

Church Schools Terms and Acronyms

Academies – publicly funded independent schools with sponsors from the private or voluntary sectors or from churches or other faith sponsors.

Admissions – in community schools part of a Local Authority policy, but in foundation and voluntary aided schools the governing body is responsible for setting a policy.

AGM – Annual General Meeting

Agreed Syllabus – a syllabus of religious education that is not specific to one religion adopted by a Local Authority for teaching in community and controlled schools. The course is developed by SACRE.

Arch Deacon – supports the Bishops in supporting the clergy (including buildings)

Arch Deaconry – Group of Deaneries

Associate Member – a person who is appointed by a school governing body as a member of a committee, to share their expertise, but who is not a governor.

Benchmarking – comparing school expenditure with broadly similar schools from the Local Authority, the region and nationally.

Benefice – a geographical group made up of parishes (some benefices only contain one parish)

Bishop (Diocesan) – in charge of the diocese (may also sit on the House of Lords)

Bishop (Suffragan) – supports the diocesan Bishop

Bishop's Council – executive arm of synod (role works differently in different diocese)

Bishop's Staff – senior members of the diocesan structures to advise the bishop (membership differs in every diocese)

BV - Bishop's Visitor – takes the Bishop's letter to schools each term but also 'befriends' the school becoming a strong link to the church

Capital Expenditure – Spending on building projects and large items of equipment

CE – Church of England

Chapters – meeting of the clergy from one deanery

Clergy – people who are ordained these may be vicars, rectors, may be called 'Father' or 'Vicar' or 'Rector'

Cleric – an ordained person

Clerk to the Governing Body – a person appointed by governors to carry out administrative duties for the governing body and to advise on matters of legality and procedure

Coasting – a school which may be good but where standards are not improving

Collaboration – when two or more governing bodies may arrange for any of their functions to be discharged jointly, by holding joint meetings and/or having joint committees

Collective Worship – all maintained schools should provide collective worship for their pupils. The precise nature at a foundation or voluntary school will depend on the religious character of the school

CPD – Continuing Professional Development

Curate – vicar in training

CW – Collective Worship – a daily legal requirement for all children of school age

DBE – Diocesan Board of Education – A board set up by statute to look after church school education, RE and Collective worship in all schools

DBF – Diocesan Board of Finance – looks after the finance and ‘business’ of the diocese

DCSF – Department for Children, Schools and Families

DDE – Diocesan Director of Education

DDDE – Deputy Diocesan Director Education

Deanery – group of benefices

DFC – Devolved Formula Capital

DfE – Department for Education

Diocesan Secretary – acts as CEO to support the work of the DBF

EFA – Education Funding Agency (DfE)

EFI – Eligible for Intervention

Federations – the joining, under one governing body, of not more than five maintained schools

Foundation Governor – A governor appointed by the diocese or local church PCC to safeguard the Christian foundation of the school

HLTA – Higher Level Teaching Assistant

HMCI – Her Majesty’s Chief Inspector of schools

HMI – Her Majesty’s Inspectorate

HoD – Head of Department

Instrument of Government – A legal document setting out the composition of a governing body

LA – Local Authority (previously known as LEA – Local Education Authority)

Laity – anyone in the Church of England who is not ordained

LAAT – Lincoln Anglican Academy Trust

LBMW – Lee Bolton Monier Williams (solicitors specialising in Church and Educational law)

LDBE – Lincoln Diocesan Board of Education

LDTBF – Lincoln Diocesan Trust and Board of Finance Limited

LiL – Leadership in Learning

LLE – Local Leader in Education

MAT – Multi Academy Trust

NatSoc – The National Society for promoting Religious Education

NC – National Curriculum – Established by the 1988 Education Act to ensure all pupils receive a broad and balanced education

NLE – National Leaders in Education

NTI – Notice to Improve

Ofqual – Office of the Qualifications and Examinations Regulator. The body responsible for regulating qualifications, examinations and national curriculum tests in England

Ofsted – Office for Standards in Education. The body which sets standards and arranges school inspections

Outturn – Statement of what schools actually spent by the end of the financial year

Parish – area around a church

PCC – Parochial Church Council – set up by each church congregation to run the ‘business’ side of the church (finance, buildings, insurance etc)

Quorum – The number who must be present to validate the proceedings of a meeting

RAG rating – Red/Amber/Green risk levels

RE – Religious education – legal requirement in all schools – in Church of England schools cover all major faiths not just Christianity

RI – Requires Improvement (Ofsted rating)

RSC – Regional Schools Commissioner – authority to authorise academy conversions on behalf of the Secretary of State for Education (DFE)

SAAF – Schools and Academies Finance

SACRE – Standing Advisory Council on Religious Education; Local statutory body which advises on religious education and collective worship.

SATs – Standard Assessment Tasks used for curriculum assessment

School Profile – a report by governors on the school’s performance, pre-populated with data supplied by the DCSF

SEA – Schools Effectiveness Adviser

SEF – Self Evaluation Framework

SENCo – Special Educational Needs Co-ordinator

SEND – Special Educational Needs and Disabilities

SIAMS – Statutory Inspection of Anglican and Methodist Schools

SIP – School Improvement Plan

SLA – Service Level Agreement

SLE – Specialist Leaders in Education

VA – Voluntary Aided (Schools with a foundation which appoints most of the governors).

The majority of governors are appointed by the Diocese.

The governing body is the admission authority and employs the staff.

VC – Voluntary Controlled (Schools with a foundation which appoints some of the governors).

At least 2 but no more than 25% of governors are appointed by the Diocese.

The Local Authority is the admission authority and employs the staff.