

CHURCH OF ENGLAND FOUNDATION FOR EDUCATIONAL LEADERSHIP

NATIONAL CONFERENCE PRAYERS

‘Deeply Christian, Serving the Common Good’

In February the Church of England’s National Conference for Educational Leadership explored how our freshly articulated vision for education can be expressed and promoted in schools and could inspire and encourage church school communities.

The opening worship, grounded in Bible readings, was linked to the four basic elements which permeate this Vision for education:

Wisdom, Hope, Community and Dignity.

The prayers, which those of us privileged to be there did indeed find inspiring, have been passed on to us to share.

We will be providing information and training for schools to take forward The Vision in the coming year.

Educating for Wisdom, Knowledge and Skills

By wisdom a house is built, and by understanding it is established; by knowledge the rooms are filled with all precious and pleasant riches. (Proverbs 24.3)

Blessed is the one who finds wisdom, and the one who gets understanding, for the gain from her is better than gain from silver and her profit better than gold. She is more precious than jewels, and nothing you desire can compare with her. (Proverbs 3:13-15)

God of Wisdom,

We look to you to inspire and empower us with your confidence, delight and discipline in the decisions we face;
in the relationships we hold, in classrooms we teach,
in the meetings we lead.

Fill us with your wisdom to shape life well
and may we not lean on only our own understanding,
but trust in You, hear Your voice, and choose wisely.

Amen

Educating for Hope and Aspiration

For I know the plans I have for you, declares the LORD, plans for welfare and not for evil, to give you a future and a hope. (Jeremiah 29:11)

May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that by the power of the Holy Spirit you may abound in hope. (Romans 15:13)

God of Hope

We look to you to inspire and empower us with your Spirit
as we teach and learn how to face the future, as we heal, renew and repair,
as we repent, forgive and reconcile.

Grant us the strength we need to embody hope in our schools,
Filling our reservoirs with your living water.

May bad experiences and behaviour never have the last word
And may you continually help us to see our future through your eyes, not our own.

Amen

Educating for Community and Living well Together

And let us consider how to stir up one another to love and good works, not neglecting to meet together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another, and all the more as you see the Day drawing near. (Hebrews 10:24-25)

Two are better than one, because they have a good reward for their toil. For if they fall, one will lift up his fellow. (Ecclesiastes 4:9-10)

God of Community

We look to you to inspire and empower us to live well together;
to invest generously in our relationships;
to contribute well to our communities;
to seek justice and grace for our neighbour;
to pursue activities and opportunities that help us not simply to succeed but to flourish together
as we build your community here on earth.

Amen

Educating for Dignity and Respect

There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither slave nor free, there is no male and female, for you are all one in Christ Jesus. (Galatians 3:28)

Let no one despise you for your youth, but set the believers an example in speech, in conduct, in love, in faith, in purity. (1 Timothy 4:12)

God of Dignity

We look to you to inspire and empower us to love one another as you love us;
see one another as you see us;
value one another as you value us.
And as we live out your Vision for our lives, fill us with your Spirit to lift each other up,
encouraging and enriching one another's experience as we seek your Kingdom first.

Amen

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