

Diocesan Board of Education

Annual Report to Diocesan Synod

July 2024



The Diocesan
Board of Education

Key Events of 2023

- Prepared schools for the new church school inspection (SIAMS)
- Published the Diocesan Strategy for Academisation
- Established network meetings for MAT CEOs
- Supported schools with the pressures of Ofsted inspections
- Unprecedented number of headteacher recruitments
- Pupils involved in the Enthronement of the Bishop of Lincoln
- DDE invited to become a Lay Canon
- Launched a new diocesan vision for education
- Welcomed a new school to the church school family - Fulstow

See Annual Trust Report for more details



CALLED • ASPIRATIONAL • ROOTED • EMPOWERING

Believing we are called into fellowship with God who seeks the flourishing of all, we aspire to strengthen our school communities with wisdom, knowledge and understanding.

Through partnerships firmly rooted in Christian hope and in the love of God, we empower all in our Church school family to love one another with humility, justice and kindness.

Diocesan Vision for Education

- 2022 - 2023 Review of the old Vision from 2015
- Early 2023 Consultation with key stakeholders to draft the new vision statement with a theological underpinning
- Mid 2023 Pupils developed resources at Church School Festival e.g. art work, songs and prayers
- Oct 2023 Launched vision through virtual collective worship in every church school
- 2023 onwards Vision drives the work of the Diocesan Board of Education

Here is a short animation of our new vision

Four Vision Drivers



We C.A.R.E.

The story of Moses and the Burning Bush (Exodus 3 v 3-12) underpins our vision:

CALLED – Moses notices the burning bush. God calls Moses to free the Jewish slaves. In education, we are called to notice people's gifts, as well as any underachievement or injustice.

ASPIRATIONAL – Moses faced a big challenge. Moses was aspired with the support of God to help vulnerable people. In education, we aspire to strengthen school communities, especially the vulnerable and disadvantaged.

ROOTED – Just as the bush is rooted in holy ground, our schools are deeply rooted in Christian faith, love and hope. They are a place of belonging for all pupils and adults.

EMPOWERING – Just as Moses was empowered to be an agent of change, the LDBE empowers school leaders and pupils to serve the common good in deeply Christian ways.

Living out the Vision – our promise to schools

CALLED

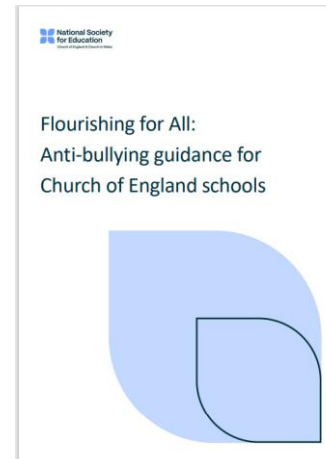
As a DBE, we are called into fellowship with God to support schools to:

- Recruit strong headteachers who will develop a culture where all adults and pupils can flourish;
- Develop effective governance to support, challenge and hold leaders to account;
- Provide support, guidance and high quality training so that schools can be inclusive and safe places for pupils of all backgrounds to thrive.

How may you be CALLED?

Would you like to be a Foundation Governor?
A 'vacancy' flyer is in your pack.

Would you like to join the Diocesan Board of Education and help shape the strategy and policies for Church School Education?



New draft guidance from the Church of England Education Office to replace 'Valuing All God's Children'.

Church schools must be proactive in tackling homophobic, biphobic and transphobic (HBT) bullying.

Living out the Vision – our promise to schools

ASPIRATIONAL

As a DBE, we ASPIRE to strengthen our school communities and break down barriers by:

- Supporting Schools to provide high quality provision for pupils with Special Educational Needs. E.g. SEND reviews and training.
- Enabling disadvantaged pupils to access a full curriculum e.g. Pupil Premium plans and Bishop's Ready for School Fund.
- Supporting schools to promote diversity, equity, inclusion and justice E.g. audit tools for schools
- Developing knowledge and skills of leaders and governors so they may flourish in their role.

How may you be ASPIRATIONAL?

- Do you have gifts and talents that you may be able to share that will enrich the curriculum or support learning at your local school?
- How may we continue raising funds for the Bishop's Ready for School Fund?
- Is there any training you would like to develop your knowledge about providing an aspirational education for all?



Living out the Vision

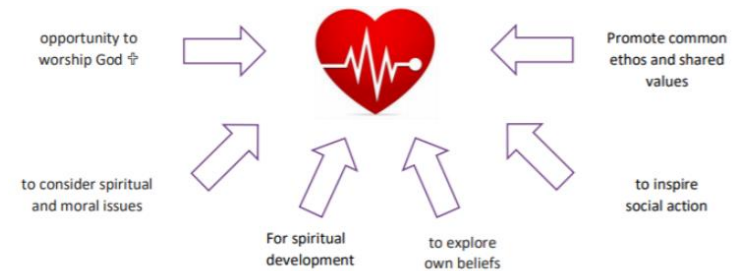
ROOTED

As a DBE, we support schools to be ROOTED by:

- Developing strong partnerships between church, school and families e.g. through Growing Faith
- Enabling adults and pupils to experience high quality collective worship to promote a shared Christian vision, spiritual flourishing and a sense of belonging.
- Challenging them to use their strong roots to branch out and support pupils to be prepared for global citizenship e.g. tackling environmental issues.

How may you support schools to be ROOTED?

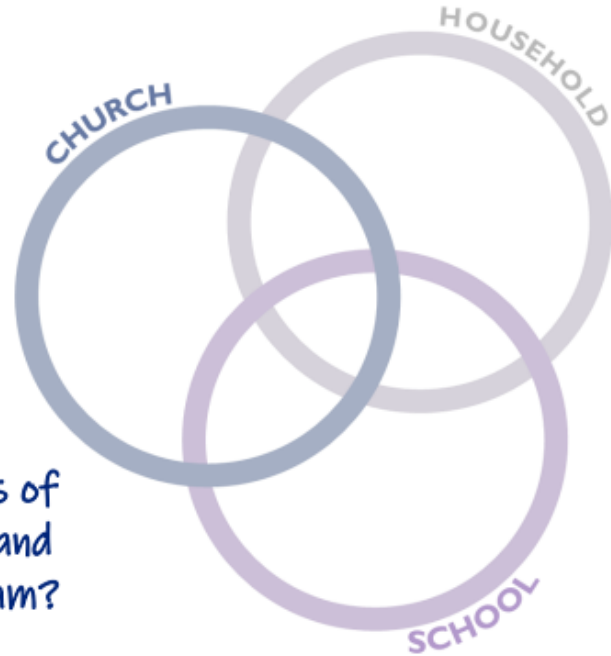
- Are you able to support partnerships between church, school and families through Growing Faith?
- How might you be able to help collective worship be the heartbeat of the school community?
- Have you thought about being a Bishop's Visitor to develop partnerships between church and school?



Growing Faith

Growing Faith promotes a partnership between the three communities of Church, School and Household to enable the discovery, exploration and growth of faith for **all** in those communities. The partnership is imagined as intersections of a set of overlapping spheres to find and promote ways to help faith to grow with children, young people and households.

Where would the people active in your worshipping community fit in this diagram?



Where do the activities of the church, household and school fit in this diagram?

Outcomes—Faith grows through...

...BEING

fostering attitudes that demonstrate children and young people are...

...and DOING

activities that 'happen' in the central intersection

Valued

Recognised as created in God's image, not learning to be

Encountering God

Opportunities for prayer, spiritual encounters, expressing faith etc.

Included

Children and young people feel a sense of belonging

Conversations about Faith

Opportunities to hear and share stories of discipleship, normalising the spiritual

seen as Equals

The inherent culture of the community perceives them as Fellow Pilgrims

Relationships

Connections within community, safe space, interacting across generations

None of these happen in isolation—it is in the dynamic interaction between the 'beings' and 'doings' that fertile ground is cultivated where faith may grow.

Living out the Vision

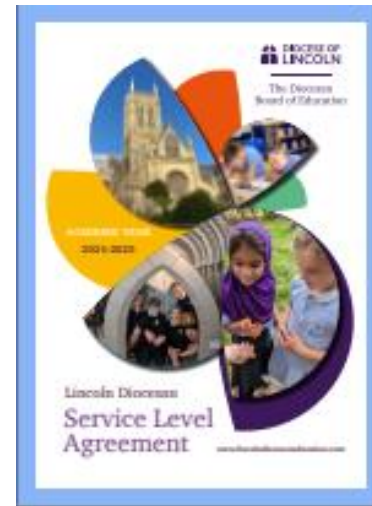
EMPOWERING

As a DBE, we seek to EMPOWER schools by:

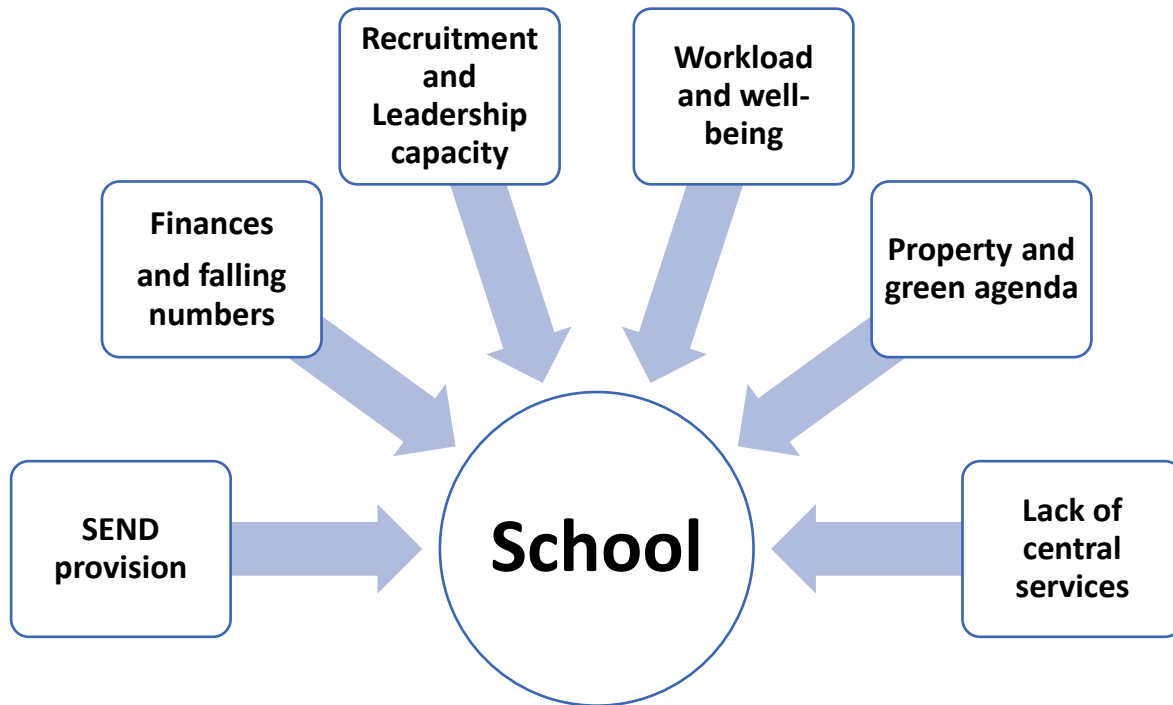
- Celebrating and sharing the good practice in schools through case studies, bulletins etc.
- Equipping leaders with the skills and knowledge they need to lead schools effectively e.g. professional development programme
- Helping schools to identify the challenges ahead and providing a supportive infrastructure to help ease pressures on schools e.g. MAT strategy.

How may you help EMPOWER schools?

- How might you help schools share their good practice with the church community?
- How might you help school leaders develop their knowledge of church and the Christian faith?
- Do you have particular skills and experience (e.g. Finance, Business, HR, legal) to support school leaders?

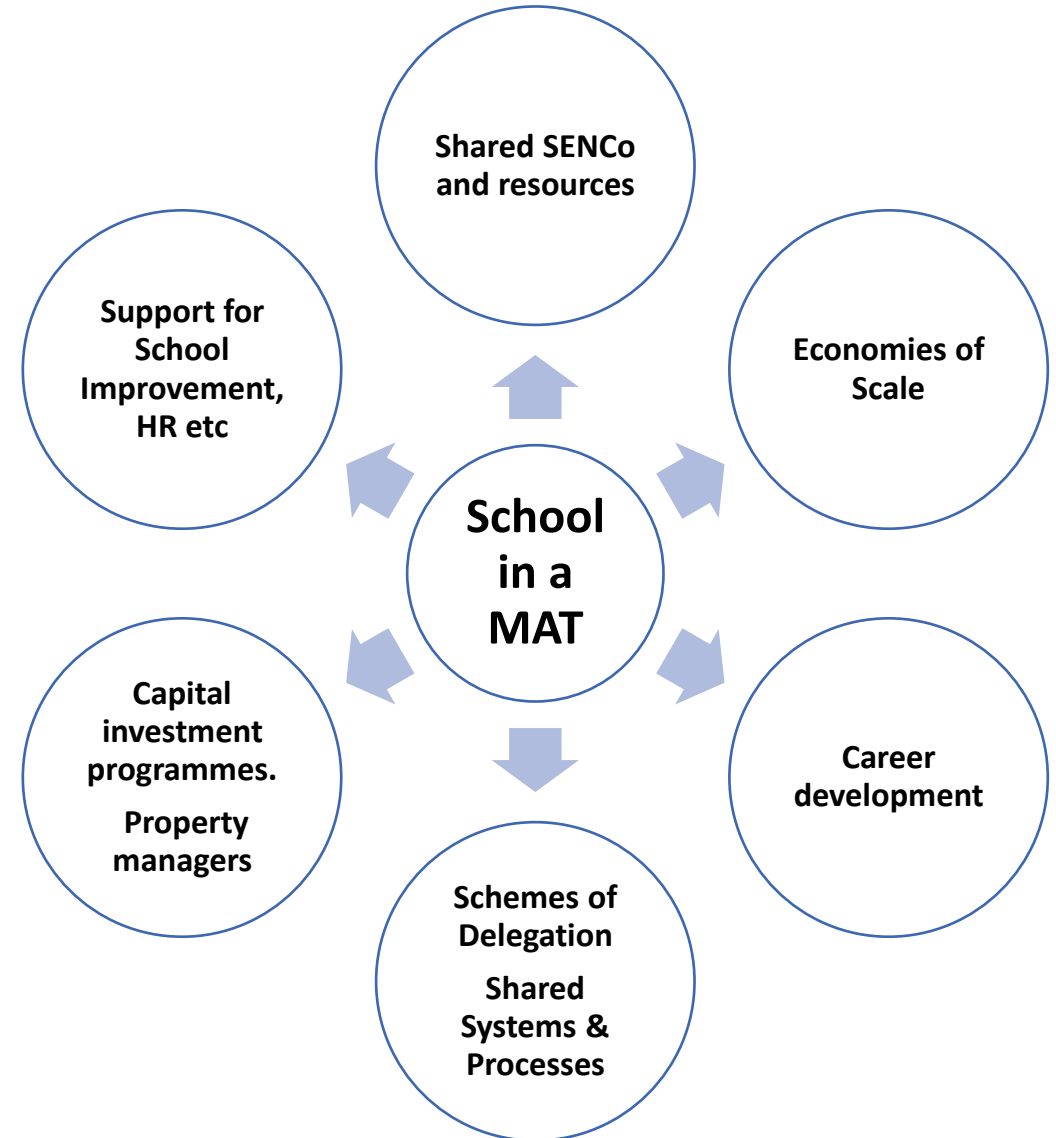


Pressures facing schools



The DBE has developed a church MAT infrastructure to ease pressures on schools.

How can the MAT strategy help?

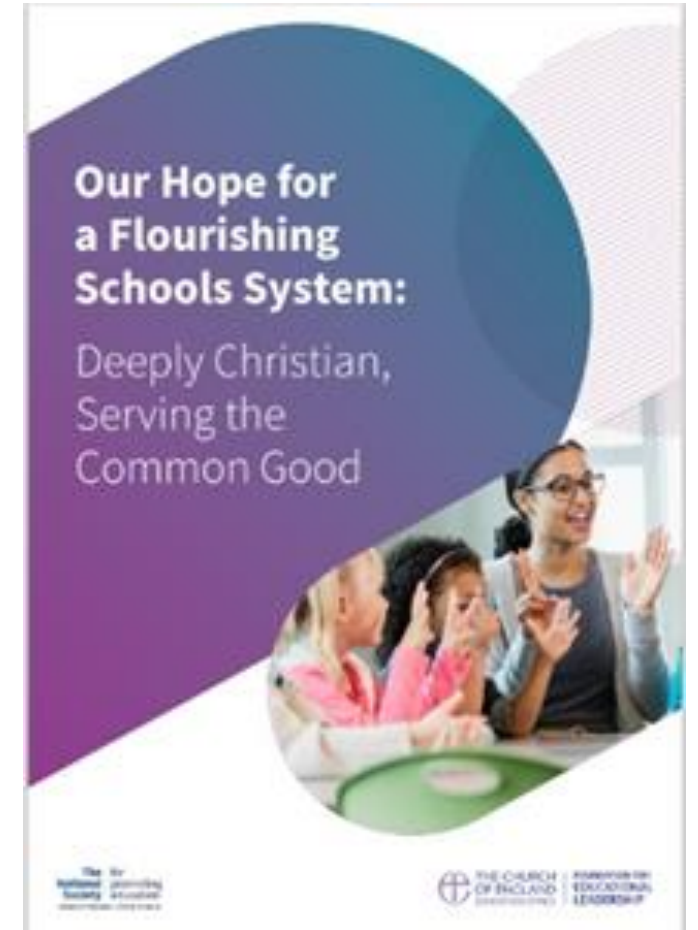


Our Hope for a Flourishing Schools System

Strategic document to re-affirm the CofE vision for education so that everyone may 'live life in all its fullness'.

Challenges all key system leaders to work more collaboratively to address key challenges in education.

'If you want to go fast, go alone. If you want to go far, go together.' (African proverb)

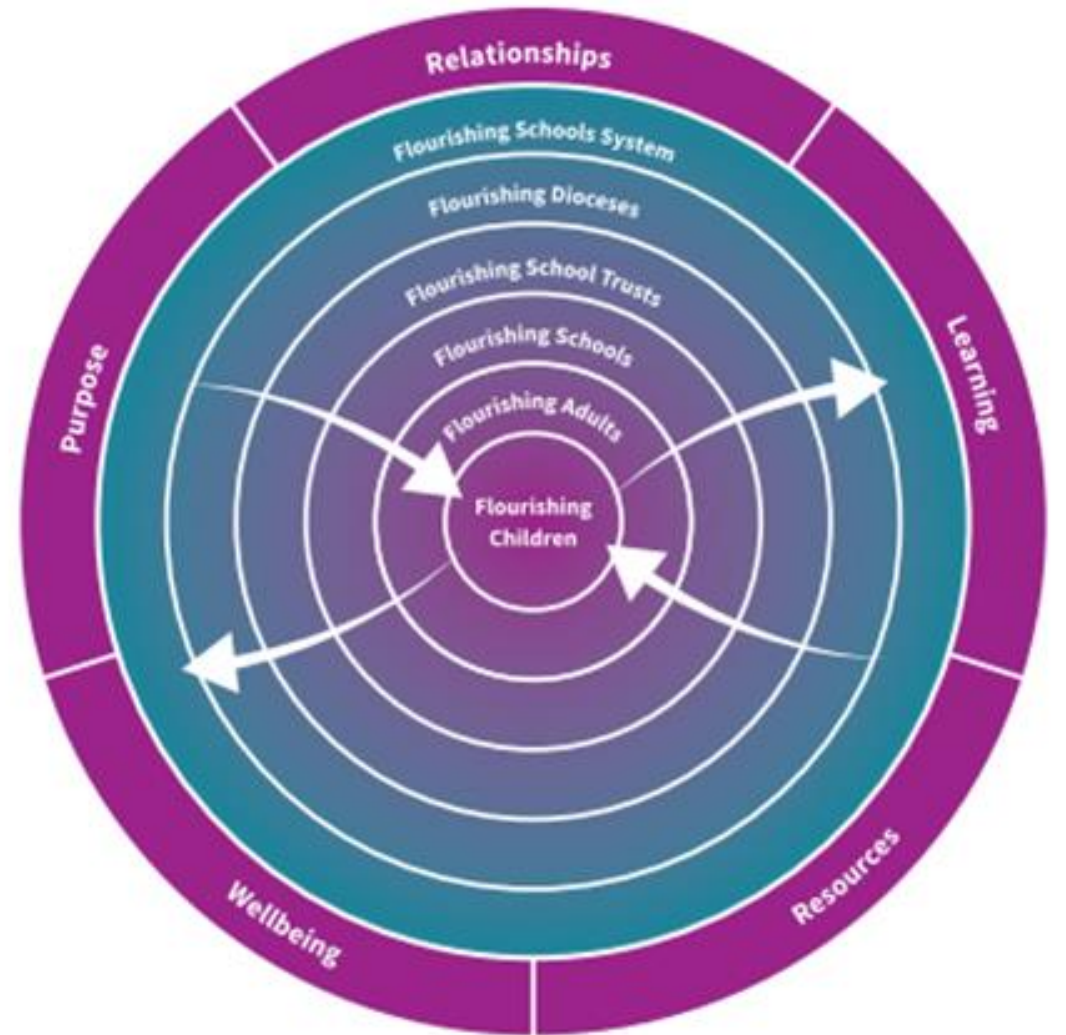


Our Hope for a Flourishing Schools System

To achieve a flourishing schools system, we must have a system where pupils, adults, schools, Trusts, Dioceses and key partners are able to flourish.

5 key domains for us all to focus on:

Shared **purpose**, respectful **relationships**, a space we can **learn** together, a willingness to share **resources**, and a genuine care for the **well-being** of our community.



Diocesan School Prayer

Leader: Loving God as we are called into fellowship with you

All: Help us to flourish in all we do

Leader: As we aspire for our schools and communities to be strengthened

All: Give us wisdom, knowledge and understanding

Leader: As we live our lives rooted in hope and in your love

All: Help us to empower all those we meet

Leader: Loving God, in all we do

All: Help us to love and care for one another with humility, justice and kindness



DIOCESE OF
LINCOLN

The Diocesan Board of Education

Lincoln Diocesan Board of Education
Edward King House
Lincoln
LN2 1PU
01522 504010

paul.thompson@lincoln.anglican.org

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