

Information about the Diocese of Arundel & Brighton

The Diocesan Community

The Diocese of Arundel & Brighton serves the Catholic community in the counties of East Sussex, West Sussex, Surrey outside the Greater London boundary south of the Thames, and the City of Brighton & Hove. The diocese has a membership of approximately 50,000 regular churchgoers in 120 parishes. The cathedral is in Arundel. The Diocese was formed on 28th May 1965 and will therefore be celebrating its 50th Anniversary in 2015.

Education is a fundamental priority within the overall mission of the diocese. Substantial resources have been devoted to the provision of a network of Catholic schools throughout the diocese, providing continuity of schooling from age 4+ to 18. There are 65 diocesan maintained schools: 10 in East Sussex, 19 in West Sussex, 28 in Surrey and 8 in Brighton & Hove. Of these, 11 are secondary schools and fifty four are primary schools. Each of the eleven secondary schools, together with its feeder primary schools, serves its deanery. There are also a number of independent Catholic primary and secondary schools, including one school for children with special educational needs. Overall, these schools employ approximately 2890 teachers and 1,600 support staff, and educate 34,239 young people. A Diocesan Schools Committee (DSC) is in place to oversee diocesan educational policy and strategy.

The Diocesan Education Service

The Diocesan Education Service is based at DABCEC, 4 Southgate Drive, Crawley. The prime task of the Education Service is to support the Catholic school system of the diocese. The Diocesan Education Service collaborates with other dioceses under the general aegis of the CES, in maintaining a coherent Catholic schools' and academies' sector nationally.

The Diocesan Education Service and the Local Authorities have complementary roles in support of the Catholic schools sector, which they exercise in close liaison with each other. While Catholic schools are provided by and operate as a coherent group under the direction of the diocese, they are maintained as voluntary aided schools by the LAs, which exercise a range of education functions and provide a framework of services to all maintained schools.

The Diocesan Education Service, based at DABCEC, Crawley, currently consists of the Director, Deputy Director (vacant), Education Officer, Primary RE Adviser, Assistant Education Officer, Secondary RE Adviser (P/T), Buildings Consultant (P/T), Chaplain Co-ordinator and two secretaries, and works in partnership with the family of Catholic Schools. In addition to its co-ordinating function, the Diocesan Education Service provides

- support and training in RE and collective worship;
- support and advice in the development of sex and relationships education (SRE);
- strategic and focused training for headteachers, senior staff and clergy;
- assistance in developing the Catholic distinctiveness and character of the school;
- advising on the appointment of headteachers, deputy headteachers and school chaplains;
- challenge and support around inspections under section 48 of the Education Act 2005;
- advice in maintaining, developing and funding school buildings;
- governor training and support;
- advice in formulating and administering school admission policies.

As well as providing supplementary guidance and support for its schools across a whole range of areas, the Service is responsible for the recruitment and appointment of foundation governors. It consults with the LA on legal issues affecting its schools. It promotes the appropriate reorganisation of Catholic school provision, including amalgamations, closures and new schools, in liaison with the LA and DfE. It negotiates with the DfE and LA on funding for capital projects. It also provides a general advisory service to governors and headteachers, and gives guidance on matters which have a specific bearing on the Catholic character of the school, including:

- Mission statement and school development policies
- Admission policies and appeals procedure
- Staff appointment procedures, contracts and disciplinary procedures
- INSET and staff appraisal
- Religious Education and worship as integral to the whole curriculum
- Education in personal relationships
- Special educational needs
- Capital funding

The diocese puts particular emphasis on supporting and monitoring Religious Education (RE) because of its central place at the heart of the life and curriculum of the Catholic school. There are specialist advisers who are responsible for monitoring RE.

The Diocesan Schools Committee (DSC)

The policies and guidelines produced for schools by the Education Service are set and monitored by the Diocesan Schools Committee whose role includes assisting the Diocesan Trustees by providing a vehicle for collective planning and decision-making in relation to diocesan schools. The current chairman of the Committee is the Rev. Mgr. Canon John Hull, one of two Vicars General. The initial term of office for members is 2 years after which fresh nominations are sought. However, this does not preclude the re-appointment of existing members. The membership of the Committee includes bothelected and nominated headteachers, clergy, nominees of the Bishop and foundation governor representatives. The Committee meets with diocesan Education Officers three times a year.