

## **Board of Education**

Diocesan Offices  
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## **The Diocese**

The Diocese of Blackburn covers most of the County of Lancashire, the Unitary Authorities of Blackburn with Darwen, Blackpool and part of the Metropolitan Borough of Wigan.

There are 211 parishes and 280 churches within the Diocese, divided into two archdeaconries, served by the Bishop of Blackburn and his two Suffragan Bishops of Burnley and Lancaster.

## **The Diocese and its schools**

No other Diocese has such an extensive commitment to Church of England and Methodist schools. The diocese has some of the most distinctive schools, most of which are aided or formerly aided. There are a small number of church academies in comparison with many being part of three multi-academy trusts that have church majority membership. Schools range in size from 1600 pupils in the largest to small primary schools in rural communities with less than 30 on roll, educating over 44 000 students on a daily basis.

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 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 range of services to the schools of the Diocese: governor training, preparation of policies, advice before and after Inspection, SIAMs Inspection service, Admission/appeal advice, support for religious education and worship, legal, practical and financial help for Aided school buildings, negotiations with local authorities, the Church of England Education Office and the DFE.

In addition, 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 in the North of England.