



CHURCH OF ENGLAND SCHOOLS

Church of England (C of E) Voluntary Aided schools are maintained schools, similar to community schools or foundation schools.

C of E schools are for everyone. The Southwark Diocesan Board of Education's vision for education reflects the wider Anglican concern for the well-being of everyone entrusted to our care.

C of E schools share the following characteristics with all other maintained schools:

- Accountable to their Local Authority (LA) for performance and governance;
- Funded via their Local Authority in accordance with the national funding formula and the decisions of their LA's Schools Forum;
- Follow the National Curriculum;
- Subject to OFSTED inspections, including safeguarding requirements;
- Regulated by education legislation concerning all types of maintained schools;
- Overseen by governing bodies with the same core functions as other maintained schools;
- Fully participate in the LA's coordinated admissions round for the offering of school places;
- Subject to the requirements of the School Admissions Code.

Within the Diocese of Southwark C of E schools are designated with a legal religious character defined as 'Church of England', with the Southwark Diocesan Board of Education (SDBE) designated as the 'Diocesan Authority'.

The SDBE endorses the view that C of E schools today have a dual purpose, offering a Christian education to the children of Christian parents, and yet still fulfilling its historic mission in the practical expression of its pastoral responsibility to all children in the local community, irrespective of faith.

The majority of pupils in C of E schools in Southwark Diocese are admitted without reference to any faith-based oversubscription criteria.

Most C of E schools have Voluntary Aided status, which gives them the following distinctive characteristics:

- The governing body contributes 10% of the capital funding for building projects;
- The majority of the governing body is comprised of foundation governors;
 - Foundation governors have a responsibility to preserve and develop the religious character of the school;
- All staff are employed by the governing body;
 - The LA and SDBE have advisory rights in respect of headteacher appointments;
- The governing body is the admission authority for the school;
- The school follows the Religious Education syllabus agreed by the Diocesan Authority;
- They have an additional inspection under the Statutory Inspection of Anglican and Methodist Schools (SIAMS) evaluation schedule. This will examine how the School's Christian vision drives its effectiveness.