

Church of England Birmingham Schools Partnership Framework 2024/25

Birmingham Diocesan Board of Education (the 'DBE') is a statutory body whose purpose is to serve and equip its schools and academies to ensure effective and distinctively Christian education, as detailed in the recently updated legislation referred to as '*The Diocesan Board of Education Measure 2021*'.

The Statutory responsibilities of the Diocesan Board of Education are to:

- a) promote or assist in the promotion of education in the Diocese that is consistent with the faith and practice of the Church of England;
- (b) promote or assist in the promotion of religious education and religious worship in schools in the Diocese;
- (c) promote or assist in the promotion of Church schools in the Diocese;
- (d) promote co-operation between itself and other persons concerned with education in the Diocese.

We at the CofE Birmingham Education team continue to provide services and support - including courses, conferences, specialist advice and the targeted support detailed below, through our funded school Partnership Agreement. We are committed to working in partnership with you, our schools, wishing to continue enjoying a relationship which is mutually enriching. We have therefore revisited our annual offer to you which both meets our responsibilities and is supportive and useful to your school.

Support included in the Partnership Agreement for our Primary, Infant, Junior and First schools:

For Senior Leaders:

At least one pastoral visit each year from a team member; including ensuring headteachers understand the support and resources available from the Diocese to themselves, their staff and their governors. It provides headteachers with an opportunity to raise any professional matters they wish to discuss.

In addition:

- DRB regular email briefing with national updates on all aspects of Ofsted and DfE guidance.
- A regular Diocesan weekly e-Bulletin, updating schools on Diocesan-related matters.
- Advice and support re structural change (eg becoming an Academy/part of a MAT).
- Support for managing difficult conversations.
- Access to New Headteacher of a Church School Programme.
- Access to bespoke services required of the core Education team, either by telephone, email or a diarised visit on a mutually agreed date as outlined below.
- Support for recruitment of senior staff.
- Support for secondments and school leadership opportunities.

Church School Distinctiveness Support:

- For SIAMS preparation and follow up.
- For the professional development and curriculum expertise of RE Co-ordinators and Collective Worship leaders.
- For developing high-quality Collective Worship.
- For developing the distinctive nature/ethos of your Church school.
- Grove booklets x 4 on education in Church school-related matters.

Support for Church/Church School Partnership:

- Developing working relationships with local churches and clergy.

- Professional advice and support for senior leaders, clergy and governors of Church of England schools, when requested.
- Pastoral care and support of clergy and senior leaders.
- Advice and support managing difficult situations (ie parents and external bodies).

Admissions & Appeals:

- Support and advice regarding admissions and appeals.
- Running an appeals service.

Buildings and land related issues

Managing the School Condition allocation of funds for academy and VA schools

For School Governors:

- Support for school governance, including appointments and training, briefings and updates.
- Support with senior leader appointments by request.
- Access to Fr Barrie Scott for bespoke Governing Board support.

Additional benefits of being part of the Partnership agreement ~ the following sessions are offered at reduced cost:	Partnership charge	Non-partnership charge
Places (subject to availability) at the annual Church Schools Senior Leadership Conference (full day)	£110	£210
Access for school leaders to a high quality termly Headteacher update/briefing regarding regulatory requirements for schools, delivered through DRB	£180	£290
Place at SIAMS Leaders Conference (full day or equivalent)	£15	£185
Attendance at the annual RE Coordinator’s Conference (full day)	£15	£185
Collective Worship Network/support/event (as appropriate)	£15	£185
ECT Introduction to working in a Church school	FREE	FREE
Clergy with Church School briefing (morning with lunch)	FREE	FREE
Discount on all St Matthew’s Teaching & Research School events as well as any other offers/promotions they do (other than <i>Talk for Writing</i>)	15% Discount	N/A

Important note re charges:

- Support for Partnership schools from the Diocesan Education team is supplied at no cost. Their support will be charged at full cost for non-Partnership schools; the cost of this is £250 per half day.
- Admission Appeals: these are free for Partnership schools except where the number of appeals (summer and in-year) exceeds 5 per annum, in which case the additional appeals will be charged at £50 per appeal. Non-partnership schools will be charged at a rate of £100 per appeal.
- Access to the Diocesan CPD programme is at heavily subsidised costs and is only available for Partnership schools.