

# Family of Schools Membership 2024/25



**Chester Diocesan Board of Education**

Church House | 5500 Daresbury Park | Warrington | WA4 4GE

01928 718834

hello@chesterdbe.co.uk

chesterdbe.co.uk

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Being deeply Christian and for the common good,  
our schools will be communities which are:

**LOVING**  
in relationships

**AMBITIOUS**  
in aspirations

**BOLD**  
in actions



## INDEX

Index.....	3
Annual Membership Fee 2024-25.....	4
Family of Schools Membership.....	5
Bespoke Church School Support.....	7
Key Information Updates 2024-25.....	9
Church School Distinctiveness.....	10
Programmes.....	14
Networks.....	16
Leadership.....	18
Governors.....	20



## ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP FEE 2024-25

The annual membership fee for primary schools has seen a small uplift in the membership fee from last year. The cost of our support to schools and academies remains heavily subsidised and we believe continues to provide excellent value for money.

Number on Roll	2023/24 Fee
< 50	£220
51 - 100	£315
101 - 200	£410
201 - 300	£535
301 - 400	£695
> 400	£820



Membership is charged at half-rate for joint denomination schools or schools that are served by more than one diocese. Multi-Academy Trusts with three or more church schools are entitled to a 10% discount. Schools will receive an invoice for the required amount in the first half of the autumn term.

## FAMILY OF SCHOOLS MEMBERSHIP

The Family of Schools membership enables the DBE to provide a range of services which meet the distinctive needs of our Church schools and academies.

### A designated visit and extended meeting from a DBE Representative

As a member school, you will receive a visit from a DBE representative who will meet with the headteacher, and if appropriate other key staff/ stakeholders, to understand the individual needs, context and priorities of your school. The meeting will enable discussion regarding the support available from the DBE that is bespoke to the needs of your school and enables us to work with you in tailoring the support to meet your needs.

In addition, Family of Schools members will also receive a range of services and support free of charge. These are listed on the next page.





## FAMILY OF SCHOOLS MEMBERSHIP

The list below indicates the services that are **included without charge when schools subscribe** (non-members will be required to pay for such support)

Reduced costs for attending DBE training and conferences	Reduced costs for attending DBE training and conferences	Academy conversion initial advice and guidance
Governor training programme on church school matters	Collective Worship support	Access to RE curriculum support
Telephone support from the DBE team on church school matters	Advice and support on issues relating to governance	Additional support for schools in difficulties
Foundation governors advice and guidance	Advice and support in connection with buildings issues and capital work	Advice and guidance on admissions



## BESPOKE CHURCH SCHOOL SUPPORT

Tailored school support is available in connection with church school distinctiveness, Religious Education, SIAMS or Collective Worship.

These will be delivered by a DBE officer or consultant and are available in a range of formats to meet the needs of your school. This includes one to one support (headteacher/RE leader), small group (SLT/Ethos group, governors) or whole staff (staff meeting/INSET day).

The sessions can be delivered as a twilight (up to two hours), half day or full day and can be booked as an individual session or a series of support sessions.

Member schools and academy trusts may wish to join with another schools to share the training and cost.



	Family of Schools Member	Non-Member
Twilight Session	£195	£350
Half Day Session	£275	£440
Full Day Session	£500	£800





## KEY INFORMATION UPDATES 2024-25



### Diocesan Schools' Key Information Update

Schools will have access to a comprehensive range of news items throughout the year, to ensure that they are kept up-to-date with current and upcoming educational information. Where applicable, key sections will be highlighted within some items so that leaders are able to find the most important information as quickly as possible.

Examples may be (but are not exclusive to):

- DFE releases
- National educational news briefings
- Links to websites or documents of interest
- News of upcoming events or CPD opportunities that may be available more widely than LA/MAT groups
- Inspection updates
- 'Best practice' references – curriculum and leadership

In addition to the above, urgent or important information will be shared so that colleagues can reflect on the implications of key news and how others may be implementing change as a result.

Email updates  
Throughout the year

FoS: £100  
Non-FoS: £200



# CHURCH SCHOOL DISTINCTIVENESS

## Courageous Advocacy - Challenging Injustice

Course Lead: Caz Weir, author of the CEEO guidance for Courageous Advocacy

The SIAMS Annual Report 2021-22 identified courageous advocacy as an area that ‘was not accurately understood’ in Church Schools and is ‘often limited to adult-led charitable efforts, such as fundraising’ rather than engaging with ‘the basic rootedness of courageous advocacy in justice and empowerment.’

TBC  
Church House

FoS: £140  
Non-FoS: £280

## New RE Leader, New to Questful

This course empowers new Diocesan RE Leaders, covering the Questful syllabus, curriculum planning, SIAMS framework, and effective RE teaching in Chester Diocesan Schools.

02 Oct 2024  
Church House

FoS: £70  
Non-FoS: £140



# CHURCH SCHOOL DISTINCTIVENESS



## RE and the SIAMS Evaluation Schedule

The SIAMS evaluation schedule 2023 assesses RE in Church of England schools, emphasizing Christian vision and quality education. This one-day course supports RE subject leaders.

06 Nov • 30 Apr  
Church House

FoS: £140  
Non-FoS: £280

## Developing a Theologically Rooted Christian Vision in Church Schools

Church schools benefit from a theologically-rooted Christian vision. But what does this mean in practical terms?

In this session, we'll explore how to create or revise a vision that aligns with Christian ethos. We'll delve into mission, values, and strap lines, ensuring coherence. School leaders seeking clarity and impact can benefit from this guidance, especially for SIAMS preparation

18 Mar 2025  
Church House

FoS: £70  
Non-FoS: £140

## SIAMS Inspection & SEF Starter

This session empowers headteachers with practical tips aid efficient preparation, understanding inspector perspectives, and optimizing evidence presentation.

30 Sep 2024 • 16 Jun 2025  
Church House

FoS: £140  
Non-FoS: £280



# CHURCH SCHOOL **DISTINCTIVENESS**



<p>Questful RE: <b>Understanding Christianity</b></p>	<p>Questful RE <b>&amp; World Views</b></p>	<p>Questful RE <b>&amp; Global Christianity</b></p>
<p>RE Leaders will review and reimagine their curriculum, considering intent, implementation, and impact, to align with school vision.</p>	<p>This online course introduces identity in religious and non-religious worldviews, diversity, biases, and Ofsted knowledge forms.</p>	<p>Course info</p>
<p>27 Nov 2024 Church House</p>	<p>05 Mar 2025 Church House</p>	<p>20 Mar 2025 Church House</p>
<p>FoS: £140 Non-FoS: £280</p>	<p>FoS: £140 Non-FoS: £280</p>	<p>FoS: £140 Non-FoS: £280</p>



## Questful RE: **Moderating**

The two half-day training sessions will allow RE Leaders to review their teaching impact, share approaches, assess pupils' work, and develop strategies. Day 1 focuses on curriculum and assessment methods, while Day 2 involves teaching activities and revisiting planning to enhance effectiveness. Teachers will also consider stretching pupils achieving greater depth and developing their own ideas.

<p>23 Jan 2025 &amp; 25 Jun 2025 Church House</p>	<p>FoS: £140 Non-FoS: £280</p>
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<p>Ethos Group <b>Vision Ambassadors   A Pupil Conference</b></p>	<p>On Request</p>
<p>In this session, pupils explore the CofE's vision for education, connecting it to biblical principles. They discuss its impact and consider ways to share and reflect on it.</p>	<p>FoS: £70 Non-FoS: £140</p>
<p>Ethos Group <b>Wow Worship Leaders   A Pupil Conference</b></p>	<p>On Request</p>
<p>This session trains worship or ethos group representatives to lead engaging school worship, covering planning, delivery, and evaluation.</p>	<p>FoS: £70 Non-FoS: £140</p>



# PROGRAMMES

ECT Support	RQT Development	New Headteachers
An enhancement programme specifically for church schools in addition to the statutory induction for all Early Career Teachers.	The RQT Development Programme supports early-career teachers through five sessions, enhancing knowledge and professional development.	This 1-year course for new and recently appointed headteachers offers a supportive introduction to Church school leadership in the Diocese of Chester.
Six sessions during the 2024/25 academic year	Six sessions during the 2024/25 academic year	Termly sessions during the 2024/25 academic year
FoS: £475 Non-FoS: £950	FoS: £475 Non-FoS: £950	FoS: Free Non-FoS: £420



# PROGRAMMES



Stepping Into Headship	Spiritual Development
<p>These two twilight sessions will allow colleagues that are thinking of applying for Headship in a Diocesan school to discuss in practical terms what makes for a successful application and interview in a Church school.</p> <p><b>Session 1: Practical Application Writing:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Learn how to create a compelling headship application by using advertisement and background information effectively.</li> <li>• Understand key elements schools expect in pre-visits, application forms, and supporting letters.</li> </ul> <p><b>Session 2: Interview Technique:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Prepare for Church school-specific interview questions.</li> <li>• Reflect on your experience to provide effective answers.</li> <li>• Explore additional interview elements if time permits.</li> </ul>	<p>These twilight sessions explores defining spiritual development, aligning it with your school's Christian vision, and creating deeper opportunities for spirituality across the curriculum</p>
30 Jan 2025 & 13 Feb 2025 Online	<p>15 Oct 2024 12 Nov 2024 03 Dec 2024</p> <p>Twilight Sessions Online</p> <p>FoS: £70 Non-FoS: £140</p>



# NETWORKS

## DBE Briefing

These briefings for all Headteachers, Senior Leaders, Chairs of Governors and Clergy offer updates about current issues and information within the Diocese.

Termly • Online

FoS: Free  
Non-FoS: £210

## Deputy & Assistant Headteachers Network

Termly • Church House

FoS: Free  
Non-FoS: £210

## Disadvantage Network

Termly • Church House

FoS: £75  
Non-FoS: £150



# NETWORKS



## SEND Network

Termly • Church House

FoS: £75  
Non-FoS: £150

## Diversity Network

Termly • Church House

FoS: £75  
Non-FoS: £150

## Clergy with Church Schools Network

Termly • Online

FoS: Free  
Non-FoS: £210

## Collective Worship Leads Network

Termly • Online

FoS: Free  
Non-FoS: £140

## RE Subject Leaders Drop-in

Termly • Online

FoS: Free  
Non-FoS: £140



# LEADERSHIP

## Refreshing School Leaders and Replenishing Reservoirs of Hope

Wellbeing Days for Headteachers

Replacing the Flourishing Leaders program, there are now two standalone sessions for school leaders across the Diocese. Whether you've attended the Flourishing course or not, you're invited to join us at Foxhill Conference Centre. These sessions focus on wellbeing and replenishing hope, providing leaders with a well-deserved break from school. You'll have the opportunity to re-energize and build your own reservoirs of hope while connecting with other church school leaders.

*"Wherein the successful leader not only acts as the external reservoir of hope for the institution, maintaining and articulating its vision and values as the wellspring of self-belief and directional focus for the school, but also does this whilst retaining his or her own personal internal reservoir of hope, the calm centre at the heart of the individual leader from which those values and vision flow."*

- Alan Flintham; Reservoirs of Hope

18 Oct • 19 May  
Foxhill

FoS: £140  
Non-FoS: £280



# LEADERSHIP



## Visionary Subject Leadership

This session is planned to allow subject leaders to explore how their subjects can contribute to the school's Vision, its aims and values and how this can be woven through curriculum design, pedagogy, relationships with colleagues as a subject leader, as well as exploring how to look for evidence of how Vision is lived out through pupil voice and children's work and how to enhance this even further.

11 Nov 2024  
Church House

FoS: £70  
Non-FoS: £140



# GOVERNORS

## Chairs of Governors Network

This meeting offers Chairs the opportunity to meet together to discuss topical issues and share best practice, in addition to the DBE Briefing.

Termly • Online

FoS: Free  
Non-FoS: £210

## Being a Governor of a Church School

This course explores the roles and responsibilities of governors in church schools, emphasizing the influence of the church foundation and vision.

15 Oct • 12 Feb • 16 May  
Online

FoS: Free  
Non-FoS: £210

## Headteacher Wellbeing for Governors

Explore the Headteacher Wellbeing Handbook, learn how to support wellbeing, and make policy and practice adjustments

17 Sep • 14 Mar  
Online

FoS: Free  
Non-FoS: £210

## RE in a Church School for Governors

This session clarifies governors' roles in Religious Education, ensuring legal compliance and diocesan guidance. Link governors support RE leadership.

09 Dec • 06 May  
Online

FoS: Free  
Non-FoS: £210



## SIAMS for Governors

This course guides church school governors on the SIAMS framework, their roles, and preparing evidence for inspection.

11 Nov • 26 Mar • 24 Jun  
Online

FoS: Free  
Non-FoS: £210







**Church House**  
5500 Daresbury Park  
Warrington  
WA4 4GE

**Phone:** 01928 718 834  
**Email:** [hello@chesterdbe.co.uk](mailto:hello@chesterdbe.co.uk)  
**Web:** [chesterdbe.co.uk](http://chesterdbe.co.uk)