Centre
Belmont Industrial Estate
Durham
DH1 1TN

0845 481 2191

Ramside Hall Hotel
Carville
Durham
DH1 1TD

0191 386 5282

Holiday Inn
Great North Road
Seaton Burn
NE13 6BP

0114 4808164

North East BIC
Wearfield
Sunderland
SR5 2TA

0191 516 6200

Minsteracres Retreat Centre Nr
Consett
County Durham
DH8 9RT

01434 673248

Hall Garth Hotel
Coatham Mundeville
Darlington
DL1 3LU

01325 379710

Grand Hotel Gosforth Park
High Gosforth Park
Newcastle upon Tyne
NE3 5HN

0191 236 4111

Our Contact Information

0191 243 3313

education@diocesehn.org.uk

www.diocesehn.org.uk/education

https://diocesehncourses.org/

