



## Universities and Colleges

- We provide Church of England chaplains to four Higher Education institutions (Universities of Manchester, Salford, Bolton and MMU)
- We support chaplains and institutions in matters of faith, belief and religious observance.
- We support relationships between the faiths.
- We support 26 Further Education colleges in partnership with Greater Manchester Churches Together.
- We support ecumenical chaplaincies in multi-faith contexts.

## Scale of operation

- 195 schools across 10 local education authorities
- 55.000 children in our schools, more than any other Diocese
- 9 secondary schools (including one Academy)
- In association with the other dioceses (Blackburn, Carlisle, Chester, Liverpool) we run a wholly owned company 'DBE Services Ltd' to provide services to church schools and community schools (25% all C of E secs; 20% all C of E primaries).
- Supported by small, dedicated staff based in Manchester
- Managed by a network of clergy, governors and members of congregations
- Financial commitment; year on year increase in scale of voluntary aided building work managed through Manchester Diocesan Board of Education offices (£13.4m in 2005)
- Manchester Diocesan Board of Education supporting governors in areas of social deprivation to meet their part of the cost through grants and loans

## Church schools

The Church of England is well known for the quality of its work in primary schools across the country. In Manchester diocese the church supports 186 primary, infant and junior schools.

Less well known is its support for secondary education. But parents are beginning to recognise the distinctive contribution made by church schools and the high quality of the education on offer. Many of the diocese's nine secondary church schools are now oversubscribed and there has been an unprecedented expansion nationally of secondary church schools.

One of the shining new stars of church-supported secondary education in the diocese is the Salford City Academy which serves the Brookhouse Estate in Eccles.

In September the Academy moves from the site of the old school to a brand new, state-of-the-art building that will help address the social deprivation of the area. Headteacher, Elizabeth Haddock, explains, "We have a superb new building which says to the parents and children, 'Education is something worth investing in and you in this area are worth investing in'."

Among the new facilities is a dance studio, recording studio, food technology room, sports hall with electronic scoreboards, internet café, faith room, IT suite, and classrooms equipped with interactive whiteboards and mobile laptops as standard. The Academy specialises in sport with business enterprise and will boast the only athletics track in Salford.

The school motto is 'The best in everyone' and Elizabeth Haddock explains the ethos as "giving opportunities to achieve the best while being nurtured in an environment with Christian morals and values."

Being an independent school within the state sector and not being restricted by the national curriculum, the Academy has decided to provide two hours of 'enrichment curriculum' each week for each student. This will include activities such as watersports at Salford Quays, pre-driving skills, Tai Chi, rugby and many other sports.

As part of its care for the individual, each pupil will have a one-to-one meeting with a mentor every three weeks. Children are encouraged to discuss anything that concerns them about academic work, as well as pastoral issues both in and out of school.

Great progress has been made in building links with the community. During the World Cup, 50-60 adults took part in a five-a-side football tournament. "Many parents have had bad experiences of school themselves and this sort of event helps to break down barriers", says Mrs Haddock.

The school is keen to open its doors to the public and welcomes people to look round at a series of open days. It also wants the community to use the sports, internet and library facilities out of hours.

## What do the pupils say?

A group of year 11 children said: "We like the people and the teachers. The headteacher really gets involved with us and is very approachable." What are they looking forward to? "The new building will be much cleaner and has great computer facilities." "I'm looking forward to woodwork." "The new sixth form will be great because we won't have to travel." All the pupils were excited about the enrichment curriculum and said they were pleased that the views of the school council had been listened to during the planning.

