

Schools Partnership Agreement Autumn 2025 – Summer 2026

The vision of the Derby Diocesan Board of Education (DBE) is to support our schools to transform the lives of children and young people; grow faith and build community. Living out the values of **generous faith**, **courageous hope** and **life-giving love**, Derby DBE will support our diocesan family of schools to offer:

- life-giving, life-changing learning through excellent education, shaped by a distinctively Christ-like vision and ethos
- inclusive & inspirational Collective Worship, inviting all to grow in faith
- excellent Religious Education, enabling children & young people to reflect critically & explore faith, belief & Christian responses to life's big questions
- hospitality, hope and love to children, young people, and households
- a sense of belonging to those of all faiths & none, building community near & far, local & global

None of our schools can achieve this on their own. We are a family of church schools and partnership is a fundamental principle. Partnership takes many forms including relationships with other church and community schools, local clergy, church community and the wider diocese through the DBE.

Derby DBE receives no public money. It is reliant on income from investments (closed church schools) and from the wider diocesan budget (ultimately from the voluntary giving of churchgoers). By signing up, your school is making an important contribution to our partnership. Each school is a valued part of the Diocese of Derby and so the DBE is committed to support each valued, family member. This document summarises services offered by Derby DBE under the following headings:

1. Religious Education, Collective Worship & SIAMS
2. Training & Development Opportunities
3. Leadership & Management, including Church School Ethos
4. Governors, Governance & Admissions
5. School Buildings & Diocesan Trust Deed Issues

Most diocesan Church of England schools subscribe to a DBE Partnership Agreement. We are very aware of the constant demands on schools' budgets and seek to provide our support at an affordable level. Schools which usually recoup the cost of signing up.

Fees for 2025 – 26 Academic Year (01 September 2025 to 31 August 2026)

Number of pupils	2025 - 26 Cost	Early Bird Discount Sign up by 24/07/25
Up to 50 pupils	£250	£225
51 - 100	£400	£360
101 - 150	£500	£450
151 - 250	£550	£495
251 - 350	£600	£540
351 and above	£750	£675

Religious Education (RE), Collective Worship (CW) & SIAMS

All church schools in the diocese of Derby will receive:

- Access to diocesan guidance documents on the Derby DBE website
- Representation on SACRE including agreed syllabus development.
- Invitations to involvement in diocesan church services and celebrations
- Attendance of a Derby DBE representative (whenever possible) at SIAMS inspection feedback meeting
- Initial telephone and email advice on relevant issues
- Extensive resources for school delivery and development of CW via several external websites

In addition, subscribing schools will receive further advice & information on:

- Implementation of policy documents
- Implementation of the agreed syllabus
- Education law relating to RE & CW (including rights of withdrawal)
- Links with examples of best practice across the diocesan family of schools, along with access to our list of highly acclaimed preferred partners.

Subscribing schools will receive substantial discounts on the diocesan training and events programme and access to a growing number of preferred partners to aid with all aspects of church schools.

Training & Development Opportunities

All church schools in the diocese of Derby will receive:

- Access to an annual programme of training and events (see website for details).
- A free induction programme for all new headteachers.
- Initial training for clergy regarding their role in relation to church & community schools.
- Monthly headteacher and chair of governor briefings led by the DBE team and invited guests.
- A visit to all newly appointed clergy with a church school by the Diocesan Deputy Director of Education.
- Initial telephone and email advice on relevant issues.

In addition, subscribing schools will receive substantial discounts on:

- The diocesan programme of training and events suitable for headteachers and senior leaders, teachers (including ECTs), non-teaching staff, governors, and clergy.
- All of our webinars.
- Training for clergy and other interested parties focusing on churches and schools working together.

Leadership & Management, including Church School Ethos

All church schools in the diocese of Derby will receive:

- Church of England representation at national and regional level.
- Diocesan representation at Local Authority level.
- Diocesan representation with the Department for Education, Regional Schools Commissioner and Ofsted.
- Initial advice and support in appointing a headteacher.
- Attendance of a Derby DBE representative at shortlisting and interview for headteacher appointments.
- Induction arrangements for newly appointed headteachers.
- An invitation to a Commissioning Service and a visit from the Derby DBE team.
- Regular visits to schools by the Derby DBE team.
- Initial advice on dealing with critical incidents, parental complaints, and safeguarding issues.
- Initial telephone and email advice on other relevant issues.
- Attendance of a Derby DBE representative (whenever possible) at SIAMS/Ofsted feedback.

In addition, subscribing schools will receive further advice and information on:

- Leadership and management of a church school.
- 1 visit per year (on request) to review the leadership and management of the school as a church school.
- For headteacher recruitment:
 - Drawing up appropriate advertisements, job and person specifications and appropriate interview tasks and questions.
 - Provision of sample documents for a recruitment pack.
 - Training and supporting governors who will form a recruitment panel.
 - Professional debriefing of candidates.
- School policies, including Inclusion in a Distinctively Christian Church School.
- Establishing and developing a distinctive Christian ethos.
- Critical incident support, including pastoral support.

Governors, Governance & Admissions

All church schools in the Diocese of Derby will receive initial advice on:

- Constitution and membership of governing boards.
- How to recruit governors, including foundation governors.
- Roles and responsibilities of governors, particularly foundation governors.
- Federation and academy conversion projects (DBE Officer time may be charged to the school at £100 per hour).
- Initial advice for admissions policies.
- Response to the Schools' Adjudicator as required.
- Administration of the appeals process, if required, at a cost of £250 per appeal.
- Initial telephone and email advice on relevant issues.
- Formally review and advise on governing bodies' admissions policies on an annual basis.

In addition, subscribing schools will receive further advice & information on:

- Legal matters in relation to governors' responsibilities.
- Provide further advice and support to headteachers and governing bodies on admissions.
- Provide advice for school policy documents reflecting a distinctive Christian ethos.
- Headteacher/Governor relationships.
- Pro bono officer time in handling federation and academy conversion projects.
- Handling parental complaints from a church school perspective.
- Attendance of a Derby DBE representative at up to 1 x governing board meeting per year upon request.
- Administration of the admissions appeals process free for up to 2 x appeals, and a reduced rate for further appeals (of £150).
- Subscribing schools will receive a substantial discount on the diocesan governor training programme.

School Buildings & Diocesan Trust Deed Issues

All church schools in the diocese of Derby will receive:

- Initial telephone and email advice regarding church school land and building matters.
- Oversight for individual building and land projects (DBE Officer time may be charged to the school at £100 per hour).
- Referrals to appropriate professionals regarding diocesan trust deeds and related land issues
- Initial advice on general building development planning.
- Initial advice regarding school capital grants.
- Liaison with approved architects, consultants and contractors related to capital projects.
- Co-ordination of Devolved Formula Capital (DFC) grant for VA schools at a cost of 2% of project less fees.
- Oversight of School Condition Allocation programme (SCA) and co-ordination for approved projects at a cost of 2% of project cost less fees.
- Initial telephone and email advice on other relevant issues, including conversion to academy status.

In addition, subscribing schools will receive:

- Pro bono officer time in handling individual land and building projects.
- Co-ordination of Devolved Formula Capital (DFC) grant for VA schools at a cost of 1% of project less fees.
- Oversight of School Condition Allocation programme (SCA) and co-ordination for approved projects at a cost of 1% of project cost less fees.

**Schools Partnership Agreement
2025 - 2026 Subscription Agreement Form**

Please complete the Google form [HERE](#)
or alternatively, complete the form below and
email it back to us at officeDBE@derby.anglican.org

Name of School/Academy	
Email (for invoicing purposes)	
Number on roll	

Please put an x in the appropriate box below.

	<p>We accept the terms of Derby DBE Partnership Agreement for 2025-26 academic year.</p>
	<p>We do not wish to subscribe to the Partnership Agreement for 2025-26 academic year.</p> <p><i>We understand we will be invoiced for all chargeable services from Derby DBE and acknowledge that this may mean paying more than the subscription rate in the year</i></p> <p>If you choose not to subscribe, Derby DBE would be grateful if you could provide your reasons below. This will help us in developing the PA for future years.</p>

Number of pupils	Cost

Signed by chair of governors	
Signed by headteacher	
Date	