

CHESTER DIOCESAN FAMILY OF SCHOOLS

This document outlines the services that will be provided to Church of England schools by Chester Diocesan Board of Education (DBE).

The central focus of the Board's mission is to work alongside Anglican church schools in the Diocese to support them in their task of delivering high quality education founded on Christian faith and values.

We believe that providing the services outlined in this document is a key way in which we can achieve this mission and make a positive difference in the education of the pupils in our schools.

Since the commencement of the Family of Schools subscription, we have worked hard to expand the range of services offered to schools, and use independent educational consultants to supplement the work of the Schools Team. You will see that we have refined the services available to all church schools in the Diocese and those available to schools when they subscribe to this scheme. We believe that this makes the Family of Schools a highly attractive and cost-effective method of supporting schools.

Also new is a range of additional services which schools will be able to purchase if they choose.

We recognise the ongoing financial difficulties schools face, and have not raised the costs this year. We believe this continues to provide excellent value for money. Supporting this scheme every year means that the advice and expertise will be there when you most need it.

In this scheme we seek to provide a service that is

- committed to the mission of church schools
- distinctive in meeting the needs of church schools
- of a high professional standard
- good value for money

Church schools subscribing to Chester Diocesan Family of Schools are entitled to expect the Chester Diocesan Board of Education to:

- have a pastoral concern for the school
- provide professional advice and assistance in the areas listed
- provide written guidance, model procedures and other documentation
- arrange briefing sessions on important matters relating to Church of England schools
- deliver the services and listed to a high professional standard
- respond promptly and courteously to requests for assistance
- act with discretion and safeguard confidentiality
- be responsive to individual schools and their distinctive ethos
- act with integrity and in accordance with Christian beliefs and values
- promote at all times the Church of England foundation and Christian ethos of the school
- understand the roles and responsibilities of governors of Church of England schools
- represent the interests of the Church of England schools with partner local authorities, the DfE, Regional School Commissioners, OFSTED, EFA, the Church of England Education Office and other appropriate bodies
- direct all subscription income to the support and development of church schools
- deal promptly and courteously with complaints about the level of service provided.

Subscribing schools

In return, subscribing church schools are expected to:

- keep the DBE informed of the current situation in relation to the service required and developments at the school
- be available, given adequate notice, for meetings and/or visits to ensure progress is maintained
- give adequate notice when requesting visits, meetings, training, etc
- provide updated school information as requested
- pay due attention to the advice given
- pay invoices promptly.

What does the DBE provide to all its church schools and academies?

Chester Diocesan Board of Education provides all its church schools and academies with a range of core services at the expense of the DBE. These services include:

Attendance by an adviser at short-listing meetings and interviews for the appointment of a headteacher, subject to appropriate consultation and agreement on dates
Support for newly appointed headteachers
Guidance documents on admissions including exemplar policies which satisfy the most recent legislation
Approval of admissions policies
Guidance and assistance with the appointment of foundation governors
Six emailed schools newsletters per year with advice, guidance and news about our schools
An invitation to attend the annual leavers' services (for primary schools)
Access to legal advice in relation to church character and trust property
Attendance at Ofsted Inspection feedback
Support and advice for the re-constitution of Governing Bodies
A website with information, guidance and advice for church schools
Arrangement of denominational inspection (paid for by the DBE and undertaken on our behalf by Liverpool DBE)
Guidance, support and requisite approval of capital building work (aided schools)
When schools give management of DFC funds to the DBE, provision of the assurance return to the EFA
Access to DBE Services Total Property Management scheme (http://tpm4.com/)
Invitation to occasional meetings for headteachers, senior staff or governors
Attendance by officers at meetings with officers of LAs, DfE, EFA, RSCs etc
Production and revision of Diocesan R.E. Guidelines
Production and revision of Diocesan Guidelines on Collective Worship
Initial support for schools in difficulties

The Family of Schools subscription enables us to provide a range of services which meet the distinctive needs of our Church schools and academies. The table below indicates which services are included without charge when schools subscribe (non-members will be required to pay for such support):

Advice and support relating to specific queries with Church school admissions policies & procedures
Telephone support and advice from the DBE team on church school matters
Access to initial advice and guidance in relation to Academy conversion
General advice and support in connection with Buildings Issues
A visit to assist School Self Review on Church school distinctiveness once in the SIAMS cycle
Support for Church school Governors and issues relating to governance
Governor training programme on church school issues
RE and Collective Worship support
Provision of 'What's On' guide to assist Collective Worship planning
Access to exemplar RE lessons
One annual session by an officer or consultant in connection with Church school distinctiveness, RE or collective worship (secondary schools receive similar support)
Possibility of deferring payments on capital building work
Reduced costs for attending conferences arranged by the DBE (eg Headteacher, NQT conferences)
Additional support for schools in difficulties

Additional Services

Preparation for Inspection

Available for a Section 5 or Section 8 Inspection and will involve a consultant spending 1½ hours with the Head teacher and Chair of Governors.

COST £375

Through The Lens

This involves 3 or 4 schools with their headteacher and deputy/senior leader.

Following a school preparation meeting, supported by a consultant, the heads and senior leaders involved spend one day in each school and produce development points for the school at the end of each day.

COST £1,950 for 3 schools (i.e. £650 per school)

£2,400 for 4 schools (i.e. £600 per school)

School Review

This is based on the current Ofsted schedule with an associated SIAMS and SMSC focus and will result in a written report.

COST

£1,000 for schools smaller than 50 pupils and involves a consultant spending one day in school, and preparation and write-up time.

£1,500 for schools up to 150 pupils and involves a consultant spending two days in school, and preparation and write-up time.

£2,500 for schools larger than 150 pupils and involves two consultant spending two days in school, and preparation and write-up time.

Other support

Of particular interest to schools that have not been inspected for a number of years, we can offer a Teaching and Learning Review and schools may also request other work, e.g. follow up support from the 'Preparation for Inspection' visit or a specific area in which the school would like an independent evaluation.
COST £525 for a half-day or £1,000 for a full-day.

DIOCESAN FAMILY OF SCHOOLS SUBSCRIPTION

The charge bands for membership reflect the following points:

- Schools are funded on a *per capita* basis. To that end we have tried to even out the per capita cost for schools. At the same time the amount of support we give is sometimes, quite naturally, inversely proportional to the size of school. The charging bands are an attempt to recognise both these factors.
- We recognise that controlled schools do not necessarily need all the support aided schools or academies require. These charges take that into account.
- These charges are based on the hope that almost every school pays into membership.

This payment for membership simply recognises the great family of which Church Schools in this Diocese are a part. Contribution to the Diocesan Family of Schools will assist in maintaining additional support.

The following is the cost of subscribing to the Diocesan Family of Schools between September 2016 and August 2017:

	Aided or Academy	Controlled
Primary		
50 or less on roll	£300	£150
51 – 100 on roll	£350	£175
101 – 200 on roll	£400	£200
201 – 300 on roll	£500	£250
Over 300	£600	£300
Secondary	£900	

For schools served by more than one diocese, the cost is half the above.