

Schools Partnership Agreement

2020 - 2021

The Vision of the Leicester Diocesan Board of Education is to support our schools to transform the lives of children and young people. We believe that our schools can undertake this work of transformation by paying attention to four key themes: Effective, Distinctive, Rooted and Inclusive.

None of our schools can achieve this on their own. We are a family of Church schools and partnership is a fundamental principle of being a Church school. This partnership takes many forms including relationship with other Church schools, community schools, local clergy and church community and the wider Diocese through the Board of Education.

The Diocesan Board of Education (DBE) receives no public money. It is reliant on income from investments and from the wider Diocesan budget (ultimately from the voluntary giving of churchgoers). By signing up, your school is making an important contribution to our partnership. Each school is a valued part of the Diocese of Leicester and so the DBE is committed to support each valued, family member.

This document summarises the services offered by the DBE under the following headings:

- Religious Education, Collective Worship & SIAMS
- Training & Development Opportunities
- Leadership & Management, including Church School Ethos
- Governors, Governance & Admissions
- School Buildings & Diocesan Trust Deed Issues

The vast majority of Diocesan Church of England Schools subscribe to the Partnership Agreement. We are very aware of the constant demands on schools budgets and seek to provide all support for Partnership Subscribers at an affordable level. Schools which access our support usually recoup the cost of subscribing. Fees for 2020-2021:

Number of pupils	Cost
105 or fewer	£449
106 - 210	£549
211 - 315	£599
316 - 630	£649
631 or more	£749

Subscription to the partnership is from 1 September 2020 to 31 August 2021. School leaders and governors are asked to commit to the partnership agreement, by returning a completed form by the **1st September 2020**.

Religious Education (RE), Collective Worship (CW) & SIAMS

All church schools in the Diocese of Leicester will receive:

- Access to Diocesan guidance documents on the DBE website
- Representation on SACRE including Agreed Syllabus development
- Invitations to involvement in Diocesan church services and celebrations
- SIAMS inspection administration
- Attendance of a DBE representative (whenever possible) at SIAMS feedback meeting
- Initial telephone and email advice on relevant issues
- Extensive resources for school delivery of Collective Worship via the Learn AT Teaching School website

Subscribing schools will receive further advice & information on:

- Implementation of policy documents
- Implementation of the Agreed Syllabus
- Education law relating to RE & CW (including rights of withdrawal)
- A mid-point SIAMS review led by a SIAMS inspector (this will be at cost)
- Links with examples of best practice across the Diocesan family of schools, along with access to our list of highly-acclaimed preferred partners

Subscribing schools will receive **substantial discounts** on the Diocesan Training and Events programme and access to a growing number of preferred partners to aid with all aspects of Church schools.

Training & Development Opportunities

All church schools in the Diocese of Leicester will receive:

- Access to an annual programme of training and events (see website for details)
- A FREE Induction Programme for all new Head Teachers
- Initial training for clergy regarding their role in relation to Church & Community Schools
- A visit to all newly appointed clergy with a Church school by the Diocesan Director of Education
- Initial telephone and email advice on relevant issues

Subscribing schools will receive substantial discounts on:

- The Diocesan programme of training and events suitable for Heads and Senior Leaders, teachers (incl. NQTs), non-teaching staff, governors and clergy
- **Confirmed FREE Events for 2020-2021 :**
 - 2 x Headteacher Briefings led by the DBE team and invited guests
 - Church School Governor Conference (1 free place per school)
 - Admissions and Appeals Briefing
 - 3 x Executive Headteachers' Development Meetings
 - Practice Sharing –The Chair of Governors & Headteacher Partnership (NEW for 2020 - 2021)
 - New to a church school (Webinar)

Leadership & Management, including Church School Ethos

All church schools in the Diocese of Leicester will receive:

- Church of England representation at national and regional level
- Diocesan representation at Local Authority level and with Teaching School Alliances
- Diocesan representation with the Department for Education, Regional Schools Commissioner and Ofsted
- Initial advice and support in appointing a headteacher
- Attendance of a DBE representative at shortlisting and interview for headteacher appointments
- Induction programme for newly appointed headteachers
- A visit to all new headteachers by the Diocesan Director of Education
- Regular visits to schools by the DBE team
- Initial advice on dealing with critical incidents, parental complaints and safeguarding issues
- Pastoral support for school staff
- Initial telephone and email advice on other relevant issues
- Attendance of a DBE representative (whenever possible) at Ofsted feedback meeting

Subscribing schools will receive further advice and information on:

- Leadership and management of a Church School
- One visit per year (on request) to review the Leadership & Management of the school as a Church school
- For Headteacher recruitment:
 - Drawing up appropriate advertisements, job and person specifications and appropriate interview tasks and questions
 - Provision of sample documents for a recruitment pack
 - Training and supporting governors who will form a recruitment panel
 - Professional debriefing of candidates
- School policies, including Inclusion in a distinctively church school
- Establishing and developing a distinctive Christian vision and ethos
- Critical incident support, including pastoral support

Subscribing schools will be supported at each stage of the process for appointing a Headteacher, including the attendance of a DBE representative at shortlisting and interview. Newly appointed heads will benefit from a support programme in partnership with the Local Authority.

Governors, Governance & Admissions

All church schools in the Diocese of Leicester will receive initial advice on:

- Constitution and membership of Governing Boards
- How to recruit governors, including Foundation Governors
- Roles and responsibilities of governors, particularly Foundation Governors
- Conversion to academy status
- Initial advice for admissions policies
- Respond to the Schools' Adjudicator as required
- Administration of the appeals process, if required, at a cost of £255 per appeal
- Initial telephone and email advice on relevant issues Formally review and advise on Governing Bodies' admissions policies on an annual basis

Subscribing schools will receive further advice & information on:

- Legal matters in relation to governors' responsibilities
- Provide further advice and support to headteachers and governing bodies on admissions
- Provide advice for school policy documents reflecting a distinctive Christian ethos
- Head Teacher/Governor relationships
- Dealing with parental complaints
- Attendance of a DBE representative at up to one Governing Board meeting per year (on request)
- Administration of the admissions appeals process free for up to 3 appeals, and a reduced rate for further appeals of £110.

Subscribing schools will receive a **50% discount** on the two part Diocesan governor training programme and a **FREE** place at the annual Church School Governance Conference.

School Buildings & Diocesan Trust Deed Issues

All church schools in the Diocese of Leicester will receive:

- Initial telephone and email advice regarding Church school land and building matters
- Board of Education oversight for individual building and land projects (Officer time may be charged to the school)
- Referrals to appropriate professionals regarding Diocesan Trust Deeds and related land issues
- Initial advice on general building development planning
- Initial advice regarding school capital grants
- Representation at Voluntary Aided (VA) Capital Grant meetings with Local Authorities
- Liaison with approved architects, consultants and contractors related to capital projects
- Co-ordination of Devolved Formula Capital (DFC) grant for VA schools **at a cost of 2% of project less fees.**
- Oversight of Locally Co-ordinated Voluntary Aided Programme (LCVAP) and co-ordination for approved projects **at a cost of 2% of project cost less fees.**
- Initial telephone and email advice on other relevant issues, including conversion to academy status

Subscribing schools will receive:

- Substantially reduced rate for officer time in handling individual land and building projects.
- Co-ordination of Devolved Formula Capital (DFC) grant for VA schools **at a cost of 1% of project less fees.**
- Oversight of Locally Co-ordinated Voluntary Aided Programme (LCVAP) and co-ordination for approved projects **at a cost of 1% of project cost less fees.**