

# **Family of Schools Membership**

## 2023/24

Secondary School



Being deeply Christian and for the common good,  
our schools will be communities which are:

<p><b>LOVING</b> in relationships</p>	<p><b>AMBITIOUS</b> in aspirations</p>	<p><b>BOLD</b> in actions</p>
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our schools will be communities which are:

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## ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP FEE 2023-24

The annual membership fee for secondary schools has seen a modest uplift in the membership fee from last year. The cost of our support to schools and academies remains heavily subsidised and we believe continues to provide excellent value for money

Type of School	2023/24 Fee
Secondary School/Academy	<b>£1,400</b>
Joint denominational or Served by more than one diocese	<b>£700</b>

Membership is charged at half-rate for joint denomination schools or schools that are served by more than one diocese. Multi-Academy Trusts with three or more church schools are entitled to a 10% discount. Schools will receive an invoice for the required amount in the first half of the autumn term.

Throughout this booklet, Family of Schools (**FoS**) member prices are displayed in bold while Non-Family of Schools (*Non FoS*) cost are in italics.

I want to begin by saying a personal thank you.

Thank you for your continued support as a member school of our Family of Schools. Your ongoing membership, along with 114 other church schools in the Diocese, underscores the importance and value we place on the strong partnership with and service received from the Diocesan Board of Education (DBE) and its officers.

We greatly appreciate the opportunity to work closely with you, supporting and equipping your school to deliver a high-quality education grounded in Christian faith and values. Our aim is to enable every child and adult in our schools to flourish and experience the abundant life promised by Jesus (John 10:10), where our schools are communities that are loving in relationships, ambitious in aspirations and bold in actions.

As the DBE does not receive public funding from the Government or the Diocese, our ability to provide a high-quality service to all schools and academies in the Diocese relies on contributions from the Family of Schools. These contributions enable us to maintain an Education Team dedicated to supporting our schools. While the DBE heavily subsidises the true cost of our support, we have found it necessary to increase the subscription fee for 2023-24 due to rising operational costs. Nevertheless, our membership fees remain the lowest among North West dioceses, ensuring exceptional value for money.

This booklet outlines the benefits, services, training, courses, and networks available to you as a member of the Family of Schools. We have made enhancements for the upcoming year to demonstrate our commitment to increased engagement and support for each school. Notably, we have introduced a designated visit and extended meeting with a DBE officer for every school in the Family of Schools. These interactions will help tailor our support to meet the specific needs and priorities of your school and context. This replaces the previous school support session, which will continue to be available for a fee.

Once again, we extend our gratitude for your continued support of the DBE and its Family of Schools' membership. Together, we can make a positive and sustainable difference in the education and lives of all who attend our church schools, enabling children and adults to thrive.



Chris Penn  
Diocesan Director of Education



The Family of Schools membership enables the DBE to provide a range of services which meet the distinctive needs of our Church schools and academies.

## Key Services for Secondary School Members

### A Designated Visit and Extended Meeting from a DBE Officer - New for 2023/24

As a member school, you will receive a visit from a DBE officer who will meet with the headteacher, and if appropriate other key staff/stakeholders, to understand the individual needs, context and priorities of your school. The meeting will enable discussion regarding the support available from the DBE that is bespoke to the needs of your school and enables us to work with you in tailoring the support to meet your needs.

### A Bespoke Individual School Support Session

An annual face to face session by our Secondary RE Consultant providing advice, support or training in connection with Religious Education, collective worship or Church school distinctiveness. Further sessions are available at a subsidised cost.

### RE Curriculum Resource - Illuminating Pathways

As a Family of School member, you will have full access to Illuminating Pathways Online, in conjunction with the Blackburn Diocesan Board of Education Religious Education syllabus for High Schools and Academies. It is a programme of study for Religious Education for Key Stage 3-5 linked directly to the Statement of Entitlement for Religious Education and DBE Services Framework for RE.

### Collective Worship Resource - Guiding Lights

As a Family of School member, you will have full access to the Guiding Light online platform that has essential policy documentation and resources for all aspects of the worshiping life of the school and the spiritual development of the whole school community.

### RE Leaders' Network (termly)

Led by our Secondary RE Adviser, Fiona Ashton it provides RE leaders from across the secondary church schools in the Diocese, an opportunity to network, share good ideas and ensure sustained good practice in Religious Education.

In addition, Family of Schools members will also receive a range of services and support free of charge. These are listed below.

The list below indicates the services that are **included without charge when schools subscribe** (non-members will be required to pay for such support)

Reduced costs for attending DBE training and conferences	Visit to assist self-review on church school distinctiveness in the SIAMS cycle	Academy conversion initial advice and guidance
Governor training programme on church school matters	Collective Worship support	Access to RE curriculum support
Telephone support from the DBE team on church school matters	Advice and support on issues relating to governance	Additional support for schools in difficulties
Foundation governors advice and guidance	Advice and support in connection with buildings issues and capital work	Advice and guidance on admissions



Tailored school support is available in connection with church school distinctiveness, Religious Education, SIAMS or Collective Worship. These will be delivered by a DBE officer or consultant and are available in a range of formats to meet the needs of your school. This includes one to one support (headteacher/RE leader), small group (SLT/Ethos group, governors) or whole staff (staff meeting/INSET day).

The sessions can be delivered as a twilight (up to two hours), half day or full day and can be booked as an individual session or a series of support sessions. Member schools and academy trusts may wish to join with another school(s) to share the training and cost.

The cost of these sessions have been kept the same for 2023/24 for member schools providing excellent value for bespoke support.

	Family of Schools Member	Non-Member
Twilight Session	£175	£300
Half Day Session	£250	£400
Full Day Session	£450	£750



Some of the aspects available include:

- Developing a distinctive Christian vision for school
- Understanding Christianity resource
- RE curriculum – long/medium term planning
- School environment – Christian distinctiveness
- Developing prayer spaces & reflection areas
- Valuing All God’s Children
- Developing pupils as leaders of collective worship
- Christian vision & curriculum
- Assessment in RE
- Courageous Advocacy
- Evaluating collective worship
- SIAMS framework overview
- Preparation for SIAMS
- SIAMS self-evaluation
- Leading class worship
- School and church partnership
- RE subject leader ‘deep dive’
- Strengthening spiritual development

This is not an exhaustive list of topics and each session is tailored to your school’s needs and requirements as a church school.

Please contact [linda.boys@chester.anglican.org](mailto:linda.boys@chester.anglican.org) to book a session or to discuss your requirements.

## Diocesan Schools Information Service

Additional SLA (£100)



Delivered by Mark Whitehill, Diocesan School Effectiveness Officer, this service will provide the school with a comprehensive range of news items throughout the year, to ensure that school leaders and governors are kept up-to-date with current and upcoming educational information.

### Key Educational Updates

Saving leaders valuable time and effort, key information from a range of documents and reports will be highlighted so that leaders are able to find the most important information as quickly as possible.

Examples include (but are not exclusive to):

- Department for Education releases and circulars
- National educational news briefings
- Links to websites or documents of interest
- Ofsted Inspection updates
- 'Best practice' references – Curriculum and Leadership
- News of upcoming events or CPD opportunities that may be available more widely than LA/MAT groups

### Headteacher Surgery Sessions

In addition to the above, urgent or important information will be shared and/or discussed at termly Headteacher surgery sessions, so that colleagues are enabled to reflect on the implications of key news and how others may be implementing change as a result.

Online (Zoom) surgery session dates for 2023/24

Autumn Term	10th October 2023
Spring Term	8th February 2024
Summer Term	24th April 2024



## School Effectiveness Support

The DBE provides school effectiveness support through its officer, Mark Whitehill. This work covers a broad spectrum of support to individual schools on school improvement, preparation for Ofsted, curriculum advice, and headteacher support, as well as access to a number of networks. It also includes liaison with local authorities and Multi-Academy trusts for schools experiencing difficulties.

### Bespoke support offer for schools

As part of the school effectiveness offer, schools can request support on a range of aspects of school improvement. This bespoke service can be purchased at a preferential rate for members of the DBE Family of Schools.

- Some examples of the support available include:
  - School self-evaluation review
  - School Improvement Plan review
  - Curriculum development and review
  - Subject leader development and audit
  - Governor readiness for inspection – key roles and responsibilities
  - Staffing structure enhancement – roles and job descriptions
  - Preparation for inspection
  - Audit of classroom practice
  - Audits of safeguarding practice

Support can be offered prior to Ofsted inspections, in order to discuss preparation and to assist with evaluation of current practice and areas for development. Support can also be offered to schools that may need help with post-inspection planning, in areas such as subject Leadership and curriculum design or development.

These are not exhaustive and exemplify themes which could be delivered. School leaders are invited to contact Mark Whitehill with any requests for support, so that clarity can be assured over the design of any brokered support and the methodology and time needed to ensure effective delivery.

**Email:** mark.whitehill@chester.anglican.org  
**Tel:** 07540 722669



A core element of the DBE's support for schools is provided through our training, courses programmes and networks.

For Academic Year 2023/24 this will be delivered through three key strands:

- **Church school distinctiveness**
- **Career pathway and development in church schools**
- **Networks & Additional Services**

The team have devised a comprehensive schedule for 2023/24 that supports Christian distinctiveness, designed against each of the six Inspection Questions (IQs) within the SIAMS framework. In addition, the schedule has been designed to support leadership at all levels within the context of church schools, offering multi-session programmes, as well as stand-alone courses. An overview of each is provided below.

Family of schools membership entitles schools to preferential rates (up to 50%) and places on training courses and conferences. A full list and details of the courses and programmes for 2023-24 can be found on the Chester Diocese website: [chester.anglican.org/schools/dbecourses](https://chester.anglican.org/schools/dbecourses)





# CPD Courses & Programmes 2023/24



## Early Career Teacher Support

6 day programme

**FoS: £400** • *Non-FoS: £800*

An enhancement programme specifically for church schools in addition to the statutory induction for all Early Career Teachers.

## Recently Qualified Teachers

4 day programme

**FoS: £300** • *Non-FoS: £600*

A development programme aimed at teachers in their first five years of teaching. It will provide teachers with knowledge, experience and training in key areas of professional development in a church school context.

## Visionary Subject Leadership

1 afternoon session

**FoS: £60** • *Non-FoS: £120*

To allow subject leaders to explore how their subjects can contribute to the school's Vision, its aims and values and how this can be woven through curriculum design, pedagogy, relationships with colleagues as a subject leader.

## Stepping into Headship

2 twilight sessions

**FoS: £60** • *Non-FoS: £120*

These two twilight sessions will allow colleagues that are thinking of applying for Headship in a Diocesan school to discuss in practical terms what makes for a successful application and interview in a Church school.

## New Headteacher Support

3 half-day programme

**FoS: Free** • *Non-FoS: £360*

This suite of free sessions for new and recently appointed head teachers is an important year's supportive introduction to being a Church school leader in the Diocese of Chester.

## Flourishing Leaders

a programme of wellbeing for headteachers

4 day programme

**FoS: £300** • *Non-FoS: £600*

A year long programme for headteachers. We meet together in the beautiful surroundings of Foxhill. Covering a variety of topics and strategies over the four sessions to support good work/life to be a flourishing leader.

## Headteachers' Surgery (as part of SLA)

Termly

**FoS: £100** • *Non-FoS: £200*

These morning meetings give the opportunity for colleagues to share current issues which are relevant to school leadership teams across the Diocese.

## Deputy & Assistant Headteachers Network

Termly

**FoS: Free** • *Non-FoS: £180*

A chance to network with other deputy and assistant heads and receive information and updates about the support provided by the Diocesan Education Team.

## RE Leads' Cluster Meetings

Termly

**FoS: Free** • *Non-FoS: £180*

Seven primary RE subject leader cluster groups that give RE leaders from church schools the opportunity to network, share good ideas and ensure sustained good practice in RE across our Diocese.

## Chairs of Governors Network

Bi-monthly

**FoS: Free** • *Non-FoS: £360*

These meetings offer Chairs the opportunity to meet together to discuss topical issues and share best practice.

## Collective Worship Leads' Network

Termly

**FoS: Free** • *Non-FoS: £180*

A network that aims to share resources, ideas, explore the implications of the CEE0 Guidance for CW and work through big questions together as we seek to offer high quality worship in our schools.

## Clergy Network

Termly

**FoS: Free** • *Non-FoS: £180*

Designed for clergy who have a church school in their parish. Its an opportunity to get updates from the DBE, share ideas and bring questions/concerns to the DBE

## DBE Briefing

Termly

**FoS: Free** • *Non-FoS: £180*

These briefings for all Headteachers, Senior Leaders, Chair of Governors, and Clergy offer information about current issues from the Diocese team.



## Early Career Teacher Support

### Full Year Programme

**FoS: £400 • Non-FoS: £800**

An enhancement programme specifically for church schools in addition to the statutory induction for all Early Career Teachers.

#### Day One: Welcome to the Diocese

Find out who is who in the DBE team and a little more about the scope and breadth of its work. The session will also explore the vision of Church schools.

20 Sep 2023  
Church House

#### Day 2: Living out the CEEO Vision of Dignity and Respect

This session will focus on inclusion, considering the document Valuing All God's Children, behaviour management, exploring vulnerable groups.

22 Nov 2023  
Witton Church Walk

#### Day 3: Religious Education and Collective Worship

The session will begin observing collective worship and then consider how to be inspired to plan and deliver an act of worship

29 Jan 2024  
Mollington,  
St Oswald's

#### Day 4: Spiritual Development, Reflection & Celebration

This session will explore spiritual development in schools and meet with an ethos group.

15 Mar 2024  
Marple, All Saints

#### Day 5: Curriculum

The day will include observing worship, Character Education and Courageous Advocacy across the curriculum.

23 Apr 2024  
Lower Peover

#### Day 6: Surviving the First Year

This day includes sessions on managing workload, classroom management, working with support staff and parental engagement.

TBC  
Church House



## Recently Qualified Teachers

### Full Year Programme

**FoS: £300** • *Non-FoS: £600*

The Recently Qualified Teacher Development Programme is aimed at teachers in their first five years and will be delivered in six sessions over three days. It will provide RQT's with knowledge, experience and training in key areas of development.

#### Day 1 - High Quality Teaching & Learning

Spotlight on curriculum, assessment & Pupil Progress

17 Nov 2023  
Church House

#### Day 2: Classroom Organisation

Managing pupils and keeping positive during difficult conversations. Followed by getting the best from additional adults in the classroom

26 Jan 2024  
Moreton,  
Christ Church

#### Day 3: Subject Leadership

Personal Development & Appraisal

15 Mar 2024  
Church House

#### Day 4: Support for SEND & vulnerable pupils / Ethos of a CE school

Caring for ourselves, our pupils and our colleagues

14 Jun 2024  
Church House

#### Day 5: After School Social

Opportunity to meet up after school to review your progress this year and catch up with colleagues

TBC  
Church House



## Deputy & Assistant Headteacher Network

A chance to network with other deputy and assistant heads and get information about the support provided by the Diocesan Education Team.

**FoS: Free** • *Non-FoS: £180*

Church House

14 Nov 2023 • 06 Feb 2024 • 22 May 2024

## Visionary Subject Leadership

Designed to show how their subject leaders can contribute to the school's vision and how this can be woven through curriculum design, as well as exploring how to look for evidence of how vision is lived out.

**FoS: £60** • *Non-FoS: £120*

Church House

09 Oct 2023 • Afternoon Session

## Spiritual Development

This session will help gain a clear understanding of spiritual development and how it is defined in a church school, with time to consider how this is an expression of living out your school's Christian vision.

**FoS: £60** • *Non-FoS: £120*

Church House

08 Nov 2023 • Morning Session

## Stepping into Headship

### Part 1: Practical Application Writing

Covering aspects of applying for headship, taking account of the key elements that schools will be expecting to see demonstrated through pre-visits, application forms and supporting letters.

### Part 2: Interview Technique

Focusing on the interview: how to prepare, looking at the type of questions that are Church school-specific and how to answer them

**FoS: £60** • *Non-FoS: £120*

Online (Zoom)

TBC • Two Twilight Sessions

## Admissions & Appeals

In the session we will look at the admissions and appeals codes and their statutory requirements. Updated guidance will also be given based on recent school adjudicator rulings.

**FoS: Free** • *Non-FoS: £120*  
Online (Zoom) • 13 Oct 2023 • 26 Jun 2024

## DBE Briefing

These briefings for all Headteachers, Senior Leaders, Chair of Governors, and Clergy offer information about current issues from the Diocese team.

**FoS: Free** • *Non-FoS: £180*  
Online (Zoom) • 12 Dec 2023 • 13 Mar 2024 • 25 Jun 2024

## Capital Funding & Building Support for VA schools

In this training, we will explain everything schools need to know about Capital Funding including discussing the procedures for schools to apply for funding and manage projects. Also for Business Managers

**FoS: Free** • *Non-FoS: £120*  
Online (Zoom) • 19 Sep 2023 • Morning Session

## Developing a Theologically Rooted Christian Vision in a Church School

This session will look to give clarity on vision and the associated language of mission, values and strap lines, so that there is cohesion and coherence to the work we do.

**FoS: £60** • *Non-FoS: £120*  
Church House • 03 Oct 2023 • Afternoon Session

## Headteachers' Surgery (as part of SLA)

These surgeries give the opportunity for colleagues to discuss about current issues which are relevant to school leadership teams across the Diocese.

**FoS: £100** • *Non-FoS: £200*  
Online (Zoom) • Morning Session  
10 Oct 2023 • 08 Feb 2024 • 24 Apr 2024

## Flourishing Leaders

a programme of wellbeing for headteachers

A year long programme for headteachers. We meet together in the beautiful surroundings of Foxhill. Covering a variety of topics and strategies over the four sessions to support good work/life to be a flourishing leader.

**FoS: £300** • *Non-FoS: £600*  
Foxhill Retreat Centre  
**Cohort 1:** 05 Oct 2023 • 25 Jan 2024 • 25 Apr 2024 • 19 Jun 2024  
**Cohort 2:** 06 Oct 2023 • 26 Jan 2024 • 26 Apr 2024 • 20 Jun 2024

## Christian Leadership Programme

As part of our Leadership pathway, this popular and successful training programme encourages leaders to consider what it means to be distinctively Christian in their leadership of school. A blend of training that includes training days, tutorials, presentations and an inspiring residential to begin the course allows delegates to reflect on their own leadership styles and will equip them to really grasp how a distinctively Christian vision can inform practice and see long lasting impact on their Church school. To book, please contact [jen.mcilveen@chester.anglican.org](mailto:jen.mcilveen@chester.anglican.org).

**Cost: £550**  
05 Oct 2023 - Introduction • wb 13 Nov 2023 - School Visit  
16-17 Jan 2024 - Two Day Residential • 11 Mar 2024 - Session 5  
wb 20 May 2024 - Presentations • 07 Jun 2024 - Submission of Journals  
05 Jul 2024 - Cathedral Celebration

## New & Recent Headteacher Support Package

A three session programme that explore what distinctive leadership means in the context of a Church school setting and how you can nurture and develop the distinctive character of your school in different aspects of your work. This will help you to embed consistent practice, build confidence in stakeholders, create and cement effective teams, including development of leaders within the school, while always keeping the unique and distinctive character of your Church school central in future planning.

**FoS: Free** • *Non-FoS: £360*  
Church House  
**New Headteacher Welcome:** 12 Oct 2023 • Afternoon Session  
**Distinctive Leadership:** 30 Jan 2024 • Morning Session  
**Taking Distinctive Schools Forward:** 23 May 2024 • Afternoon Session

## RE Syllabus Launch

New to the last academic year an online platform was created up to give teachers greater access to resources and to regularly edit and add to the existing resources. Come along to the launch of the new syllabus which Chester Diocese is now recommending for all schools.

**Cost: Free**

Church House

**VA Schools:** 13 Sep 2023 • 06 Oct 2023 **VC Schools:** 29 Sep 2023

## Help, I'm a New RE Leader

This course will empower recently appointed Diocesan RE Subject Leaders giving delegates an overview of the place of RE in church schools. Time will be spent considering the planning, delivery, and monitoring of excellent RE lessons, whilst highlighting what makes a good RE Subject Leader.

**FoS: £120** • *Non-FoS: £240*

Church House

15 Sep 2023

## RE Curriculum Choices & Long Term Planning

An opportunity to re-imagine what is possible by reviewing your school's current use of the Chester Diocesan syllabus or another syllabus.

**FoS: £120** • *Non-FoS: £240*

Church House

02 Nov 2023 • 19 Jan 2024

## RE Cluster Meetings

These face to face, termly, meetings in 7 regional groups give RE leaders from church schools opportunity to network, share good ideas and ensure sustained good practice in RE across our Diocese.

To enquire, please contact [jen.mcilveen@chester.anglican.org](mailto:jen.mcilveen@chester.anglican.org).

**Cost: Free**

## RE Leaders' Conference

Our annual conference for RE Leaders, Headteachers, governors, and all school leaders to learn from national experts.

**FoS: £120** • *Non-FoS: £240*

TBC • Full Day Session

## RE & Assessment

These sessions are for any teacher interested in improving their RE curriculum assessment practice. The sessions will involve an introduction to good practice in 'RE and Assessment' and teachers will discuss how to put the guidance into practice and develop their own ideas and there will be opportunity to share good practice and raise areas of concern.

**Cost: Free**

Church House

**VA Schools:** 19 Jun 2024 • 26 Jun 2024 **VC Schools:** 03 Jul 2024

## RE & The SIAMS Evaluation Schedule

The Schedule measures how effective a school is in ensuring religious education expresses the school's deeply theological rooted Christian vision and how well the school ensures pupils flourish through the provision of high quality religious education reflecting the C of E Statement of Entitlement.

**FoS: £120** • *Non-FoS: £240*

Church House

02 Oct 2023 • 26 Apr 2024

## RE Subject Leaders' Drop-in

These surgeries give the opportunity for colleagues to hear about current issues which are relevant to RE Leaders across the Diocese and ensure sustained good practice in RE across our Diocese.

**FoS: Free** • *Non-FoS: £240*

Online (Zoom)

06 Mar 2024 • 08 May 2024 • 01 Jul 2024

## Understanding the Big Picture

### Walk Through the Bible

This is an interactive and engaging teaching event that uncovers the Big Picture of the New Testament. The day is an encouraging way to consolidate prior Bible knowledge and help fill in gaps.

**FoS: £120** • *Non-FoS: £240*

Church House

TBC • Full Day Session

## Developing a Theologically Rooted Christian Vision in a Church School

This session will look to give clarity on vision and the associated language of mission, values and strap lines too so that there is cohesion and coherence to the work we do.

**FoS: £60 • Non-FoS: £120**  
Church House  
03 Oct 2023 • Afternoon Session

## Collective Worship in a Church School

In this course will be looking at what makes good worship in a church school. We'll share useful resources that will help in facilitating children becoming worship leaders.

**FoS: £120 • Non-FoS: £240**  
Church House  
15 Mar 2024 • All Day Session

## Collective Worship Leaders' Network

In many of our schools, collective worship is most definitely the heartbeat of the school that permeates through the day. We invite you and your associated clergy to join this network.

**FoS: Free • Non-FoS: £180**  
Online (Zoom)  
16 Oct 2023 • 24 Jan 2024 • 23 May 2024

## Courageous Advocacy: Challenging Injustice

This session considers how we work at a local level with the church. Looking at how this effective partnership can inspire and develop aspects of spiritual development enrich collective worship.

**FoS: £60 • Non-FoS: £120**  
Online (Zoom)  
TBC • Twilight Session

## Effective Partnerships: Church & Local Community

This series explores the question; What does effective partnering look like? Both at a local and national level, our distinctive Christian vision should inform both our choice of and relationship with our educational partners.

**FoS: £60 • Non-FoS: £120**  
Church House  
20 Nov 2023 • Afternoon Session

## Ethos Group

Help pupils understand the vision you have for your school as well as what makes a great worship leader?

**FoS: £120 • Non-FoS: £240**  
Church House • Morning Session  
**Wow Worship Leaders: 18 Oct 2023 • Vision Ambassadors: 22 Jan 2024**

## Prayer Spaces in Schools

We will explore how prayer spaces can promote spiritual development and consider how these can support the school's vision and Christian values.

**FoS: £120 • Non-FoS: £240**  
Ellesmere Port Church of England College  
TBC • Full Day Session

## New to Church Schools

This session, for anyone who is new to church schools, will cover understanding the distinctive nature of a church school and its biblically underpinned vision.

**FoS: Free • Non-FoS: £120**  
Church House  
25 Sep 2023 • Afternoon Session

## SIAMS - A Detailed View

Aiming to build headteachers' confidence and understanding, this session explores and demystifies the SIAMS process and gives insights into the mind of an inspector. The session will highlight how an inspector uses information prepared by the school and perspectives on what can help and hinder an inspection.

**FoS: £120 • Non-FoS: £240**  
Church House  
18 Sep 2023 • 16 Apr 2024

## SIAMS Self Evaluation Framework Starter

A practical application of populating or developing existing self-evaluation documents. Time spent networking and sharing ideas will be equally valuable in articulating the effectiveness of your vision. A fully charged laptop is essential for this session.

**FoS: £120 • Non-FoS: £240**  
Church House  
18 Sep 2023 • 16 Apr 2024

## RE in a Church School for Governors

As governors, navigating the responsibility of RE in the school can be tricky. This session is intended to give clarity to the roles and responsibilities for the provision of RE and provide an outline of diocesan guidance.

**FoS: Free** • *Non-FoS: £120*

Online (Zoom)

11 Dec 2023

## Admissions & Appeals

In the session we will look at the admissions and appeals codes and their statutory requirements. Updated guidance will also be given based on recent school adjudicator rulings.

**FoS: Free** • *Non-FoS: £120*

Online (Zoom)

13 Oct 2023 • 26 Jun 2024

## Being a Governor of a Church School

This course looks at the specific roles and responsibilities that are required by governors. We will also explore the importance of the church foundation and vision and how this influences the business of a governing board.

**FoS: Free** • *Non-FoS: £120*

Online (Zoom)

18 Oct 2023 • 19 Jan 2024 • 26 Apr 2024

## Capital Funding & Building Support for VA schools

In this training, we will explain everything schools need to know about Capital Funding including discussing the procedures for schools to apply for funding and manage projects.

**FoS: Free** • *Non-FoS: £60*

Online (Zoom)

19 Sep 2023 • Morning Session

## Chair of Governors Network

These surgeries give the opportunity to discuss current issues and ensure sustained good practice in our schools.

**FoS: Free** • *Non-FoS: £360*

Online (Zoom)

25 Sep 2023 • 28 Nov 2023 • 23 Jan 2024

19 Mar 2024 • 20 May 2024 • 05 Jul 2024

## Headteacher Wellbeing for Governors

We will explore the wellbeing handbook in detail, look at how it can be used to support headteacher wellbeing and see what changes can be made to policy and practice to ensure headteacher wellbeing is well supported.

**FoS: £60** • *Non-FoS: £120*

Online (Zoom)

25 Sep 2023 • 05 Mar 2024

## Preparing for Ofsted

Focusing on what governors should prioritise in order to meet the expectations regarding school leadership in light of the new Ofsted framework, we will explore what governors need to do in terms of supporting their school and how you can ensure that you have a well-rounded and realistic view of your school's strengths and areas to develop.

**FoS: £60** • *Non-FoS: £120*

Online (Zoom)

12 Oct 2023

## SIAMS for Governors

This course is for all governors in church schools to look at the current SIAMS framework and the governors' role within it. We will cover each strand and consider what governors might do to develop good practice and prepare evidence for the inspection.

**FoS: £60** • *Non-FoS: £120*

Online (Zoom)

17 Nov 2023 • 15 Mar 2024 • 17 Jun 2024

## Clergy with Church Schools Network

An opportunity for clergy with schools to meet and discuss current issues and best practice.

**FoS: Free** • *Non-FoS: £120*

Online (Zoom)

31 Oct 2023 • 08 Feb 2024 • 03 Jul 2024





## HOW THE DBE SERVES OUR SCHOOLS

Chester Diocesan Board of Education provides all its Church schools and academies with a range of services which form the core level of our support.

These are **free to all schools** and academies at the point of delivery and include:

### Leadership and Management

- Headteacher and Deputy/Assistant Headteacher appointments and recruitment. Attendance by a DBE officer (for headteacher appointments this is usually the Director of Education) at short-listing meetings and interviews, subject to appropriate consultation and agreement on dates.
- Advice and support with headteacher job descriptions and person specifications, particularly with regards to the school's Christian character.
- Support for newly appointed headteachers, including a termly visit in the first two terms. In addition, the facilitation of a mentoring scheme for new headteachers or headteachers who are new to headship in a Church school or academy.
- Monitoring the performance of schools through published performance data; liaising with local authorities and the DfE on school improvement on behalf of schools and academies; and providing additional support to RI schools and those in Ofsted categories.
- Diocesan attendance at inspection feedback and support for headteachers and governors during the inspection process.
- Access to termly network meetings of Anglican Heads in geographical clusters.
- Initial support for schools in difficulties.

## Governance and Admissions

- Guidance and assistance with the appointment of foundation governors.
- Regular briefings for Heads, Chairs and Incumbents on whole school, diocesan and wider education news and matters.
- Guidance documents on admissions including exemplar policies which satisfy the most recent legislation.
- Approval of admissions policies.
- Access to Chair of Governors of Church school network meetings.
- Support and advice for the re-constitution of Governing Bodies.

## Religious Education, Collective Worship and SIAMS

- Production and revision of Diocesan Religious Education guidelines, including a diocesan syllabus for RE for Voluntary Aided schools.
- Diocesan attendance at SIAMS inspection feedback and support for headteachers and governors during the inspection process.
- Collective Worship guidance and support for all schools and academies.
- An invitation to attend the annual leavers' services for primary schools.
- Liaison with national SIAMS team on arrangement of denominational inspection (financially subsidised by the DBE).

## School Buildings and Land Issues

- The management of property and trust matters for schools and academies in our roles as trustee/in support of site trustee and to signpost legal support relating to trust property issues.
- Support with School Condition Allocation (SCA) bids and co-ordination for approved projects (VA schools).
- When schools give management of DFC funds to the DBE, provision of the assurance return to the ESFA.
- Liaison with project architects, consultants and contractors related to approved projects (VA schools).
- Administration support for approved projects (VA schools).



## School Structures

- Liaising on changes to the status, size and age range of schools.
- Facilitating and assisting in the development of collaborations and federations.
- Providing induction training for Trustees in Multi Academy Trusts focusing particularly on Trust responsibilities for Church Academies.

## Training and Development

- Access to training courses, conferences and consultancy arranged by the Education Team and the wider Diocese.
- General enquiry support from the Diocesan Education Team.
- A monthly bulletin from the DBE with key information, updates and news for Church schools and academies.
- Access to the Chester Diocese website with information and guidance relating to Church schools and academies and current national education policy.



## Headteacher Appointments

(including other senior leadership roles such as Chief Executives, Executive Principals and Heads of School)

- Chester Diocesan Board of Education takes its commitment to supporting the process of appointing a new headteacher of its Church schools and academies very seriously and should always be involved in the appointment process.
- As soon as the Governing Body are informed of the current headteacher's resignation, the Chair of Governors should contact the Diocesan Director of Education (via the Diocesan office).
- It is important that no dates are set for the recruitment process with Local Authority officers or MAT colleagues until the Director of Education has been consulted and agreed a date that a Diocesan representative can be present.
- Appointing a headteacher is a time consuming process which requires a number days of officer time. This time is included by the DBE in our core service at no charge, providing that our Church schools and academies consult the Diocese at the beginning of the process. Failure to advise the Diocesan Board of Education could result in additional charges being made in order to facilitate attendance at meetings at short notice.





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