

Leicester DBE

Leicester DBE believes that it makes its own, unique and distinct, contribution to the work of the wider diocese and the national Church. First of all, we recognise that we predominantly serve our family of Church schools and we aspire for them to contribute positively and effectively to the 'healthily plural educational system' by offering a distinctively Christian ethos. This, of course, must be delivered alongside academic rigour and excellence.

We also believe that our schools can and many already do, echo the marks of mission seen in 'Shaped by God.' Our schools can be places of transformation, inspiration, celebration and welcome.

Transforming the lives of children and young people

This vision has captured the hearts and minds of many within our Church school family. There is some way to go and we believe that it is important to be consistent and steadfast in our work. We invite all schools to consider how their work reflects this vision and how they can play their part in the diocese and national network.



The Vision of the Leicester Diocesan Board of Education is:

Transforming the lives of children and young people

Effective

As a result of visionary leadership and inspirational teaching, children and young people in the Diocese of Leicester achieve excellence. They are well-rounded and confident with a strong sense of self-worth. As learners transformed, they in turn transform their communities.

Distinctive

Unequivocally Christ-like, our schools offer children and young people the opportunity to hear the Christian response to life's big questions. Christian Worship is invitational, offering the whole school community an opportunity for renewal and to encounter the person of Jesus Christ. Religious Education is exemplary, enabling a genuine understanding of the role of faith and belief in modern society.

Rooted

Our schools are rooted in prayer, partnership with parish and wider community and the teachings of Jesus Christ. Children and young people receive excellent Religious Education equipping them with a firm knowledge of the Christian faith and other key faiths.

Inclusive

Like Jesus himself, our schools are 'scandalously inclusive'. Children and families from all faiths and none are welcomed, respected and cherished. Serving the community in which they are placed, our schools exemplify, 'love your neighbour'.



Leicester Diocesan Board of Education





Vision & Strategy

Leicester Diocesan Board of Education's Vision & Strategy is derived from our key partners: our Bishop and the wider Diocese, The Church of England's Vision for Education and the DBE's own evaluation of the needs of our Church school family.

As the Board plans strategically for 2018 and beyond, this document is to help us consider what we do and why we do it.

The Diocesan Purpose Is Driven From Our Christian Vision: The Kingdom Of God

Shaped by God in our lives and communities we seek the growth of His kingdom in:

- The depth of discipleship
- The number of disciples of Jesus
- Loving service of the world

Shaped by God has, at its heart, ten marks of mission. These continue to be at the centre of what our calling looks like in practice.

- 1 Noticing God at work among us**, and continually asking: what are we learning and how do we join in with God's activity? (discerning)
- 2 Lives and communities transformed**, through the Good News of Jesus Christ; (transformational)
- 3 Worship in a way that renews and inspires**, echoing the praise of heaven; (inspirational)
- 4 Self-giving service to the community**, because the Church is called to be local and outward looking; (self-giving)
- 5 Being rooted in prayer**, because prayer is part of our loving response to the needs of the world; (prayerful)
- 6 Confident and sensitive evangelism**, responding to Jesus' call to share our faith in word and deed; (confident)
- 7 Lifelong Christian nurture**, because our mission overflows from our own discipleship; (nurturing)
- 8 The welcome of newcomers**, helping those who come close to the church to feel welcomed and cherished by God; (hospitable)
- 9 Becoming child friendly**, following our Lord's example of putting children at a central place in His ministry; (child-friendly)
- 10 Celebration of people and places**, because godly celebration is at the heart of the gospel. (celebratory)

The Church of England's Vision for Education: 'Deeply Christian, Serving the Common Good'

This vision – for all of education and not simply Church schools – embraces the spiritual, physical, intellectual, emotional, moral and social development of children and young people. The Church of England, as a whole, seeks a vision of human flourishing for all, one that embraces excellence and academic rigour, but sets them in a wider framework. This is worked out theologically and educationally through four basic elements which permeate the vision:



Wisdom



Hope



Community



Dignity

The vision, in line with the Church of England's role as the established Church, is for the common good of the whole human community and its environment, whether national, regional or local. It is hospitable to diversity, respects freedom of religion and belief, and encourages others to contribute from the depths of their own traditions and understandings.

It invites collaboration, alliances, negotiation of differences, and the forming of new settlements in order to serve the flourishing of a healthily plural society and democracy, together with a healthily plural educational system.

In Church schools the deeply Christian foundation for this vision will be seen explicitly in teaching and learning both in RE and across the curriculum, and also in the authentically Christian worship and ethos of those schools. In other schools which are not rooted in an explicit Christian ethos, the vision for education can still be expressed and promoted as one of human flourishing that can inspire what the school is and does.