

Information on Affiliated Schools

What are affiliated schools?

Affiliated schools are schools that have entered into an informal time-limited partnership with their Parish and the Diocese for mutual benefit. It formalises an existing link between a Church and a school, and connects that school into the Diocesan structures.

What are the benefits to the school?

It allows the school permission to give spirituality of the child a higher profile and makes worship more significant to the school. It also links the school into the local Church (with a clear commitment to its continuation even if the Vicar moves on) and the school gets some support from the Diocese (see below for further details).

What are the benefits to the Church?

It formalises the links that are already established. The Church will then hopefully pray for the school and strengthen its links with it. Furthermore the link with the Church is sustained even if the head teacher moves on.

What are the benefits to the children?

Children's spirituality is allowed to develop and faith is recognised as important and valuable in developing the whole child. It does mean creating lots of "little Christians" but it did give children (and staff) permission to explore spirituality.

What is the process?

If a Church and school are working well together they could agree to be formally affiliated. This would need the agreement of the PCC and Governing body and would require consultation with parents, Church congregation and Local Authority. If all agree a document is signed by the school, church and Diocese. This document sets out what is expected by each party, essentially the school agrees to build on the relationship with the Church and celebrate the contribution of faith in the school life. The Church agrees to support and pray for the school. This is time limited and renewable every four years.

What does the Diocese offer?

The Diocese would be available to offer advice and support to affiliated schools. Advice could be sought in terms of governor support and RE and collective worship support. Given there are only three officers it would be limited but available.

Does it affect school Governing bodies or admission policies?

No

Can schools move from being affiliated to a full church school?

Yes, but they would have to go through the full consultation process.

For further details contact Peter French on 0121 426 0418 or p.fench@birmingham.anglican.org