



THE EDUCATION TEAM
DIOCESES OF DURHAM AND NEWCASTLE

PARTNERSHIP AGREEMENT 2026-2027

Flourishing Together 

Supporting Schools, Academies and Trusts across the
Dioceses of Durham and Newcastle





THE EDUCATION TEAM
DIOCESES OF DURHAM AND NEWCASTLE

Introduction



Thank you for your continued partnership with the Diocesan Education Team. Church schools face significant opportunities and challenges. Schools are navigating evolving inspection frameworks, curriculum developments, increasing financial pressures, workforce challenges and growing expectations around inclusion, wellbeing and accountability.

The Diocesan Education Team exists to walk alongside schools and trusts as trusted partners, providing support, challenge, expertise and encouragement rooted in the Church of England's vision for education.



Our Vision

For all in our school communities to know they belong, rooted in God's hope, and to flourish in the love of Christ.

Our partnership model enables us to:



Support schools in times of challenge and crisis.



Respond quickly to inspection and leadership needs.



Strengthen Christian distinctiveness and effectiveness.



Broker school-to-school support.



Provide high-quality professional advice and guidance.



Sustain a strong network of Church schools across both dioceses.

By subscribing to the Partnership Agreement, schools and trusts help sustain a diocesan network in which we can flourish together.



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Our commitment to schools and trusts

Schools and trusts subscribing to the Partnership Agreement are entitled to expect that the Diocesan Education Team will:

- ✓ Provide professional, expert and timely advice.
- ✓ Deliver services to a high professional standard.
- ✓ Respond promptly and courteously to requests for support.
- ✓ Maintain confidentiality and act with discretion.
- ✓ Provide advice rooted in Christian values and Church of England education.
- ✓ Understand the distinct context of individual schools and trusts.
- ✓ Support schools to flourish educationally and spiritually.
- ✓ Represent Church schools with local authorities, trusts, DFE, Regional Directors, Ofsted, SIAMS and the National Society.
- ✓ Provide proactive communication about developments affecting Church schools.
- ✓ Use subscription income to strengthen and develop services for schools.





Adviser Support and School Improvement

Adviser support

Every school benefits from access to an experienced adviser team.

Primary schools

- One half-day adviser visit per year.
- One half-day RE and Christian distinctiveness visit if requested.
- Telephone and email support throughout the year.

Secondary schools

- Two half-day adviser visits per year.
- One half-day RE and Christian distinctiveness visit if requested.
- Additional access to RE and SIAMS support where requested.
- Telephone and email support throughout the year.

School improvement

Schools have access to advisers with extensive leadership experience and expertise in SIAMS preparation and readiness, school self-evaluation, leadership and management, curriculum development, SEND, attendance, assessment and standards, school improvement planning, and vulnerable pupils and inclusion.

Support includes professional challenge, external validation and developmental guidance as requested.

Additional support

Schools approaching SIAMS or Ofsted inspection may receive additional visits, review meetings and preparation support where capacity allows.

Support may include a focus on:

- Christian vision and strategic leadership.
- SIAMS preparation.
- Collective worship.
- Spiritual development.
- Religious education.
- Governance.
- School improvement priorities.
- Inclusion and belonging.
- Leadership coaching.





Governance, SIAMS and Christian Distinctiveness



1. Governance support

- Governor induction sessions.
- Chair of Governors updates.
- Foundation governor guidance.
- Governance briefings.
- Advice on governance structures.
- Support with complaints and disciplinary processes.
- Support for federations, academisation and structural change.
- Access to governance advice by telephone and email.

Discounted rates apply for governance reviews and bespoke governor training.



2. SIAMS, RE and Christian distinctiveness

- Develop and articulate your Christian vision.
- Prepare for **SIAMS** inspection.
- Strengthen collective worship.
- Enhance spiritual development.
- Develop a culture of justice and responsibility.
- Improve religious education.
- Understand changing inspection expectations.
- Collaborate with others through regular RE & Collective Worship Networks.

Support may include attendance at feedback meetings where requested.



3. Leadership development

- Headteacher briefings.
- Leadership networks.
- New headteacher support.
- Professional learning opportunities.
- Leadership succession advice.
- Spiritual well-being retreat opportunities.
- Be part of an associate consultant programme of support.
- Reduced rates for leadership development programmes.





Communications, Appointments and Resources



Communications and networks

- Regular education updates.
- Termly Headteacher updates.
- Termly Governance updates.
- National policy briefings.
- Information regarding opportunities, grants and initiatives.
- Access to diocesan networks.



Headteacher appointments

The Partnership Agreement includes statutory diocesan involvement in:

- Recruitment planning.
- Shortlisting.
- Interview processes.
- The Diocesan Education Team also provides:
- Induction support for new leaders, including a mentoring programme.
- Succession planning advice.
- Leadership transition support.



Resources

- Diocesan guidance documents.
- Model policies and templates.
- SIAMS resources.
- Governance materials.
- RE resources.
- Online publications and toolkits.





Training, events and additional services



Conferences, training and events

- Reduced rates for all diocesan training.
- Access to leadership conferences.
- Governor development events.
- RE and worship training.
- Network meetings.
- Professional learning programmes.
- National Society initiatives.



Primary leavers' services

Participation in diocesan leavers' services remains included within the Partnership Agreement.



Additional discounted services available on request



School reviews

- SIAMS Review.
- Governance Review.
- Teaching and Learning Review.
- Leadership Review.
- Religious Education Review.
- Collective Worship Review.
- Attendance Review.
- SEND Review.
- Vulnerable Pupils Review.



Leadership services

- Headteacher Appraisal.
- Executive Headteacher Appraisal.
- Leadership Coaching.
- School Improvement Partner Support.



Professional development

- Whole staff training.
- Governor training.
- Leadership development programmes.
- Bespoke consultancy on request from the school.



Additional services for Voluntary Aided schools

Voluntary aided school services

Buildings and capital

- Capital project support.
- Buildings advice.
- Funding guidance.
- Project management advice.
- Trust and land issues.
- Consultant liaison.
- DFE guidance interpretation.

Admissions

- Admissions policy review.
- Annual admissions guidance.
- Support for PAN changes and variations.
- Advice on Schools Adjudicator matters.

Capital administration

- Manage DFC allocations on behalf of school.
- Secure consultants to provide expert advice on capital projects.
- Award SCA funding for larger capital projects.





Partnership Subscriptions 2026-27

The current banding structure will be retained unless a financial review determines otherwise.

Your subscription enables the Diocesan Education Team to provide proactive support, rapid response assistance and diocesan-wide school improvement services for Church schools across Durham and Newcastle.

Pupils #	Cost £	Pupils #	Cost £
< 30	£362.00	501 – 750	£1,945.00
31 – 50	£485.00	751 – 1,000	£2,189.00
51 – 75	£555.00	1001 – 1,250	£2,431.00
76 – 100	£605.00	1251 – 1,500	£2,837.00
101 – 125	£687.00	1501 – 1,750	£3,243.00
126 – 150	£768.00	1751 – 2,000	£3,646.00
151 – 175	£852.00	2001 – 2,250	£4,051.00
176 – 200	£931.00	2251 – 2,500	£4,460.00
201 – 300	£1,215.00	2501 – 2,750	£4,867.00
301 – 400	£1,377.00	2751 – 3,000	£5,271.00
401 – 500	£1,538.00		



THE EDUCATION TEAM
DIOCESES OF DURHAM AND NEWCASTLE

Partnership Agreement

School/Academy:

SchoolName

Trust (if applicable):

AcademyTrust

Headteacher:

Headteacher

Chair of Governors/Trust Representative:

ChairGovernors

We wish to subscribe to the Durham and Newcastle Diocesan Partnership Agreement for the period 1st April 2026 – 31st March 2027.

Signature (Headteacher)

Date

Signature (Chair of Governors / Chair of Board)

Date

