

Church of England Birmingham Secondary Schools Partnership Agreement 2022/23

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 have 3 Secondary schools in the Birmingham Diocese; 2 academies and 1 voluntary aided high school. Although different legal entities, a VA school and an academy trust have the same legal roles in terms of the Governing Board, being both the employer and the admissions authority, along with the responsibility for the land and buildings held for the school.

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 offer to you, which meets our responsibilities and is also supportive and useful to your school.

Support included in the Partnership Agreement for Secondary Schools:

- A ***Chaplaincy network, meeting termly***, agenda bespoke to the needs of the group.
- A ***biannual SIAMS visit*** from Jill Stolberg, our SIAMS lead. The first meeting in the Autumn term to discuss the SIAMS improvement plan and area of focus for the year; the second visit, bespoke to the action plan, may include specific training, eg governors training, bespoke SIAMS inspection preparation, developing a theological vision, support for the RE or CW lead, etc, as agreed in the initial meeting of the year.
- ***Annual visit with RE lead*** (covering RE focus in SIAMS inspection, RE curriculum, RE entitlement).
- ***Termly Headteacher/Principal visit*** from our associate Secondary education advisor (this is not a SIP role), to understand how the school/academy is continuing to offer a quality of education consistent with its ethos.
- ***Annual pastoral visit*** from Director of Education (unlimited additional support if requested).

Other services:

- Support for recruitment of senior staff, including representation on panels (*on request*).
- A regular e-Bulletin updating schools on all aspects of Ofsted and DfE guidance, as well as other CofE Birmingham events.
- Grove Booklets x 4 on matters related to education in Church schools.
- Online Mini-Retreats for Senior Leaders.
- Support with managing Church building and land-related matters.
- Support and advice regarding admissions and appeals.

For School Governors:

- Termly Governor e-briefing specific to governor-related matters.
- New Governor training.
- Chair of Governor briefings.
- Governing Board training.
- Standard Membership of the National Governors Association (the NGA), usually a cost of £85.

Additional benefits of being part of the Partnership Agreement: (the following sessions are offered at reduced cost)	Partnership charge	Non-Partnership charge
Admissions Appeals service: first 5 appeals are free; each subsequent appeal is charged at £50	£50 per appeal	£100 per appeal
Places (subject to availability) at the annual Church Schools Senior Leadership Conference (full day)	£95	£195
Place at annual Governor Conference (half day)	£30	£150
School leaders access to high quality termly Headteacher update/briefing regarding regulatory requirements for schools, through DRB	£180	£290
Place at SIAMS Leaders Conference (full day or equivalent)	£15	£185
Clergy with Church School briefing (morning with lunch)	FREE	FREE

The partnership agreement charge for Secondary schools is £1250