



Board of Education
Diocese of Chelmsford



DELIVERING EDUCATIONAL SERVICES TO CHURCH SCHOOLS

Partnership Agreement
September 2026 – August 2027

**Promoting life in all its fullness
through Education across Essex
and East London**

*'I have come that they may have
life and have it to the full.'*

John 10:10

Chelmsford Diocesan Board of Education

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“Recognising its Christian foundation, the school will preserve and develop its religious character according to the principles of the Church of England in partnership with the Church at Parish and Diocesan level.”

from the 'Ethos Statement' in the constitution of every Church of England school.

Introduction

The former England cricketer and Church of England Bishop, David Sheppard, said that 'education, at its best, enables people to become more fully human and more able to serve others'. This vision lies at the heart of our shared work across the Diocese of Chelmsford. We are committed to forming young people - not just for achievement - but for life in all its fullness. We want our young people to be curious, courageous, compassionate, and grounded in hope.

Alongside academic excellence, our church schools nurture character, belonging, and spiritual depth. Our Diocesan Education Team is here to work with you - supporting schools to live out this vision with confidence, rooted in their Christian foundation and responsive to the communities they serve.

The Partnership Agreement reflects a shared commitment to that broader vision. It sets out how we will work together - schools, leaders, governors, trusts and the Diocesan Department for Education - to sustain high-quality education while remaining faithful to our Christian foundation. It recognises the role we each play and the huge strength we find in cooperation and collaboration.

Together, we seek to support one another with integrity and care, to act with humility and justice, and to ensure that every school community is enabled to flourish. In doing so, we continue to affirm education's role in empowering people 'to become more fully human and more able to serve others.'



The Right Reverend Roger Morris

Bishop of Colchester & Chair of the Diocesan Board of Education

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Foreword

Your school is a valued member of the family of the Diocese of Chelmsford. We belong together, rooted in our inclusive Christian identity.

Dioceses must provide all schools with some core services. In Chelmsford this includes statutory expectations and administration as well as basic support by Schools Advisers.

In addition, the Education Team will act on behalf of our Church schools and academies with:

- our national and regional diocesan networks;
- our close links with National Society/Church of England Education Office and the wider Church;
- our contacts with the Department for Education;
- our partnerships with local authorities and Multi-Academy Trusts;
- and our links with clergy across the Diocese.

We make no charge for any of these core services at the point of delivery, though the list of things for which dioceses are responsible continues to grow and these services are increasingly costly to deliver efficiently and to the high standard we would all expect.

We do offer initial consultation and telephone contact via officers and Diocesan Registrar regarding legal, financial, human resources and curriculum issues. However, the Partnership Agreement does not offer legal, financial or HR advice.

Our Partnership Agreement sets out your school's contribution to the overall cost of providing your school with support from the Diocese together with a number of enhanced service entitlements. It is an important element in enabling us to support your school. 95% of our Church Schools subscribe to it, recognising it plays a significant part in enabling our service to all schools to continue to the highest levels.

We are confident this agreement offers excellent value for money as well as expressing our commitment to each other within the family of church schools.

Carrie Prior

Director of Education

Chelmsford Diocesan Board of Education

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Summary of provision for 2026-27

We are fully committed to providing the best possible service to our schools.

All schools, partnership and non-partnership, are entitled to receive support, including telephone and email support, OFSTED and SIAMS feedback meeting attendance, advice on funding, land and property.

However, we are aware that most schools require far more than these core services.

By joining our Partnership Agreement you will receive much greater support tailored to your specific needs, which far exceeds the cost of the Partnership Agreement.

<i>Subscribing Schools</i>	<i>Non-subscribing Schools</i>
In addition to many other benefits the Partnership Agreement includes termly Adviser support, with the option of in person visits or online sessions.	Non-subscribing schools receive one annual 'Keep In Touch' visit. This shorter visit is to ensure statutory obligations are being met and does not provide the detailed support subscribing schools receive. Additional advice and support is chargeable for non-subscribing schools.

RE & Collective Worship		
	<i>Subscribing Schools</i>	<i>Non-subscribing Schools</i>
RE	Support may include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Website review • Review of RE - School Policy/Intent • Curriculum overview • Internal Monitoring of RE • Pupil Voice Group • Book Moderation • RE learning walk 	Advice and support is chargeable for non-subscribing schools.

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<p>Collective Worship & Spirituality</p>	<p>Support may include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Website review • Review of CW & Spirituality - School Policy/Intent • Review of CW planning / timetable • Internal Monitoring of CW • Pupil Voice Group • CW / Spirituality learning walk 	<p>Advice and support is chargeable for non-subscribing schools.</p>
<p>Christian Vision and Ethos</p>	<p>Support may include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Website review • Development and review of theologically rooted vision • Spirituality in the Curriculum overview • Review policies and strategies for Equality, Diversity, Inclusion & Justice • Advice on wellbeing and mental health for pupils and staff 	<p>Advice and support is chargeable for non-subscribing schools.</p>

SIAMS Support		
	<i>Subscribing Schools</i>	<i>Non-subscribing Schools</i>
<p>Church School Inspections</p>	<p>Termly in-person SIAMS workshops:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In-depth walkthrough of inspection framework • Time allocated for 1:1 Adviser support on your school SIAMS self-evaluation <p>Adviser attendance at SIAMS inspection feedback.</p>	<p>There will be a charge for non-subscribing schools to attend termly in-person SIAMS workshops.</p> <p>Adviser attendance at SIAMS inspection feedback subject to availability.</p>



Governance		
	<i>Subscribing Schools</i>	<i>Non-subscribing Schools</i>
Recruitment	<p>Work with the HT Recruitment panel to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Plan recruitment timeline and process • Engage with shortlisting candidates • Participate in Interview Day and associated tasks • Advise Governing Board on final appointment 	<p>Non-subscribing schools can access HT Recruitment resources on our website.</p> <p>Adviser attendance at interview subject to availability.</p>
Governance support	<p>Support may include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Adviser visit focused on school governance. • Access to Governance adviser for bespoke advice on Governance issues. • External Review of Governance (see Charged Services section for details). <p>Free of charge access to our Learning & Development Programme, including 'On Demand' online training accessed via our website.</p> <p>Free of charge attendance to our Annual Governors' Conference.</p>	<p>Non-subscribing schools can access Governance resources on our website.</p> <p>For non-subscribing schools to attend in person and virtual courses there will be a charge.</p> <p>Full ticket cost for our Annual Governors Conference.</p>



Admissions		
	<i>Subscribing Schools</i>	<i>Non-subscribing Schools</i>
Admission Policies	Your Partnership Agreement subscription includes bespoke advice and support on Admission Policies.	Non-subscribing schools can access DBE Admission Guidance for CoE schools on our website. Bespoke advice and support to ensure your Admissions policy meets statutory requirements is chargeable.

Buildings, Land & Trusts		
	<i>Subscribing Schools</i>	<i>Non-subscribing Schools</i>
VA School Capital Allocation Project admin fee	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Projects funded from April 2026 funding allocation - 2% of Project cost. • Projects funded from April 2027 funding allocation - 3% of Project cost. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Projects funded from April 2026 funding allocation – 3% of Project cost. • Projects funded from April 2027 funding allocation - 5% of Project cost.

Learning & Development		
	<i>Subscribing Schools</i>	<i>Non-subscribing Schools</i>
Learning & Development	<p>Our virtual and in person courses are for schools subscribing to our Partnership Agreement. These courses are free of charge.</p> <p>'On Demand' online training accessed via our website.</p> <p>A reduced delegate rate for our annual School Leaders' Conference.</p>	<p>Schools who do not subscribe to our Partnership Agreement can pay to attend in person courses:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In person course (half day) £125 + VAT • In person course (full day e.g. SIAMS Workshop) £175 + VAT. <p>Full ticket cost for our annual School Leaders' Conference.</p>



Subscription costs for 2026-27

Your Partnership Agreement subscription is based on pupil numbers obtained from <https://www.get-information-schools.service.gov.uk/>. The charge is calculated on a per pupil basis, with a maximum charge applied as follows:

- Per pupil charge £3.30 + VAT
- Maximum charge £1,386.00 + VAT (420+ pupils)

We will send you an invoice in the summer term, ahead of the 2026-27 academic year. If you choose not to partner with us, then please talk to us about this. Please bear in mind that we will charge you for any service additional to the core provision we offer.

Other Charged Services

Subscribing Schools

Subscription to the Partnership Agreement includes termly Adviser support, with the option of in person visits or online sessions. For subscribing schools, additional support will be charged at £190.00 + VAT per half day.

Non-subscribing Schools

Core provision for non-subscribing Schools includes one 'Keeping in Touch' annual visit. For non-subscribing Schools, additional support will be charged at £320.00 + VAT per half day.