

## Church of England Birmingham Secondary Schools Partnership Agreement 2024/25

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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. Our offer, therefore, aims to both meet our responsibilities and be also supportive and useful to your school.

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### **Support included in the Partnership Agreement for Secondary Schools:**

- ***A bespoke SIAMS focused visit*** This will provide discussion regarding the SIAMS improvement plan and area of focus for the year; it will identify where any specific training and support may be needed eg governors training, bespoke SIAMS inspection preparation, developing a theological vision, support for the RE or CW lead, etc, to be agreed.
- ***Annual meeting with RE lead*** (covering RE focus in SIAMS inspection, RE curriculum, RE entitlement).
- ***At least annual Headteacher/Principal visit*** from our Deputy Diocesan Director of Education (this is not a SIP role), to understand how the school/academy is continuing to offer a quality of education consistent with its ethos.
- ***Bespoke support for the chaplain*** focused to the needs of the individual and school context as and when required, including an at least annual meeting with the Deputy Diocesan Director of Education.
- ***Bespoke training for staff on 'teaching in a church school'*** contact the DDDE to arrange this.
- ***Annual pastoral visit*** from the Diocesan Director of Education (unlimited additional support if requested).

***The intention of our relationship with our Secondary schools is by recognising the uniqueness of our three schools, to offer support needed from the Diocesan team tailored to the specific context of the school/academy.***

### **Other services available :**

- 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.
- 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.
- Support with Governor appointments.
- Support with senior leader appointments by request.

<b>Additional benefits of being part of the Partnership Agreement: (the following sessions are offered at reduced cost)</b>	<b>Partnership charge</b>	<b>Non-Partnership charge</b>
Admissions Appeals service: First 5 appeals are free; each subsequent appeal is charged at £50	<b>£50 per appeal</b>	<b>£200 per appeal</b>
Places (subject to availability) at the annual Church Schools Senior Leadership Conference (full day)	<b>£110</b>	<b>£210</b>
School leaders access to high quality termly Headteacher update/briefing regarding regulatory requirements for schools, through DRB	<b>£180</b>	<b>£290</b>
Place at SIAMS Leaders Conference (full day or equivalent)	<b>£15</b>	<b>£185</b>
Clergy with Church School briefing (morning with lunch)	<b>FREE</b>	<b>FREE</b>

**The partnership agreement charge for Secondary schools is £1250**

***Please note that we are no longer including NGA membership as part of our offer.***

*Your current membership will run until November 2024. If you wish to continue it beyond November 2024, you will need to make an arrangement directly with the NGA.*