

# Summary of the Diocese of Ely Board of Education (EDEC) Handbook 2024

## Operational Summary

The EDEC Handbook sets out how the Diocese of Ely Board of Education (EDEC) formally known as Diocesan Board of Education (DBE) delivers its schools related educational remit within the context of national statutory legal requirements and locally discerned Diocesan Strategy.

This can be summarised as:

- The education team are responsible for delivering the national and *diocesan vision for Anglican education* ([Appendix A2](#)) across the *diocesan region* ([Appendix A3](#)) and meeting a set of statutory requirements as set out in the *DBE Measure 2021* ([Appendix C1](#)) and the individual foundation documents for each church school.
- As set out by the EDEC, a diocesan *Director of Education* is appointed by the Bishop ('DDE'). The DDE reports to a *Ely Diocese Education Committee* ('EDEC'), chaired by a diocesan Archdeacon). The DDE is a member of the *Bishop's Staff* and is responsible for the EDEC remit, including ensuring that the diocesan educational needs are represented at a local, regional, and national level.
- The EDEC meets regularly and uses as its reporting framework a series of 'live' documents (see 'core' appendices), for example including an *Operational objectives* ([Appendices A6](#) and [A6a](#)) and *Risk Registers* ([Appendices A8 Jan 2024](#)) The activities of the EDEC are also reported to the main governing bodies of the diocese; the *Diocesan Synod* and *Bishop's Council*.
- The senior leaders who support the work of the DDE:
  - *PA to DDE*
  - *The Deputy Director of Education (DDDE)*
  - *A Legal and Education Trusts Officer*
  - *A Head of Stewardship (HoS)*
  - *RE & SIAMS Officer*
  - *Development Officer For school Mission (DOSM)*
  - *Education Administrator*
  - Additional in-field *Ely Diocese Regional Advisors* (EDRAs) support the work of the senior team. They are typically current practitioners and are externally contracted professionals on fixed-term contracts and are provided with an EDRA handbook.
  - Consultants on Service Level Agreements (SLA) for specific projects

The DDDE is primarily responsible for ensuring that the *Responsible Body* ('RB' – normally Local Authority or Academy Trust) running a Church school or academy is meeting minimum requirements in terms of standards, as defined by Ofsted 'good' or better.

Similarly, the SIAMS/RE Officer is primarily responsible for ensuring that the RB is meeting minimum requirements in terms of *Christian Distinctiveness*, as defined by SIAMS 'good' or better and informs wider RE curriculum deliver across the region through SACRE. The

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DOSM is responsible for the nurturing of high-quality church-school links through the completion of a *Parish-School Covenant* ([Appendix F4](#))

- The Head of Stewardship (HOS) & Building Surveyor and the finance department of the EDBF administer the provision of the funding available to Voluntary Aided schools for capital works (SCA) and funds accrued from individual school Trust income . Wider property and estate functionality are also made available through an externally brokered agency for property and estate surveyor management.
- The EDEC is not responsible for the day-to-day running of schools (which falls to the Responsible Bodies RB) but is responsible for holding to account and supporting the RBs who are and in doing so ensuring that all schools are meeting the requirements of their particular *Founding Trusts*. The EDEC uses an *Accountability Framework* ([see Appendix C8](#)) to ensure lines of responsibility are maintained.
- The DDE, DDDE, HOS, SIAMS/RE, DOSM and supporting officers are also responsible for helping schools maintain their overall Christian School vision including advising schools on long-term planning, including restructuring in order to maintain their sustainable existence. This includes advising on academy conversion and the opening of new Church schools.
- The EDEC is ~40% funded by a protected statutory endowment managed by the diocese, and ~60% by discerning giving from three main external charities. Income and expenditure are set out in a one year budget with consummate ongoing management accounts All EDEC funding is administered by the *Ely Diocese Board of Finance* (EDBF) Ltd. who act as employer for all EDEC staff.
- Schools wishing to become academies need permission from EDEC who will make recommendations to the Advisory Board (AB). There is a process of due diligence using the Trust due diligence documentation) to be complete then presented to the EDEC for discussion.

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