



Diocese of Lancaster  
**Education Service**  
*Euntes in mundum*

# Years of Listening & Years of Action

Guide For Schools

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## A Guide for Schools

To help us grow together as a diocesan community, the Education Service is introducing a simple two-year rhythm for our schools. Each cycle focuses on a shared theme, beginning with a Year of Listening and followed by a Year of Action, reflecting the Gospel movement from attentive listening to faithful response. The cycle will follow the Church year, rather than the academic year.

### Years of Listening: Overview

In a Year of Listening, a shared theme is proposed by the Education Service on behalf of the Bishop and schools are invited to listen and pray with the theme, reflecting and absorbing it and discerning what our response might be.

At the same time, schools will ask their pupils to suggest ways to respond. In particular, to suggest three things:

1. how each school might respond to the theme in their own community
2. how schools in their region and multi-academy trust could respond together
3. how all schools across the Diocese might take part in a shared response

These responses should be gathered in before the Church year, before Advent, and sent to the Diocesan Education Service through the submission process provided each year.

### Years of Listening: Resources

For each Year of Listening, the Education Service will produce some resources for primary pupils, secondary pupils, and adults.

These resources will not prescribe exactly what each school should do. Instead, they are intended to support schools and may be used or adapted in ways that best involve pupils and the wider school community.

For pupils, the resources may be integrated into the school's prayer and liturgy, classroom learning, or co-curricular activities.

For adults, resources will be provided both for background understanding and for use in staff prayer, professional development, and wider engagement with governors, parishioners, parents, and carers.

### Years of Listening: Gathering Ideas

Each school may decide how best to gather ideas for the following Year of Action. This might include a whole-school competition, class submissions, pupil-led groups, chaplaincy initiatives, or other approaches suited to the school community.

At the end of the Church year, schools will be invited to send their ideas to the Diocesan Education Service. The Education Service will then work with the Bishop to identify and develop the strongest proposals for the Church year to come, usually to start in the Spring Term.

Where ideas are taken forward, it is hoped that the schools which proposed them will be involved in refining and shaping the plans.

## Years of Action

In the following Year of Action, the chosen plan will be put into action. As outlined above, the aim is to offer something for each school to do individually, something for schools to get involved in regionally and some kind of diocesan activity or event that brings all our schools from across the Diocese together.

Schools will receive clear resources and guidance at the beginning of the Year of Action and throughout the year to support participation.

At the end of the year, a diocesan reflection will be produced to show how the theme has been lived out across schools, regions, and the Diocese as a whole.

## Themes for 2025 - 2033

With this in mind we are proposing the following long-term calendar:

| Academic Year | Year of... | Theme                 | Reason                                                          |
|---------------|------------|-----------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------|
| 2025/26       | Listening  | Love for the Poor     | Jubilee of St Francis & Pope Leo's Encyclical, <i>Dilexi Te</i> |
| 2026/27       | Action     |                       |                                                                 |
| 2027/28       | Listening  | St Cuthbert           | A Patron Saint of the Diocese of Lancaster                      |
| 2028/29       | Action     |                       |                                                                 |
| 2029/30       | Listening  | Sharing the Good News | 2000 years since the beginning of Christ's public ministry      |
| 2030/31       | Action     |                       |                                                                 |
| 2031/32       | Listening  | He Gave His Only Son  | Extraordinary Jubilee of Redemption                             |
| 2032/33       | Action     |                       |                                                                 |

Our prayer is that this two-year rhythm will be fruitful for our pupils and school communities, fostering prayer, discernment, and the habits of faithful response to God's call.