



September 2025 (Term 1)

Dear Colleagues,

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2. [NPQ Applications](#)
3. [SARI Resources](#)

## Director's Reflection

I hope you have had a wonderful summer with some time for rest and just looking at life and our beautiful planet through a calmer lens than the school term usually affords.

Like you, we have been reviewing our annual development plans to move from 'everything we think we'd like and ought to do and didn't complete last year' down to 'what realistically, with a fair wind, we might be able to achieve'! This year we hope to really work on our support to schools and churches in building their partnership together so both can flourish in the relationship. Where do we find hope for this year when we know the challenges of financial and people capacity are real? We can all 'hope' it won't rain, or a person will make it back in time for an event, but the hope that God speaks of is something much longer term, much deeper and more sustaining.

In Jeremiah 27, we hear God making the following promise to the prophet Jeremiah who is in for a hard bit of message giving to local kings: "For I know the plans I have for you," declares the LORD, "they are plans for good and not for disaster, to give you a future and a hope."

God commands the prophet Jeremiah to make a wooden yoke and place it on his neck as a symbol of submission to the Babylonian king, Nebuchadnezzar. Jeremiah has to deliver this message to the kings of the surrounding nations, instructing them to submit to Babylon's rule, which God has ordained. He warns them not to listen to false prophets who will promise the return of exiled treasures, as these prophets lie to keep people away from their land.

The chapter emphasizes the consequences of disobedience (destruction and exile) and promises the people will be allowed to live safely in their land. In some versions, this is translated as 'plans to prosper you and not to harm you'. It doesn't mean financial riches but rather a sense of direction into a place that is for your own good, your communities good and leading to a more positive future.

I imagine they'll be plenty of times this term when you'll have to deliver hard messages to others in the school community to whom you have a duty of care. You can probably think of some of them already.

May you speak boldly, wisely and keep a sense of hope within you that is rock solid and trusting that there is hope and the future is one where others really can flourish,



**Liz Townend**  
**Diocesan Director of Education**

**NPQ 2025-2026 Applications**

Are you (or a colleague) ready to lead with impact?

Applications for The Church of England's next NPQ cohort are now open!

**This will be the only Cohort next academic year (there will be no Spring group in 2025-2026) and funded places are limited.**

You can start your NPQ journey by registering with the DfE, choosing "Church of England" as your Lead Provider.

The NPQ team ([npg@churchofengland.org](mailto:npg@churchofengland.org)) are very happy to answer any course or funding queries that you have.



Information on Courses Provided

Register with the DfE

**St George's Flag and "Operation Raise the Colours"**

Recently we will have all seen an increase in St George's flags and Union Jacks being flown in our local areas.

**Stand Against Racism & Inequality** (SARI) have released an informative Schools response and resources in relation to this movement that you and your school / colleagues may find of interest.

Links to these resources are below for you to read at your leisure.



[SARI School Response](#)

[Rise in St George's Cross Display](#)

## A Prayer for this term

Heavenly Father

Please pour out Your blessings upon our whole school community so that everyone grows in the knowledge of Your truth, love, wisdom and peace.

We pray for all children - help them to explore what they can achieve and give them confidence to play their part in shaping our world.

We pray for all those who work in schools. Care for them as they care for our children.

We pray for all governors of schools. Grant them wisdom and sound judgement, and help them to keep children's well-being at the heart of everything they do.

We ask this in Jesus' name.

Amen

Get in touch with the Education team here

I have come that they may have life - life in all its fullness

*John 10:10*



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**Our mailing address is:**

**Diocese of Bristol**

First Floor Hillside House, 1500 Parkway North, Stoke Gifford, Bristol, BS34 8YU  
0117 906 0100

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