



**The Diocese of
Southwark**

Diocesan Secretary

Nicola Thomas

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11 December 2025

Southwark Diocesan Board of Education By-Election

Dear Colleagues,

Members of the Board of Education are responsible for ensuring the Board remains true to its Objects and Mission. The Southwark Diocesan Board of Education (SDBE) is a Charitable Company, limited by guarantee, responsible for 101 Church schools across the Diocese. The Board has approximately 19 members, upto 9 of whom are elected by Diocesan Synod. The SDBE Articles of Association require there to be two elected members from each Area, due to a member stepping down from the Board there is now a vacancy (from any Area). Nominations are open to clergy, and laity (who are on the electoral roll) from across our diocese.

Election Timetable

Nominations Open	Thursday 10 December 2025 (3 weeks)
Nominations Close	Friday 2 January 2026 at 12noon
Online Voting Opens	Friday 9 January 2026 (2 weeks)
Online Voting Closes	Friday 23 January at 12noon

I enclose some information about the role and work of the Board of Education including its current strategic objectives, which can be found on the SDBE [website](#). I also enclose a nomination form which should be completed and returned by 12noon Friday 2 January 2026 to: Charles Hudson-Beddows electronically to governance@southwark.anglican.org or by post to Trinity House, 4 Chapel Court, Borough High Street, London, SE1 1HW.

These Elections will take place solely online, by the Diocesan Synod, using First Past the Post. Please fill in your election statement in the nomination form, in no more than 200 words, which will be included in the voting portal. Information on how to vote through the online system will be sent out to Synod members when the voting period opens. You will receive an acknowledgment when we receive a completed nomination form, if you do not receive this acknowledgement please get in touch.

We welcome and encourage members from a wide range of church traditions, age and experience and we want to ensure that we represent the communities that we serve. As we continue to implement our Diocesan Anti Racism Charter, we're particularly seeking to increase representation of United Kingdom Minority Ethnic/Global Majority Heritage (UKME/GMH) peoples.

If you have any questions or require further information about the work of the Board, please telephone Corrina Zukowska on 020 7234 9206 or email her on corrina.zukowska@southwark.anglican.org. You may find the education section of the diocesan website a helpful source of further information about the Board, church schools and education chaplaincy <http://www.education.southwark.anglican.org/education>.

The Church's work in education in the Diocese is absolutely vital and I am grateful for your support and prayers in these matters. Please pass this letter and nomination forms to anyone who may be interested in standing.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Nicola', followed by a long, horizontal, wavy line that extends to the right.

Nicola Thomas
Diocesan Secretary



BOARD OF EDUCATION MEMBER ROLE DESCRIPTION

Members of the Board of Education are responsible for ensuring the Board remains true to its Objects and Mission and that it complies with all the duties and responsibilities of a Diocesan Board of Education (DBE) in addition to any other areas of responsibility assigned to the Board by Diocesan Synod. We are committed to building a DBE that reflects the communities that we serve. We are actively seeking UKME Members to join our Board.

Board Members come with a variety of skills in primary and secondary education, finance, property, further and higher education, and chaplaincy as well as other fields to help shape the future of the Board and to develop and support the Church of England schools and F/HE and school chaplaincy in the Diocese.

Collectively, Members are known as the Board of Education and have a number of formal roles and responsibilities. While these may be delegated to the three sub-committees, (Schools, Finance & Development and F/HE Chaplaincy) the Board maintains overall responsibility.

The Objects of the Board of Education are to:

- Promote or assist in the promotion of education in the diocese that is consistent with the faith and practice of the Church of England;
- Promote or assist in the promotion of religious education and religious worship in schools in the diocese;
- Promote or assist in the promotion of church schools in the Diocese;
- Promote co-operation between itself and other persons concerned with education in the Diocese.

Vision Developing Church of England Education – **currently under review for January 2025**

- To enable the mission of God through the work of the Board;
- To be a high performing Diocesan Board promoting excellence in education both locally and nationally;
- To develop and grow highly effective, inclusive Church of England Schools rooted in Christian values;
- To celebrate and share the richness, quality and successes of our schools and chaplaincies;
- To offer exemplary service to our schools and chaplaincies.

Key work streams

- Church School Effectiveness – ensuring our schools are delivering the best education for the pupils that they serve; focusing on equity, diversity inclusion and belonging as a foundation for school effectiveness;
- Development of Chaplaincy in Schools, Colleges and Universities so that we support, develop and recruit chaplains who guide and support the school/college/university community they serve;
- Development, Growth and Sustainability – development of new school provision (Kingston) working in partnership to secure innovative solutions in response to shaping CofE education provision for the future; promoting systems and strategies towards carbon net zero.

Summary of the duties of a Member of the Board of Education

- To ensure the Board complies with its governing document, charity law, company law and any other relevant legislation or regulation;
- To ensure the Board pursues its objects (see above) as defined in its Memorandum and Articles of Association;

- To ensure the Board uses its resources exclusively in pursuance of its objects;
- To contribute actively in providing strategic direction, contributing to policy development, agreeing priorities and evaluating performance;
- To safeguard the good name and mission of the Board and act as an ambassador to promote the Board's work;
- To ensure the effective and efficient administration of the Board;
- To ensure the financial stability of the Board;
- To protect and manage the property of the Board and to ensure the proper investment of the Board's assets;
- To support the staff of the Board.

Other duties

In addition to the above duties and responsibilities, each Member of the Board should consider what skills, knowledge and experience they bring to the work of the Board and its committees to enable the Board to be informed, fully debate matters and reach sound decisions. This may involve:

- Scrutinising Board papers and reports;
- Leading or making a significant contribution to discussions;
- Contributing expertise through working parties and/or the Staffing Reference Group, Voluntary Aided Schools Condition Allocation (VA-SCA) Committee, Property management, Finance Review and Strategy reference group;
- Providing guidance on new initiatives;
- Supporting growth and development of the Board's Strategic Plan for School Organisation;
- Representing the Board on Trust Boards, including the SDBE MAT;
- Considering applications from VA schools wishing to join SDBE Trusts;
- Purposefully exploring the potential and opportunities to maximise assets held by the Board;
- Utilising Member's skills, expertise and knowledge in other related areas.

Reviewed July 2024

October 2024