

## **Blackburn Diocesan Board of Education**

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## **Education with a Christian Perspective**

### **The Diocese**

The Diocese of Blackburn encompasses most of the County of Lancashire, the unitary authorities of Blackburn with Darwen and Blackpool and part of the Metropolitan Borough of Wigan. There are 211 parishes and 260 Churches within the Diocese, divided into two archdeaconries and served by the bishop of Blackburn and his two suffragan bishops of Burney and Lancaster.

### **The Diocese and its Schools**

No other Diocese of the Church of England has such an extensive commitment to Church Schools. It has 158 Voluntary Aided and 22 Voluntary Controlled Primary Schools, 9 Voluntary Aided Secondary Schools and a Voluntary Controlled Secondary School. Schools range in size from 1500 pupils in the largest Secondary School to small Primary Schools in rural communities with less than 30 on roll.

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 the Church Schools. Church Schools endeavour to ensure that a Christian perspective informs all aspects of life. This is reflected in our promotion of Christian belief and values throughout the whole curriculum, the high priority given to worship and Religious Education and in 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 and growing range of services to the schools of the Diocese; governor training, advice on the implementations of DCSF initiatives and the preparation of policies, advice before and after inspection, an inspection service for "denominational" education, support for Religious Education and school worship, with legal advice, practical and financial help with school buildings, negotiations with the Local Authorities, other service providers and the DCSF.

In addition, staff on the Diocesan Board of Education work closely with the University of Cumbria and keep a watching brief for the small number of Church Schools of neighbouring Dioceses. 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 within the North West which operate through a joint company DBE Services Limited.