



DBE Strategic Committee and the Diocese of Leicester Educational Trust (DLET)

Introduction

The DBE's Strategic Committee has been established to formulate and oversee the Board's Strategic intent across the Diocesan family of schools and academies and to monitor local and national developments that impact upon that strategy.

Terms of Reference

This committee will act on behalf of the Board of Education in respect of the function outlined in the Diocesan Boards of Education Measure 1991 (see Appendix):

The committee will support and monitor the work of the Director and will:

- Regularly review the DBE's Strategy
- Monitor the Board's progress towards its vision & strategy
- Fulfill the Diocese of Leicester Educational Trust's functions as a corporate member of all Single and Multi-Academy Trusts
- Regularly review the DBE's Multi Academy Trust and Small School Strategies
- Monitor the performance of the Diocesan MATs to ensure reputational and financial risk to the DBE is mitigated
- respond to emerging school proposals about academy status or school partnerships/collaborations/federations in partnership and approve where relevant
- respond to emerging proposals for school closure

The Committee will brief and make recommendations to the DBE as required.

Delegated Powers

The committee is authorised by the DBE to adjust aspects of the DBE's strategic planning in light of local and national developments.

To approve the conversion of schools to academies.

Membership

The core membership of this sub-group will consist of:

Chair of the DBE

Director

Vice Chair of the DBE

Chairs of DBE Committees

Up to 3 additional members recruited on the basis of skills audits

The Strategic Committee will have the powers to invite, as and when necessary, additional people who are not necessarily members of the Diocesan Board of Education, to augment the expertise of the group if appropriate.

In attendance

Senior Business & Operations Manager

Deputy Director (as required)

Advisors (as required)

Election of Chair

The Chairperson will be the Chair of the DBE.

Reporting

A summary of actions from each meeting to be submitted for the next DBE meeting.

Meetings

The Committee shall meet at least three times a year.

Quorum

The Committee shall be considered quorate if not less than one third of its voting members are present.

Appendix: Relevant Provisions from the [Diocesan Boards of Education Measure 2021](#)

7 Advice

- (1) The DBE for a diocese may (apart from whatever advice it is required to give under the following provisions of this section) give advice on matters affecting church schools in the diocese to—
 - (a) the governing bodies or proprietors of those schools,
 - (b) the trustees of church educational endowments, and
 - (c) such other persons concerned with education in the diocese as the DBE considers appropriate.
- (2) The governing body of a voluntary or foundation school which is a church school must obtain the advice of the DBE before—
 - (a) publishing proposals under section 15(2) of the Education and Inspections Act 2006 for the discontinuance of the school,
 - (b) publishing proposals under section 19(3) of that Act for an alteration to the school,
 - (c) serving notice under section 30(1) of the School Standards and Framework Act 1998 of an intention to discontinue the school,
- (3) The duty under subsection (2)(b) does not apply in a case where the DBE's consent is required under section 8(1) or (2).
- (4) The proprietor of an Academy which is a church school must obtain the advice of the DBE before—
 - (a) seeking the consent of the Secretary of State for the discontinuance of the school;
 - (b) seeking the consent of the Secretary of State for an alteration to the school;
- (6) The trustees of a church educational endowment held wholly or partly in connection with a church school must obtain the advice of the DBE before making or agreeing to make an alteration to the purposes for which the endowment may be applied.
- (7) The DBE for a diocese must give advice on whatever matters advice is sought from it under subsections (2) to (6).
- (8) Where the giving of advice under subsections (2) to (6) is to be considered at a meeting of the DBE, the following persons may attend the part of the meeting dealing with the consideration of the matter—

(a) the head teacher of the school concerned,

(b) the chair of the governing body, board of directors or trustees (as the case may be), and

(c) one or two other persons (or such greater number as the DBE may allow) nominated by the governing body, the board of directors or the trustees.

- (11) A person to whom the DBE for a diocese gives advice must, in carrying out a function to which the advice is relevant, have due regard to that advice.

- (12) The references in subsection (5) to a disposal of land are references to the sale of the land or to the transfer or grant of any other interest in or over the land.

8 Consent

- (1) The governing body of a voluntary school which is a church school must obtain the consent of the DBE before publishing proposals under section 19 of the Education and Inspections Act 2006 for a change of category to foundation school.
- (3) The governing body of a voluntary or foundation school which is a church school must obtain the consent of the DBE before applying for an Academy order under section 3 of the Academies Act 2010.
- (6) Where the giving of consent under this section is to be considered at a meeting of the DBE, the following persons may attend the part of the meeting dealing with the consideration of that matter—

(a) the head teacher of the school concerned,

(b) the chair of the governing body or board of directors (as the case may be), and

(c) one or two other persons (or such greater number as the DBE may allow) nominated by the governing body or the board of directors.

10 Directions

- (1) The DBE for a diocese may give a direction to the governing body or (in the case of an Academy) the proprietor of a church school in the diocese if the DBE is satisfied that the governing body or proprietor—
 - (a) is failing to exercise, or to exercise properly, its functions so far as relating to relevant alterations to the school or to the discontinuance of the school, and
 - (b) is accordingly acting in a manner which is not in the interests of the school or of church schools generally.
- (2) The DBE for a diocese may give a direction to the trustees for a church educational endowment held wholly or partly for a church school in the diocese if it is satisfied that the trustees—
 - (a) are exercising their functions in relation to the endowment in a manner such that the endowment is not being applied in the best interests of the school, or
 - (b) have failed to exercise, or to exercise properly, their functions in relation to the endowment.
- (4) A direction under subsection (1) or (2) must specify the function or functions concerned.
- (5) The governing body or proprietor or the trustees must comply with a direction given under this section—
 - (a) in the case of a direction under subsection (1) or (2), within six months of being given it;
 - (b) in the case of a direction under subsection (3), within such period as the direction specifies.
- (6) Where the giving of a direction under this section is to be considered at a meeting of the DBE, the following persons may attend the part of the meeting dealing with the consideration of that matter—

- (a) the head teacher of the school concerned,
- (b) the chair of the governing body, board of directors or trustees (as the case may be), and
- (c) one or two other persons (or such greater number as the DBE may allow) nominated by the governing body, the board of directors or the trustees.
 - (10) An alteration to a school is “relevant” if it is an alteration which—
 - (a) in the case of a voluntary or foundation school, is for the time being prescribed in regulations under section 18 of the Education and Inspections Act 2006;
 - (b) in the case of an Academy, corresponds to an alteration which is for the time being so prescribed.

11 Engagement

- (1) The DBE for a diocese may engage on matters of common interest with persons concerned with education in another diocese if it has obtained the consent of the DBE for the other diocese.
- (2) Where the DBE for a diocese has, by virtue of section 15(2), functions in connection with the other charitable work of the Church of England in relation to children and young people, it may engage on matters of common interest with persons concerned with such work in another diocese if it has obtained the consent of the DBE for the other diocese.

12 Information

- (1) The DBE for a diocese may require the governing body or (in the case of an Academy) the proprietor of a church school in the diocese to provide information to assist the DBE in carrying out its functions.
- (2) Where there is a question as to whether the governing body or proprietor is prevented by law from providing information required under subsection (1), or as to whether information required under that subsection would assist the DBE in carrying out its functions, either the DBE or the governing body or proprietor may refer the question to the consistory court of the diocese for determination.
- (3) A question referred under subsection (2) for determination is to be disposed of on the basis of written representations; and the court’s determination is final.