

Church Distinctiveness / Foundation Committee

Model Terms of Reference

September 2023

Context *(Delete once Terms of Reference have been adopted)*

- The following Terms of reference are intended for use by all maintained schools within the Diocese.
- They are designed to support Governors understanding of their role in upholding the distinctive foundation of their school. and to ensure that appropriate time is offered to considering your values and the impact these have on daily life in the educational environment.
- Governing Bodies are NOT required to have a specific committee for developing Distinctiveness.
- These terms are intended for use either for a committee should the body wish to create a one (with delegated responsibility for considering the items below) or included in existing documents for the Full Governing Body or other committee where appropriate.

1. School Vision

(Add in schools theologically rooted Christian vision)

2. Purpose of the Committee

The Church Distinctiveness / Foundation Committee is established to ensure that the everyday work of the school is driven by a contextually appropriate theologically rooted Christian vision for education that reflects its foundation as a Church school, meeting the needs of the school community, and enabling people to flourish¹.

3. Committee Constitution

Quorum of ...

Chair:

Clerk:

Ex-Officio Governor:

Governor 1:

Governor 2:

Governor 3:

Non-members may also be invited to offer specialist knowledge to the committee.

¹ ...most would concur that **flourishing**, however conceived, would, at the very least, require doing or being well in the following five broad domains of human life: happiness and life satisfaction; health, both mental and physical; meaning and purpose; character and virtue; and close social relationships. [Tyler J. VanderWeele](#)

4. Committee aims.

<p>Christian Character</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To ensure that the school’s everyday work is rooted in and driven by a context-specific theologically rooted Christian vision. • To ensure that the theologically rooted Christian vision and associated values shape and drive school plans, policy and practice and are reflected in the day to day life of the school. • To ensure the schools admission policy reflects the Christian vision by being welcoming to all students with disabilities and learning difficulties, and by being inclusive of different faiths and of students from diverse backgrounds. • To ensure there is a robust and continuous self-evaluation process in place that involves the whole school community in evaluating the effectiveness as a Church school. • To support, monitor and develop links between the school, the church and the wider community, including parents, ensuring they are sustained and informed by the school’s Christian vision. • To consider curricular issues; how well the school’s staff and leaders apply the distinctive Christian vision to ensure curriculum and extra-curricular opportunities meet the academic and spiritual needs of all learners. • To ensure that there are opportunities across the curriculum for students to develop curiosity through questioning that helps them explore and articulate spiritual and ethical issues. • To advise the Governing Body on matters relating to the Christian character of the school and its development.
<p>Collective Worship</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To review the ways in which the theologically rooted Christian vision and the foundation of the school shapes worship and spirituality in the school. • To ensure collective worship has an impact on the whole school community through acts of worship that are; inclusive, invitational and inspiring. • To ensure collective worship raises aspirations, celebrates difference and encourages respect and dignity of all. • To ensure collective worship offers opportunity, without compulsion, to all students and adults to grow spiritually through experiences of prayer, stillness, worship and reflection. • To ensure collective worship is reflective of Anglican traditions, whilst offering opportunities for other traditions and liturgy to feature within acts of worship. • To ensure a wide range of members from the school community are involved in planning, monitoring and evaluating the impact of collective worship. • To make arrangements for members of the Governing Body to join school acts of worship for monitoring purposes. • To ensure collective worship provision meets statutory obligations.
<p>Religious Education</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To ensure the provision, profile and priority of religious education in all key stages reflects its place on the curriculum of a church school. • To consider how the religious education curriculum is effective.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To ensure religious education reflects the Church of England Statement of Entitlement and its principles are established and adhered to. • To ensure that RE is well resourced and that CPD for staff has an impact on effectiveness of the curriculum. • To ensure RE provision meets statutory obligations.
<p>SIAMS <i>(Statutory inspection of Anglican and Methodist Schools)</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To ensure that the recommendations from the previous inspection report have been addressed over time to the educational benefit of the students. • To develop, monitor and question the schools SIAMS self -evaluation document and relevant action plans. • To ensure there is an ongoing process of self-evaluation against the expectations of the SIAMS evaluation schedule. • To be familiar with the contents and expectations of school leaders within the SIAMS evaluation schedule.

Agreed by Governing body on:

Date of review: