

Schools Partnership Agreement

Autumn 2023 – Summer 2024

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 school's budgets and seek to provide all support for Partnership Subscribers at an affordable level. Schools which access our support usually recoup the cost of signing up. Fees for 2023 – 2024:

Number of pupils	Early bird 2023 Cost (Deadline - 14 th July)	2023 Cost (Deadline – 18 th August)
110 or fewer	£449	£475
111 - 220	£549	£575
221 - 350	£599	£630
351 - 461	£715	£745
461 - 630	£825	£859
631 or more	£935	£973

Subscription to the partnership runs from 1 September 2023 to 31 August 2024. School leaders and governors need to commit to the partnership during the summer term returning their form no later than Friday 18th August 2023, invoices will be issued in the first week of September.

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
- Attendance of a DBE representative (whenever possible) at SIAMS inspection feedback meeting
- Initial telephone and email advice on relevant issues
- Extensive resources for school delivery and development of Collective Worship via several external websites, including Learn AT Teaching School and Faith at Home
- Access to local RE networks led by our leading RE teachers across the Diocese and a leading RE mentor for new RE subject leads

In addition, subscribing schools will receive further advice & information on:

- Implementation of policy documents, agreed Syllabus and education law relating to religious education & collective worship (including rights of withdrawal) via zoom or teams call
- One mid-point SIAMS review to help support your school's vision and CW/RE provision
- Support to develop school's vision
- Links with examples of best practice across the Diocesan family of schools, along with access to our list of highly acclaimed preferred partners
- Free access to webinars on RE, CW and SIAMS which can be used in staff meetings and training to increase staff's awareness of working in a church school
- Discounted rates for bespoke training for RE, CW and SIAMS
- 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 and contact for clergy regarding their role in relation to Church & Community Schools
- Initial telephone and email advice on relevant issues
- Monthly Headteacher and Chair of Governor 'Briefings' led by the DBE team and invited guests.

In addition, subscribing schools will receive substantial discounts on:

- The Diocesan programme of training and events suitable for Heads and Senior Leaders, teachers (incl. ECT and ITTs), non-teaching staff, governors and clergy
- Free access to a list of webinars including overview of SIAMS, what it means to work in a church school, what CW is etc.... These are short videos so they can be used by schools in staff meetings and training.
- Training for clergy and other interested parties focusing on churches and schools working together.
- 3 x Executive Headteachers' Development Meetings.

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
- Liaison with Multi-Academy Trust leaders
- Diocesan representation at Local Authority level
- Diocesan representation with the Department for Education, Regional Director and Ofsted
- Initial advice and support in appointing a headteacher
- Attendance of a DBE representative at shortlisting and interview for headteacher appointments
- Induction arrangements 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
- Initial telephone and email advice on other relevant issues
- Attendance of a DBE representative (whenever possible) at Ofsted feedback

In addition, 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 ethos
- Critical incident support, including pastoral support
- Newly appointed heads will benefit from a mentoring and support programme in partnership with the Local Authority or Multi-Academy Trust.

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 £250 per appeal
- Initial telephone and email advice on relevant issues Formally review and advise on Governing Bodies' admissions policies on an annual basis

In addition, 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 1 x Governing Board meeting per year upon request
- Administration of the admissions appeals process free for up to 3 x appeals, and a reduced rate for further appeals (of £150)

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 will be charged to the school at £150 per hour)
- 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

In addition, 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.**

Schools Partnership Agreement

2023-2024 Subscription Agreement Form

Name of School / Academy	
Address	
Email (for invoicing purposes)	
Number on Roll	

Please put an 'x' in the appropriate box below. Please ensure you have also put an 'x' in the box below if you would like to use our appeal service:

<input type="checkbox"/>	We accept the terms of the Diocesan Board of Education Partnership Agreement for 2023-2024.
<input type="checkbox"/>	We do not wish to subscribe to the Partnership Agreement for the 2023-2024 academic year. <i>We understand we will be invoiced for all chargeable services received from the Board of Education and acknowledge this may mean paying more than the subscription rate in the year. (The DBE would be grateful if you could complete this form and state the reason why you are not joining)</i>

<input type="checkbox"/>	We wish to use the DBE appeals service throughout the 2023-2024 academic year when appropriate.
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Signed by Chair of Governors / Headteacher	
Date	

Please return a scanned copy of this completed form to:

officedbe@leicesterdbe.org by 14th July to access the earlybird offer or the 18th August 2023