



To support and encourage churches and parishes across the Diocese of Rochester in promoting Christian distinctiveness through excellent education of children and young people.



BOARD OF EDUCATION

Promoting Christian distinctiveness through excellent education in the Diocese of Rochester

The Rochester Diocesan Board of Education works closely with and seeks to support the Church of England schools within the Diocese in four local authorities (Kent County Council, Medway Council, London Borough of Bexley and London Borough of Bromley). The schools are based in diverse areas, from rural and urban settings, large and small schools, individual schools and multi academy trusts, the range of SIAMS and Ofsted gradings, the oversubscribed and under subscribed, those with strong parish links and those who are working to strengthen those links.

The Incorporated Rochester Diocesan Board of Education's objects are confirmed within the objects clause of its Memorandum and Articles of Association which are:



Church of England schools by status and sector in Diocese of Rochester

School Status	Number of Primary Schools	Number of Secondary Schools
Voluntary Aided (VA)	23	1
Voluntary Controlled (VC)	32	0
Academies	33	4

- To maintain and extend education in and knowledge of the Christian religion in general and the faith and practice of the Church of England in particular to all sections of the community within the Diocese of Rochester.
- To carry out the functions of the Diocesan Board of Education for the Diocese of Rochester under the provisions of the Diocesan Boards of Education Measure 1991 and any legislation amending, supplementing or replacing the same.

Triennial Aims 2015/2017

- To actively promote and support Christian distinctiveness through developing high quality leadership and effective governance of our Church schools.
- To provide targeted challenge and focussed support for school effectiveness in order that 85% of our Church schools are judged "Good" or better in both the Ofsted and SIAMS inspection frameworks by 2017.
- To improve the quality of teaching and learning of Religious Education in Church primary schools through the implementation of a revised Diocesan syllabus, sharing best practice and offering professional development opportunities for all teaching staff in Church primary schools.
- To ensure the good stewardship and effective deployment of the DBE's resources, to ensure its sustainable future and ability to deliver its triennial aims and key priorities.
- To develop effective strategic partnerships with Local Authorities, Teaching Schools Alliance, Multi Academy Trusts and other key stakeholders ensuring that every Church school is part of an informal, formal or structural collaboration which supports their Christian Distinctiveness, school effectiveness and sustainable future.

Highlights from the Year

In October 2016, the Diocesan Synod approved proposals for the reconstitution of the DBE. The Secretary of State for Education approved the revised Articles of Association and issued an Order in November 2017. It is envisaged that the new Board members will be appointed in the autumn of 2018 and established in January 2019. In the interim period it is likely that the DBE will operate under transitional arrangements. The guidance document for Deanery Synods elections has now been finalised and is also on our website.

The Chair of the DBE and its officers have embraced the Diocesan strategic review, now branded as “Called Together” and collaborated with others to produce materials and assist with the launch, which officially took place on Saturday 4 November 2017. A review of the consultation responses is now being undertaken and in particular how the DBE might assist in the delivery of agreed strategic objectives.

The DBE continued to work closely with schools and Multi Academy Trusts (MATs) in relation to their conversion and growth supporting them on the development of new Church of England school bids in areas of planned new housing development across the diocese, such as Rochester Riverside, Ebbsfleet, Springhead, Kings Hill and Tunbridge Wells.

Discussions concerning new school provision with Local Authority and ESFA officers continued and it is hoped that further, additional new Church schools will result.

The support given to schools by our Assistant Director of Education (Schools), Lead Associate for School Improvement and associate consultants has contributed to 96% of our Church schools judged good or better in both Ofsted and SIAS/SIAMS which exceeds the 85% target and is an increase over the 2016 percentage of 90%. The table below confirms the combined percentage of 96%.

Category	SIAS/SIAMS		Ofsted		Combined Total	
	No	%	No	%	No	%
Grade 1 - Outstanding	49	56	18	20	67	38
Grade 2 - Good	38	43	64	73	102	58
Grade 3 – RI/Satisfactory	1	1	6	7	7	4
Grade 4 - Inadequate	0	0	0	0	0	0
Totals	88	100	88	100	176	100

The main points associated with the DBE’s finances in 2017 can be summarised as follows:

- The operational deficit decreased from £214,475 in 2016 to £197,887 in 2017
- This operational deficit was partly offset by an increase in the trading company surplus from £67,693 in 2016 to £74,502 in 2017.
- Investment income increased from £157,005 in 2016 to £184,569 in 2017 and
- Unrealised gains on investments decreased from £424,505 in 2016 to £352,399 in 2017.

Whilst the DBE fund balances increased from £5,239,192 in 2016 to £5,492,684 in 2017 maintaining operational deficits in the future is not sustainable.



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Strategic Plan 2018

The Diocesan Strategic Framework, 'Called Together', focuses on the importance of children and young people in the three key areas of; Growing Disciples through offering life enhancing encounters with Christ, sharing the good news to see more people find faith, harnessing the power of prayer to transform lives; Enriching our Communities through increasing Christian influence in schools across the Diocese, establishing a Christian presence for education in areas of population growth, working to strengthen parish links with schools and supporting chaplaincy initiatives; Resourcing Our Mission and Ministry through ensuring schools and parishes comply with statutory, legal and best practises, supporting and developing major projects to enhance the Christian presence in our communities and to assist with local mission plans to strengthen links between parishes and schools.

The objectives of the RDBE are intrinsically linked to the 'Called Together' mission of the diocese and the Church of England's Vision for Education which through a prayerful discernment have been written into operational targets and goals to guide the work of the whole team for the next twelve months.

- To actively promote and support Christian Distinctiveness through developing high quality teaching and learning, leadership and effective governance of our Church schools.
- To provide targeted challenge and focussed support for school effectiveness in order that 90% of our Church schools are judged "Good" or better in both the OFSTED and SIAMS inspection frameworks by 2019.
- To improve the quality of teaching and learning of Religious Education in Church primary schools through the implementation of a revised Diocesan syllabus, sharing best practice and offering professional development opportunities for all teaching staff in Church primary schools.
- To develop effective strategic partnerships with Local Authorities, Teaching Schools Alliances, Multi Academy Trusts and other key stakeholders ensuring that every Church school is part of an informal, formal or structural collaboration which supports their Christian Distinctiveness, school effectiveness and sustainable future.
- To ensure the good stewardship and effective deployment of the Board of Education's resources, to ensure its sustainable future and ability to deliver its triennial aims and key priorities.
- To take opportunities for growth through the establishment of new Church schools and maintaining existing Church schools.

