

Schools Partnership Agreement

Autumn 2026 – Summer 2027

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.

Following on from feedback from schools and trusts, this partnership agreement has been tailored to the needs of a range of stakeholders working with limited time and resources. This document should be read in conjunction with the training, resources and support document which can be accessed [HERE](#). A significant amount of training will be provided within the partnership agreement (without additional cost) and most of the training can be accessed as a recorded offer to help time constraints within school.

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 can opt to pay their partnership agreement in two instalments; this can be indicated on the sign-up form at the end of the document. The costs outlined below are the same as the 2025-2026 partnership agreement despite more being added to the support package as we understand the current demands on school budgets.

Number of pupils	Early bird 2026 Cost (Deadline – 3 rd July 2026)	2026 Cost (Deadline – 21st August 2026)
70 or fewer	£499	£525
71 - 110	£650	£675
111 - 220	£750	£775
221 - 350	£800	£830
351 - 461	£915	£950
461 - 630	£1025	£1060
631 or more	£1250	£1315

Subscription to the partnership runs from 1 September 2026 to 31 August 2027. School leaders and governors need to commit to the partnership during the summer term, returning their form no later than Friday 21st August 2026. Invoices will be issued in the first week of September.

Subscribing Schools will receive the following in addition to the services offered to all Church Schools:

- A named school advisor from the DBE team who will be your point of contact for support and advice.
- One full day of school support which can be accessed for any of the areas below and in a variety of ways including school visits, governor body meetings, staff meetings, INSET days, monitoring and evaluation, support with planning etc...
 - Support with creating or developing a theologically rooted Christian vision
 - Support with embedding and living out the vision of your school
 - Support with developing spirituality in your school.
 - Support in developing Collective Worship.
 - Support with Religious Education.
 - Support with wellbeing.
 - Support with Equality, diversity, inclusion and justice.
 - Establishing action points for a SIAMS inspection
 - Training governors on the SIAMS framework
 - SEF writing

Please note that if all schools within a MAT sign up to the partnership agreement, the MAT will receive an additional day of bespoke support.

- Free access to the majority of the CPD programme which can be viewed [HERE](#) and includes:
 - Church school induction for all new members of staff which includes recorded videos and worksheets for new staff to complete.
 - Recorded videos to help create, review and implement a theologically rooted Christian vision.
 - Recorded leadership reflection session.
 - Recorded videos to help develop a school's understanding of spirituality and how to embed it across the curriculum.
 - Recorded videos to help support planning and delivery of Collective Worship.
 - Recorded videos uploaded half termly to help support pupils in the planning and delivery of Collective Worship.
 - Recorded subject knowledge videos for Understanding Christianity.
 - Recorded videos on racial equity across the curriculum.
 - Recorded videos on developing courageous advocacy
 - Recorded sessions on the SIAMS framework and each inspection question.
 - Recorded video for new governors
 - Appeals and admissions
 - Buildings and Governance
- Substantial discounts on the Diocesan Training and Events outside of the ones included in the partnership agreement.

- Attendance of a DBE representative at up to 1 Governing Board meeting per year upon request
- Administration of the admissions appeals process free for up to 3 appeals, and a reduced rate for further appeals of £175 per appeal
- 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 Schools Condition Allowance (SCA) and co-ordination for approved projects at a cost of 1% of project cost less fees.

All church schools in the Diocese of Leicester will receive:

- Access to Diocesan guidance documents and advice including recruitment of foundation governors, constitution and membership of governing boards and building and land projects.
- Initial telephone and email advice on relevant issues including SIAMS, church school buildings and land matters, Governors, admissions policies and conversion to academy status
- Access to monthly leadership briefings.
- Access to monthly governor briefings.
- Access to termly Collective Worship briefings and a leading Collective Worship teacher.
- Access to termly RE briefings led by RE today and a leading RE teacher.
- A free induction Programme for all new Head Teachers
- Access to weekly reflections for all staff.
- Initial advice and support in appointing a headteacher and attendance of a DBE representative at shortlisting and interview for headteacher appointments
- Administration of the appeals process, if required, at a cost of £250 per appeal
- Referrals to appropriate professionals regarding Diocesan Trust Deeds and related land issues
- Liaison with approved architects, consultants and contractors relating to capital projects
- Co-ordination of Devolved Formula Capital (DFC) grant for VA schools at a cost of 2% of project less fees and oversight of Locally Co-ordinated Schools Condition Allowance (SCA) and co-ordination for approved projects at a cost of 2% of project cost less fees

Schools Partnership Agreement

2026-2027 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 2026-2027.
<input type="checkbox"/>	We do not wish to subscribe to the Partnership Agreement for the 2026-2027 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 2026-2027 academic year when appropriate.
<input type="checkbox"/>	We wish to pay in two instalments. First instalment on the 1 st September 2026 and second instalment on the 1 st April 2027.

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Signed by Chair of Governors / Headteacher	
Date	

Please return a scanned copy of this completed form to:

officedbe@leicesterdb.org by **3rd July 2026** to access the early bird offer or the **21st August 2026** to be able to access all of the support for the new academic year.