



Supporting Church Schools

Introduction

The Supporting Church Schools Committee has been established to formulate and oversee a coherent strategy for existing and future church school provision across the Diocese in respect of their effectiveness, distinctiveness, rootedness and inclusivity and to monitor local and national developments that impact on this strategy.

Terms of Reference

This committee will act on behalf of the Board of Education in respect of the functions outlined in the Diocesan Boards of Education Measure 2021 (see appendix).

The committee will monitor the work of the Diocesan officers and will:

- support & challenge schools and academies to deliver effective provision including RE and Collective worship
- contribute to the Local Authority's Standing Advisory Committee for Religious Education (SACRE)
- work with parishes, deaneries, academy trusts and Local Authorities to identify, appoint, nurture, and develop high quality school leaders
- identify & provide a range of training for school leaders, staff, clergy, lay leaders and governors
- formulate, review and monitor all Diocesan Guidance and Policies, including for Admissions.
- nurture mutually supportive links between parishes and schools
- encourage and develop high quality school governors
- approve the appointment of Foundation Governors to Church Schools and to academies on behalf of the Diocese of Leicester Educational Trust (DLET)
- maintain oversight of the educational performance of schools and academies

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

Delegated Powers

- The committee is authorised by the DBE to formulate, review and monitor all Diocesan Guidance and Policies to be ratified at the full Board meeting
- The committee is authorised by the DBE & DLET for the appointment of Foundation governors/directors and to provide support and training for all Governors in all types of Church schools
- The committee will respond to Government initiatives via the Diocesan Director of Education

Membership

The core membership of this committee will consist of at least 3 members of the Diocesan Board of Education, If possible, the members will be from each archdeaconry. The Supporting Church Schools Committee will have the powers to invite additional people, who are not necessarily members of the Diocesan Board of Education, to augment the expertise of the group if appropriate.

In attendance

Director
Deputy Director
Senior Business & Operations Manager

The Chair of the DBE shall be an ex-officio member

Election of Chair

The Chairperson will be elected by the Board of Education to serve for the term of the Board.

Meetings

The Committee shall meet at least three times a year.

Reporting

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

Quorum

The Committee shall be considered quorate if at least one third of its voting members are present.

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

7 Advice

- (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—
 - (d) beginning consultation under section 88C(2) of that Act about the admission arrangements proposed for the school.
- (4) The proprietor of an Academy which is a church school must obtain the advice of the DBE before—
 - (c) beginning consultation about the admission arrangements proposed for the school.
- (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.

8 Consent

- (2) The governing body of a foundation school which is a church school must obtain the consent of the DBE before publishing proposals under that section for a change in the instrument of government which would result in the majority of governors being foundation governors.
- (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.

9 Consultation

- (1) A local authority, before appointing a person to represent the Church of England as a member of a standing advisory council on religious education under section 390 of the Education Act 1996, must consult the DBE for each diocese in the area of which the local authority exercises its functions.
- (2) The duty under subsection (1) does not affect section 392(2) of the Education Act 1996 (which requires a local authority, before appointing a person as a representative of a religion, denomination or association on a standing advisory council, to assure itself that the person is such a representative).

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—
 - (b) is accordingly acting in a manner which is not in the interests of the school or of church schools generally.
- (3) Where the DBE for a diocese has concerns about the quality of the denominational education provided by a church school in the diocese or about the content of the collective worship of a church school in the diocese, it may direct the governing body or (in the case of an Academy) the proprietor of the school to permit the inspection by such person as the DBE appoints of the education or worship concerned.
- (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.

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.