

YORK MINSTER & THE MINSTER SCHOOL



ABOUT YORK MINSTER

The seat of the Archbishop of York, the Cathedral and Metropolitan Church of St Peter in York – York Minster as it is better known – is the mother church of the Northern Province and the Cathedral for the Diocese of York. It is a centre for Christian life in the North of England. York Minster has been a place of prayer and pilgrimage for over 1,400 years and worship is still at the heart of its life. York Minster's Choir of adult Songmen and boys and girls from the Minster School is world renowned. The Choir's mastery of the English choral tradition is one of the Minster's crowning glories.

The Minster is a gothic masterpiece in stone and stained glass, a magnet that draws people to visit the City of York and a defining symbol of the ancient "capital of the North". Each year around 600,000 people from all over the world come to explore the Minster, and visitor surveys find a high level of satisfaction from their experience. It is one of the centres of York's lively cultural and intellectual life, hosting many concerts, lectures and exhibitions.

The Minster community is diverse with over 250 members of staff and almost 500 volunteers. The Stoneyard's craftsmen and women are immensely skilled and knowledgeable about both the church building and the Precinct Properties; a fine Library is run in partnership with the University of York; there are two cathedral shops and a team of staff and volunteers who manage the floor of the Minster and work to ensure that all our visitors receive a warm welcome.

York Minster is more than 800 years old and its Gothic architecture is subject to a complex and ongoing cycle of repair, restoration and conservation. Whilst the York Minster Fund provides some financial security, the Minster relies on income from visitors to ensure that the building is properly maintained. We receive no regular income from the Government.



GOVERNANCE

In the summer of 2013 Chapter started a process to develop and then deliver a strategic plan which sought to advance mission and secure the sustainable future of the Minster. Following consultation with over 1500 people, Chapter confirmed its Mission as “Inviting Everyone to Discover God’s Love”. Chapter clarified purpose as follows:

- to play an active role, across the Diocese of York and the Northern Province of the Church of England supporting the work of the Archbishop, sharing our skills and knowledge and working with communities and partners to further our mission;
- to inspire people, through the story of Jesus Christ, through our worship, prayer and music and through the heritage and history of York Minster, onto a journey of personal and corporate transformation;
- to engage all our community in a participative and consultative way;
- to put learning and the transformation of ourselves and of others at the heart of all we do;
- to manage our business successfully, covering our costs and generating the funding necessary to further our mission and to sustain the Minster.

Chapter confirmed the values through which it expected to achieve the plan. Those values are:

- Courage
- Trust
- Wisdom

The work of the Cathedral is carried out by staff and volunteers, yet the ‘corporate body’ responsible for the management of the Cathedral is the Chapter of York which is advised by the Cathedral Council and the College of Canons.

Chapter is responsible for all aspects of the day-to-day management of the Cathedral. Chapter currently comprises the Dean, three Residentiary Canons, and four Lay Canons.

The Senior Leadership Team, led by the Chapter Steward, comprises the Dean, the Residentiary Canons and the Directors. The Team meets every month to review performance against business plan and review management information.

With the arrival of the Right Reverend Jonathan Frost as Dean in early February 2019, Chapter will embark on another round of consultations as we draw up a new strategic plan for 2020 – 2025.



ABOUT THE MINSTER SCHOOL

The Minster School York (TMS) is a co-educational, independent day school for 3-13 year olds. The School is wholly owned by the Chapter of York and was founded as the choir school of York Minster “to provide an education for children that is consonant with the principles of the Christian religion as received and taught by the Church of England” (extract from the Cathedral Statutes).

The Chapter of York is the legal governing body of the School, but delegate the day-to-day governance of the School to a Delegated Governing Committee. The committee comprises up to twelve members of whom four are drawn from Chapter, including a lay Chair. The Committee oversees the Head and the school’s senior leadership team as they handle the day-to-day affairs of the School.

The School has up to 200 places. There are 32 places in the early year foundation stages, 18 in years 1-2 moving to 22 places in years 3-8. The School currently has 143 pupils, serving over 100 separate families.

The School is housed in former residential properties around the Minster’s precinct. They do not form one continuous estate and a road runs between one side of the School premises and the other.

Chapter recently invested significant sums in the creation of a dedicated nursery facility with free-flow indoor and outdoor play space. The other half of the nursery building is let to a local nursery provider Little Green Rascals who provide day care for 0-3 years and holiday club provision for 0-8 years.

The School offers an education that is rooted in Christian values and imbued with a spirit of tolerance and respect for the individual. Aspirations and expectations are high and our pupils respond accordingly, but each child is valued for what he or she brings to the wider school and Minster community. The curriculum is wide and varied including music, art, drama, modern foreign languages and forest school. Learning in a variety of settings is supported by frequent trips away ranging from local excursions for the smallest children to residential trips abroad for older pupils. After-school activities are made available to all from Y1 up to Y8 and cover a wide range of different tastes and opportunities. All children are encouraged to audition for a place in the Minster Choir from Y2, and regular rehearsal time for Choristers is built into the day.

With a setting in such close proximity to the Minster the School has some dedicated games facilities; arrangements are also in place with local universities and other schools to enable access to all-weather pitches and a swimming pool.

TMS has a track record of placing its Y8 pupils at a variety of the top independent schools across England, with many of them securing scholarships.



We aim to create an environment where:

- every child feels safe and happy;
- politeness, good manners and care for one another are the norm;
- scholarship and endeavour are valued and celebrated;
- talent and individuality is fostered and encouraged;
- cultural diversity is recognised and valued.

It is our aim that every child should:

- fulfil their potential;
- be enabled to enjoy a wide range of educational experience;
- feel that their contribution is acknowledged and recognised;
- have an understanding of their role as a member of the wider community;
- develop a caring attitude for, and sense of responsibility towards, others.

We aim to provide:

- a rich and broad curriculum;
- teaching that has a depth based upon specialist skills and experience;
- suitable resources and support for all ability levels;
- opportunities to participate in high quality sport, music and the arts.

It is our aim that our pupils:

- make good progress;
- are well prepared for the next phase of their education;
- become well-rounded individuals with a sense of self-worth;
- fulfil their own academic potential;
- become enquiring learners who show an independence of thought.

We aim to educate the whole child: mind, body and spirit.



You can find out more information on the school website www.minsterschoolyork.co.uk although please note that the existing website will shortly be subject to a major rebuild and relaunch.