



Church Schools – an introduction

Introduction

Church Schools actually began to develop in the 16th Century, but it was only after 1811 and the formation of the National Society that they began to open in any number. The National Society for Promoting the Education of the Poor in the Principles of the Established Church is still working today to support schools in providing a first class education for young people two hundred years later.

By 1815 one hundred thousand children attended Church Schools and this had grown to one million by 1830. By 2000 over 20% of primary school and 5% of secondary students attended Church Schools.

During this new century the Church of England has been establishing new schools in the secondary sector as part of the programme to open a new status of school, the Academy, often serving disadvantaged areas.

The present day purpose of Church Schools is to continue to try to reflect the vision of the Christian foundation of the school as consistent with the Trust Deed, giving due consideration to the following overall aims and objectives:

- ✚ giving some emphasis to the religious and spiritual aspects of life, encouraging pupils to delight in God's world and take responsibility for it;
- ✚ providing the best possible education for all the pupils by being an effective and improving school which values individuals equally and supports their spiritual and moral development.

Categories of Church Schools

Under the 1944 Education act church schools could receive financial help from the state for building maintenance as long as they became part of the Local Authority's maintained system. Church schools then had to choose to become either **Aided** or **Controlled**. In 1988, some church schools opted for Grant-maintained status and received funding direct from central government. This system was abolished in 1998 and the church schools then had the option of reverting back to their original status or becoming a new category of **Foundation** school.

The main differences between these various types of school cover such matters as the provision of Religious Education and Collective Worship, finance, the composition of governing bodies, the appointment of staff and the lettings of premises and grounds.

Whatever the category, it is important to note that all church schools are valued equally as part of the Diocesan family.



Differences between Categories of Church Schools

	Voluntary Aided Schools	Voluntary Controlled Schools	Foundation Schools
Buildings	Owned by trustees: The trust deed determines the basis on which the school is run. New building and external repairs are the responsibility of the governors (supported by grant from the DCSF up to 90% of approval expenditure). Playing fields are provided by the LEA.	Owned by trustees. The trust deed determines how the school shall be run where the law does not make this clear. All replacement, repairs and other building costs fall on the LA.	Owned by trustees. The trust deed determines the basis on which the school shall be run where the law is silent. Playing fields owned by governors. All building worked funded from LA.
Staff (a) Teaching	Employed by the governors, paid by the LA. Governors may seek evidence of Christian Commitment from applicants for teaching posts.	Appointed by the governors, employed and paid by the LA. Governors are bound by LA appointing policies. Governors will be able to satisfy themselves that a candidate for the post of headteacher is suitable to support and develop the ethos of a Voluntary Controlled school.	Employed by the governors, paid by the LA. Governors will be able to select teachers within the LA policy. Governors are bound by LA appointing policies. Governors will be able to satisfy themselves that a candidate for post of headteacher is suitable to support and develop the ethos of a Foundation school.
Staff (b) Support	Employed either by governors or contractors. If employed by governors they are paid by LA.	Employed either by LA or contractors. LA employees usually appointed by governors.	Employed either by governors or contractors. If employed by governors they are paid by the LA.
Worship	Reflects the Anglican tradition and can	Reflects the Anglican tradition and can	Reflects the Anglican tradition and can



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	include worship in the parish church.	include worship in the parish church.	include worship in the parish church.
RE	Governors determine a syllabus that reflects the Anglican tradition. They may make use of diocesan syllabus where this exists.	The school must follow the LA syllabus unless the parents request a denominational one. The foundation governors have rights in the appointment of staff (called reserved teachers) to teach denominational RE.	The school must follow the LA syllabus unless the parents request a denominational one. The foundation governors have rights in the appointment of staff (called reserved teachers) to teach denominational RE.
Membership of the Governing Body	Church (foundation) governors have an absolute majority over all other governors. Parish priest is usually <i>ex officio</i> a member of the governing body. All governors combine to elect the Chair. A proportion of foundation governors must also be parents.	Church (foundation) governors are in a minority. The parish priest is usually <i>ex officio</i> a member of the governing body. All Governors combine to elect the Chair.	Church (foundation) governors are in a minority. The parish priest is usually <i>ex officio</i> a member of the governing body. All Governors combine to elect the Chair.
Funding	LA formula. Individual Schools' Budget. Governors' costs for building work from locally raised funds, PCCs, local trusts and, usually, trusts administered by the dioceses.	LA formula. Individual Schools' Budget	LA formula.
Admissions	Governors determine the policy and make the decisions. They must consult the LA and all other admission authorities in the area each year.	The LA is responsible for admissions, but must consult the governing body each year.	Governors determine the policy and make the decisions. They must consult the LA and all other admission authorities in the area each year.
Advice	LA Chief Education Officer has certain	LA Chief Education Officer has certain	LA Chief Education Officer has certain



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	rights to attend governor meetings to give advice. Diocesan Directors of Education have parallel rights.	rights to attend governor meetings to give advice. Governors may give similar rights to the Diocesan Director of Education.	rights to attend governor meetings to give advice. Governors may give similar rights to the Diocesan Director of Education.
Inspection	OFSTED inspectors look at most issues. SIAS inspectors inspect RE, worship and school ethos.	OFSTED inspectors look at general issues and RE. SIAS inspectors inspect worship and may report on ethos.	OFSTED inspectors look at general issues and RE. SIAS inspectors inspect worship and may report on ethos.