

Board of Education

Diocesan Offices
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The Diocese

The Diocese of Blackburn covers most of the County of Lancashire, the Unitary Authorities of Blackburn with Darwen, Blackpool and part of the Metropolitan Borough of Wigan.

There are 211 parishes and 280 churches within the Diocese, divided into two arch deaneries, served by the Bishop of Blackburn and his two Suffragan Bishops of Burnley and Lancaster.

The Diocese and its schools

No other Diocese has such an extensive commitment to Church of England and Methodist schools. Within the diocese there are 195 Church of England schools and academies, with schools ranging in size from 1600 pupils in the largest secondary school, to small primary schools in rural communities with less than 30 on roll. Overall, diocesan schools educate over 44 000 students on a daily basis.

The Diocese, like the Church of England nationally, believes that church school education stands at the centre of the church's mission and rigorously promotes the distinctive nature of church schools. Church schools endeavor to ensure that a Christian perspective informs all aspects of life whilst ensuring that schools are accessible to those from other faiths and of no faith at all. Church schools seek to reflect Christian beliefs and values throughout the whole curriculum, with a high priority given to worship and religious education and to the Christian nurture and care afforded to all members of the school community.

Diocesan support for Church education

The staff of the Diocesan Board of Education provide a considerable range of services to the schools of the diocese. Primarily the diocese supports schools in religious education, worship, Christian ethos and distinctiveness. The diocese provides a comprehensive syllabus for KS1, KS2 and KS3 as well as worship resources and training in Christian leadership. In addition the diocese provides governor training, preparation of policies, advice before and after inspection, SIAMs inspections support and administration, admissions/appeals advice, legal, practical and financial help for aided school buildings, negotiations with local authorities, liaison with the Church of England Education Office and liaison with statutory bodies.

In addition, a co-operative approach has been developed with the Methodist Church and its education officers for the support of Methodist schools in the North West Districts. There is also very close liaison between the Church of England Dioceses in the North of England.