



**THE BLACKBURN
DIOCESAN BOARD
OF EDUCATION**

The Blackburn Diocesan Board of Education

Trustees' annual report and financial statements

Company limited by guarantee (no 557954)

Registered charity (no 1020101)

31 December 2023

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VISION STATEMENT

*Serve Christ.
Share the Gospel.
Support, Equip and Educate*

Healthy Churches Transforming Communities

LEGAL OBJECTS

- To promote or assist in the promotion of education in the Diocese of Blackburn ("the diocese") being education which is consistent with the faith and practice of the Church of England.
- To promote or assist in the promotion of religious education and religious worship in schools in the diocese.
- To promote or assist in the promotion of church schools in the diocese and to advise the governors of such schools, and trustees of church educational endowments and any other body or person concerned on any matter affecting church schools in the diocese; to promote co-operation between its Board of Management ("the board") and bodies or persons concerned in any respect with education in the diocese.
- To discharge within the diocese the functions assigned to Diocesan Boards of Education by section 3 to 8 and 11 of the Diocesan Boards of Education Measure 1991 or by any amending legislation.
- To discharge within the diocese such other functions relating to the furtherance of church education as may be assigned to the board by the diocesan synod, other than functions relating to church schools or church educational endowments.
- To do all such things as are incidental or conducive to the attainment of the aforesaid objects, including acceptance of the trusteeship of any trusts and the investment of any moneys not immediately required for its purpose in or upon such investments securities as the board may think fit.

STRATEGIC REPORT

STRATEGIC AIMS AND OBJECTIVES FOR THE YEAR

- The support of Church of England schools in all areas of their activities. In particular:
 - ❖ Development and delivery of religious education and collective worship
 - ❖ Protection of the Church of England's interests in academy conversions in Blackburn Diocese
 - ❖ Maintenance of church school buildings belonging to trustees of Church of England schools
 - ❖ Protection of the interests of the trustees of Church of England schools
- The development of youth and children's work in Parishes and Schools across the Diocese of Blackburn.
- The support and development of Christian Spirituality in secular institutions of higher and further education.
- The provision of Chaplaincy support to church colleges and church-based universities.

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Public Benefit Statement

The Board exists under the Diocesan Board of Education Measure (2021). The Measure sets out the core purpose of the Board of Education, which is 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.

In addition, the Board of Education support youth and children’s work across church in the diocese

The public benefit of our work is seen in the support and flourishing of church schools that provide education for all within a Christian ethos. Blackburn Diocesan Board of Education (BDBE) supports the promotion of Christian faith within universities and other educational institutions and also supports schools to engage in their communities and to build projects that create, improve and unify the local community. Our support for schools also ensures the provision of buildings which can be used by parishes and outside bodies for the benefit of all. The trustees have referred to Charity Commission guidance on public benefit and consider the entity is compliant.

Our support for Youth and Children’s Work across the Diocese touches the lives of thousands of people, many of whom are not regular church attenders and supports churches in their work with the children and young people of local communities.

ACTIVITIES AND PERFORMANCE

Main Achievements of the Year

Objectives set until 2024 for the Board of Education:

Prayer for the work of the Board	
Objectives	DBE Actions
Encouraging a ‘pray first culture’ at diocesan and parish level to uphold children and young people and the specific ministries working with them	Prayer has continued to be the first activity on the agenda at all courses, conferences, and meetings.
Writing prayers for the young to be used in intercessions, services and events	All School Advisers pray with the Head Teachers they visit. Prayer is included in training sessions for Early Careers Teachers and in the content of CPD on Collective Worship and Enhancing Children’s Spirituality. The Developing Outdoor Prayer Spaces course supports school leaders to develop creative and inspirational spaces for prayer in schools.
Encourage dedicated time and energy to the pursuit of hearing God’s heart and waiting on Him	
Encouraging prayer sponsors in parishes where congregation members pray directly for individual children and young people	
Equipping young people with the confidence to pray	The Advent and Lent Quiet Days provide senior leaders with the opportunity to pause, reflect and to listen to God’s voice. Prayer continues to be a strong feature in many of our resources, with examples of written prayers being provided as well as suggestions for how children and young people can be encouraged to pray themselves. A key focus of the Youth Leader Conference this year was around how we can pray for young people, growing a culture of prayer in our churches for under 18’s, as well as how we can support and help young people grow in their own personal prayer life. This was aided by Josh Green from 24/7 Prayer inputting across the day. We have also been sharing their ‘Origins’ resource to youth groups to help to develop their prayer life.

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	<p>This focus builds on the narrative in recent years of encouraging and helping to equip parishes to start their journey in youth ministry by intentionally praying for young people in their local community, as well as in their church.</p> <p>For Thy Kingdom Come, there was a focus on encouraging prayer for and with under 18's across our social media platforms, and we have continued to engage with the National Toddler Group Month of Prayer in June. This was recognised with Sarah Earnshaw (Children's Adviser) being invited to attend the launch event at the Houses of Parliament.</p>
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Overall objectives	<p>To see growth of 11–17-year-olds (worshipping community statistics) of 1030 by 2026</p> <p>To see 25% growth in new disciples between the ages of 5-11 years (worshipping community statistics)</p> <p>To see 50% increase in toddler groups that share the gospel</p> <p>To see double the number of boys in worshipping communities</p>
Key Objectives to be achieved by Dec 2024	Actions
<p><i>Making Disciples</i> We will support the making disciples team to resource and equip local churches to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Make more Sunday services child/youth-friendly 	<p>Those participating in the Authorised Lay Ministry (ALM) training course and choosing the elective for Worship Leading have received input from the children and youth team on All Age Worship. A session on 'Children and Worship' was also included in the children's work elective which was well attended this year.</p> <p>The children and youth advisers were invited to deliver training to curates in the diocese as part of their IME2 training, focusing on ministry with children and young people. This training encouraged curates to complete the Children and Youth Ministry Self-Assessment Tool for the parish in which they were training, to help them review current practices and highlight potential areas for development, with a view to considering what they might do once they become incumbents.</p> <p>Launchpad and Learning Community, plus the addition of Youthscape Essentials, have sought to equip and challenge parish clergy and youth leaders in how they can make worship services more accessible for young people, as well as leading provision for their age group that supports their faith journey.</p> <p>The children and youth advisers continue to offer to meet with new clergy soon after they have settled into post. These visits are a useful opportunity to see a snapshot of what is happening in a parish. Clergy are provided with a pack containing vision and strategy documents, resource samples and guidance for working with their church schools.</p>

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<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Improve preparation and follow-up for confirmation, retaining confirmation candidates as part of the church's worshipping community 	<p>A 'how to follow up confirmation' crib sheet has been created and the Parish Renewal team are using this in addition to the youth and children's team. This has been a valuable resource given the conversations that have taken place in previous years.</p> <p>The main confirmation resources that are used by parishes have been purchased and have been made available in the reference library in Clayton House should clergy or youth leader wish to explore new or alternative confirmation preparation resources.</p> <p>A number of churches have been supported in the process of exploring Admission to Holy Communion before Confirmation and have now been authorized by the Bishop.</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Equip 50 parishes to set up small youth groups that develop faith 	<p>Launchpad and Learning Community continue to support parishes in relaunching or starting and establishing youth provisions in a local parish context. In addition, the Youthscape Essentials course has been delivered to offer another option for volunteer youth leader training. The diocesan youth team have offered bespoke support to youth leaders and clergy who have come to them independent of these training and equipping opportunities.</p> <p>In October 2023 the Youth Leader Conference took place in Lancaster and saw a growth in number of over 20 people; 60 youth leaders attended in total. This offered support, input and encouragement to youth leaders from across the diocese in how to meet young people where they are, how to go start something new with young people and how to grow a culture of prayer in their local church, as well as addressing other training needs.</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Support parishes in providing events and experiences that encourage children and young people in their faith 	<p>In March 2023 the children and youth team ran Abide: Fearless, our annual youth event, where we saw a growth in the number of young people and their youth leaders attending from across Lancashire. Using St Michael's High School in Chorley as a venue was a real success and allowed us to create the kind of spaces required to enable young people to explore what it looks like to live out their Christian Faith fearlessly where they are; school, college, home & locally to them. We have heard many positive stories regarding the impact this has had on youth groups, both those that launched post the event and those that were already established prior to attending the event.</p> <p>Again this year we supported the locally run Schools Ventures Residential for Chorley Primary schools at the Anderton Outdoor Activity Centre. Partnering with CPAS and local clergy to lead these experiences has created great opportunities for children to explore their beliefs connected to the Easter story and grow in faith.</p> <p>The youth team supported the Waddow Youth Camp led by Bishop Philip during May half-term. This was predominately attended by young people from an Anglo-Catholic background and was a valuable connection to continue to grow relationships after churches attended Abide with their young people earlier in the year.</p> <p>In July, officers organised and ran activities for Children in the Churches Together marquee at the Royal Lancashire Agricultural Show. This year these activities were focused around the theme of tackling modern day slavery. Despite the poor weather conditions limiting the show as a whole, this provision along with the present of the Godly Play Bus, offered a fantastic point of contact for those who do not</p>


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	<p>attend a local church to receive hospitality and explore the theme from a faith perspective. After the return of national festivals in 2022, we signposted youth groups to Walsingham Youth Pilgrimage, DTI, Satellites, Limitless, New Day, and Nefyn Camps this summer, as well as the array of camps offered by CPAS and Scripture Union across the summer months.</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Launching significantly more digital content to promote faith development for children and young people, to train leaders and promote church events and activities. This will include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Youtube content ○ Podcasts ○ Social media interactive resources 	<p>2023 saw the continuation of the second series of the 'Youth Work State of Mind' Podcast with the intention of equipping youth leaders in the diocese and beyond. The team have taken steps to develop Youth Work State of Mind Instagram, building on traction from the Youth Leader Conference and The Gathering to develop and grow the platform as a space for the Christian youth work community to connect, be encouraged and inspired.</p> <p>2023 saw us engaging once again with the National Toddler Group Month of Prayer as we posted daily prayer activities for Under 5's on social media which received fantastic engagement. These have since been collated into a booklet which is available via our resources area as a download, allowing those not on social media to access these activities and use them.</p> <p>A showcase video featuring the 'School Heritage Days' at St Andrew's Cleveleys was filmed in the Summer and was published on our YouTube channel in September. A second showcase video featuring the Forest Church at St Leonard's Balderstone was recorded in October and published in December.</p> <p>A second series of our podcast for 3-7 year olds, Follow the Son with accompanying resources was written and recorded in 2023. A video was also created which demonstrates how Bible Podlets (our Bible Study and Discussion Podcast for Primary Aged Children) can be used in a group setting to encourage children's workers to consider using it for this purpose. This is Abide on Instagram, TikTok & YouTube continue to grow and gain traction as we seek to build upon the Abide events and to support the faith development of young people directly through the content created.</p> <p>Following conferences and events we have continued to upload suitable content to the Train, Equip, Inspire YouTube account for support and training purposes.</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Produce more parish resources for work with children and young people 	<p>Pick n Mix, our seasonal youth ministry resource is in the process of being rewritten and developed into 'app style' content and so this year we have added three reworked volumes of Pick n Mix which are available for churches to access for free. This work is ongoing and there is also brand new content around the themes of Stewardship being written ready for release in 2024.</p> <p>The ever-popular Weekly@ lectionary-based materials for churches to use with children's groups and all age congregations continue to be written with the support of guest writers. A one-off special was also created to help churches to celebrate the King's Coronation in May.</p> <p>Weekly@ Summer (Got Your Ticket) was created to help children to explore what being a Christian looks like in different countries around the world, helping</p>

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	<p>children to understand that Christianity is a global faith.</p> <p>A new addition to our suite of digital resources for 2023 was a collection of Sensory Stories for Easter and Christmas, for churches to use with children with additional needs. These have been developed in collaboration with the school's team and with the help of Additional Needs Specialist, Lynn McCann.</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Create new or renewed toddler groups that share the gospel as part of their work 	<p>A Toddler Group Ministry Training session was delivered in Summer 2023 which formed part of the Children's Ministry Elective of the ALM Course, but this could also be accessed by anyone who wished to attend. Off the back of this, several churches have approached the team for further support in developing a vision and strategy for toddler group ministry and for practical advice on how to start one from scratch.</p> <p>The Children's work Adviser connected with Hannah Persaud from the National Growing Faith Foundation to offer advice regarding establishing a national support network for Toddler Group leaders. The first of these online sessions took place in September and will continue to be offered regularly for anyone wishing to participate.</p> <p>In June, in recognition of the work she has done to grow, develop and encourage engagement in the National Toddler Group Month of Prayer, the Children's Adviser was invited to a special launch event and reception at the Palace of Westminster.</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Engage with boy friendly ministry 	<p>A training session on how we make our Children's Ministry appealing for boys was delivered in Summer 2023 which formed part of the Children's Ministry Elective of the ALM Course, but this could also be accessed by anyone who wished to attend. This training was well attended and well received.</p> <p>In addition, we delivered the ALM youth elective in Autumn 2023 to six youth leaders, and this training included signposting churches to sports ministry options.</p> <p>Sports Ministry and Sports Ministry resources continue to be highlighted in mailings and via social media. St Andrew's Church, Livesey is one example of a parish who have engage with this for the first time and ran a successful Ambassador's Football Holiday club in August 2023.</p> <p>KICK supported Abide by running the Football and Active spaces which gave parishes the chance to see how sports ministry could run in a local parish context. To develop this further, for 2024 both KICK and Ambassadors Football have been approached to be involved in the event.</p> <p>Learning Community sessions and training have sought to raise awareness and help parishes consider how they might better engage with boys through their ministry to young people.</p>
<p>Being Witnesses We will support the being witnesses team to resource and equip local churches to:</p>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Plant 50 local congregations which reach out to families and young people 	<p>Officers connect with the Being Witnesses team as necessary and planting new congregations work</p>

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<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Start 50 new child/youth-friendly worshipping communities (or congregations) including services in school 	<p>continues to be ongoing – as and when support is sought. Officers have made specific efforts to support the Choir Church project this year.</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Develop 50 new sports/active ministry activities that meet regularly 	<p>Child and young person friendly worshipping community work is ongoing.</p> <p>Supporting parishes around sports and activity-based ministry is ongoing with KICK and Ambassadors football inputting to events and conferences.</p>
<p>Growing Leaders Support the vocations team to commission 300 leaders and helpers of all ages (with at least 30% under 25 years old) to share the Gospel with children and young people. We will do this by:</p>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Creating a culture of vocational discernment so that many more can hear a call to work with the young (DoV) 	<p>All sessions of the Children's and Youth Ministry ALM electives were successfully delivered in 2023. The Children's Work Adviser also delivered a session on All Age Worship for the Worship Leading elective.</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Developing varied training programmes for those new to this work or in need of refreshment, including basic training and more in-depth training as part of lay leadership development (Children/Youth Team/DoV) 	<p>The Children's Ministry Conference and Youth Leader Conference were both successful and received very positive feedback.</p> <p>Officers have delivered sessions 'And then came Christmas' and 'Reaching the Next Generation' as part of the Urban Evangelist training course; M:Power.</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ensuring that everyone who works with children and young people knows their safeguarding responsibilities (in partnership with DSO) 	<p>The IME2 training for curates has seen sessions delivered by officers across this year bringing into focus the Diocesan vision priority of 'Inspiring Children & Young People'.</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Liturgically Commissioning new and existing leaders and helpers, at Confirmation Services where possible 	<p>Due to the barriers that have been faced in trying to organize a diocesan commissioning service, officers have been tasked by the Inspiring Children and Young People Committee to develop commissioning materials for parishes to use in the new academic year (2024/25) with children's and youth leaders – potentially in time for Education Sunday in September.</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Holding a Service of Celebration and Re-commissioning for those who minister to the young 	<p>The team have offered training to support churches in welcoming those with additional needs and training which supports their Equity, Diversity and Justice strategy. In September, an event titled 'Enriching Children's Ministry with Resources to Support Diversity and Inclusion' was offered to churches and it was advertised that Dr Krish Kandiah OBE, would be visiting the diocese early in 2024. The team are considering ways to grow their training offering in these areas going forward.</p> <p>The Gathering, continues to run in partnership with other youth work organisations and charities, and seeks to support, equip and encourage youth leaders from across Lancashire in their ministry. This provision has invested in and grown a community of people who are committed to working with this age group in the local church.</p> <p>Safeguarding continues to be highlighted in training as appropriate and the Children and Youth Ministry Self-Assessment Tool immediately highlights to the user the importance of safeguarding and where to go for support and guidance should they need it. The team seek to model good practice by putting more robust systems in place to ensure volunteers at Board of Education events have valid DBS Certificates and have completed mandatory safeguarding training.</p>

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<p>To develop and implement a project that is designed to grow work with 11-17 years.</p>	<p>See Launchpad, Youthscape Essentials and Learning community notes above. The development of a new children's and youth strategy to support growth of under 18's ministry has been worked on with a view to an application to national church in early 2024 for funding. Should the application be successful, the beginnings of that project will begin to take shape later in 2024.</p>
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School	
Key Objectives for 2024	DBE Actions
<p>Our schools to be built around the key Christian values and qualities of <u>love, hope, grace and service</u> and a Vision rooted in the Bible</p>	<p>Reference is made to the National and DBE vision in all Induction training materials.</p> <p>Key Christian values and their Biblical roots are included in all training related to the Christian Vision of the school. The key focus of the new SIAMS Framework 2023 is the Christian vision of the school being lived out. This has led to an increase of the content of SIAMS training being focused on the ways in which the school's Christian vision influences every aspect of the life of the school.</p> <p>The SIAMS reports clearly record that the impact of the Christian vision of the schools is very strong.</p> <p>Associate advisers continue with pastoral calls and SLA visits. How schools are living out their Vision and values is a feature of Initial Visit discussions. Prayer requests are discussed with Headteachers, and advisors regularly pray for senior leaders, staff, and the children.</p> <p>Consultancy visits to high schools including tailored resources, Chaplaincy and Religious Education networks took place through the year.</p>
<p>Embody a vision shaped by the personal faith and commitment of their leaders</p>	<p>The Head Teachers conference 2023 focused on the theology of Christian leadership and vision. Each module of the conference was well attended. The Induction programme for new Headteachers and Deputy Headteachers provides opportunities for school leaders to explore their own faith journey and consider how faith impacts on their leadership.</p> <p>The Head teacher and senior leaders networks focus on servant leadership, faith and prayer.</p> <p>Governor CPD explores the distinctive nature of Church school governance and the importance of faith and prayer in fulfilling the governor role.</p> <p>The DBE has a policy that all applicants for the position of Headteacher and Deputy Headteacher in Diocesan schools must have a faith reference.</p> <p>All the "Called to" training opportunities (inc. Called to Serve, Flourishing Schools, Academic and Rigorous) and Direct Learning training programmes have been delivered and a new Headteacher Induction Booklet and mentor scheme is in place. This was a series of High School trainings.</p> <p>A programme of Retreats and Quiet Days has taken place</p> <p>DBE Services Christian Leadership programme ran again this year in collaboration with other dioceses and is oversubscribed annually</p>

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<p>To embody a vision rooted in the bible</p>	<p>All material produced for primary schools Collective Worship and RE is clearly rooted in scripture.</p> <p>All courses are underpinned by biblical text and make reference to scripture and explore how the content of the course is connected to scripture.</p> <p>The new Worship Together online series of Collective worship videos exploring God's Big Story is extremely popular. Viewing exceeds 150 every week.</p>
<p>Enable and encourage a praying and worshipping community where distinctly Christian celebrations are integral to the learning experiences of all within the school community</p>	<p>New resources created to support schools in celebrating the Coronation of King Charles. Emphasising the distinctly Christian elements of the ritual and traditions. Bishop's Harvest Appeal 2023, emphasis of Christian Celebrations via social media, and new collective worship materials using traditional Christmas Carols and Easter Hymns as a starting point.</p> <p>The DBE have created significant resources for the National Initiative 'Faith at Home' to support Key Christian Festivals and days of national significance</p> <p>Active engagement with National Networks, and Local Networks continues (NASACRE, CEEFEL, Local SACRE, CEFL's International Diversity Network) facilitating prayer and worship on a wider platform beyond Blackburn.</p>
<p>Ensure Religious Education is at the heart of the curriculum and is a core subject</p>	<p>Questful RE is now used by Church schools in the Blackburn, Chester, Carlisle and Liverpool Dioceses. Blackburn and Darwen SACRE adopted Questful RE as the LA Agreed Syllabus. There are over 3000 user accounts accessed regularly.</p> <p>The syllabus has been reviewed and updated throughout the year with new resources and bespoke films being added.</p> <p>SIAMS reports consistently that the standard of achievement in RE is high and RE is considered to be a core subject in the curriculum.</p> <p>Cluster meetings and conferences are very well attended indicating that schools give priority to the subject.</p> <p>Illuminating Pathways has been moved to a new website along with the guiding light worship resources. This makes resources accessible to all and removes the dependency on a third-party supplier. The curriculum has been supplied to other dioceses following requests from them for additional resource for RE and worship</p>
<p>Recognise the presence of God in the uniqueness of each individual and in each person's specific talents and gifts</p>	<p>Significant development work on equity, diversity and justice (EDJ) to ensure that all stakeholders are treated with dignity and respect and become the person God created them to be. A suite of courses was designed and delivered. Between 2022 and 2024, 240 delegates have attended the EDJ conferences, 73 schools have received in-school training on EDJ, and 36 schools have taken part in EDJ workshops run by DBE. 3 Headteachers are mentors for CEFL's Leaders like Us Programme which supports senior leaders from UK minority Ethnic backgrounds into Headship. 1 senior leader was a participant on the programme.</p>
<p>Develop a broad community open to the world in which we live, which seeks to change it for the better</p>	<p>DBE encourages schools to use resources such as Picture News to enable children to engage with wider issues in the world.</p> <p>There is a strong emphasis in all our schools on equipping pupils with the skills of courageous advocacy to deepen their understanding and knowledge of injustice and encouraging them to be agents of change in the world.</p>

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	<p>SIAMS expects all church schools to be involved in social action as evidence that they are living out the Christian Vision of the school.</p> <p>Questful RE includes the investigation of Christianity as a worldwide faith</p>
Celebrate success and treat failure with compassion	<p>Engagement with schools using social media has increased, with Twitter regularly used to praise success</p> <p>Successful schools are regularly invited to share their good practice with other schools by providing inputs at DBE training courses.</p> <p>Schools are sent letters of congratulations following inspections and visits are made to school in difficult circumstances.</p> <p>Staff regularly attend celebration events in schools.</p>
Support their alumni in finding ways to continue their faith journey, and to provide a pathway or signpost for those alumni looking to re-engage with faith	<p>Worship materials and RE Curriculum content support schools in fulfilling these points</p>
Be strong and sustainable presences in their community with a structure that best serves the needs of the children and young people	<p>Schools continue to 'go the extra mile' in serving their children, families and local communities. Many schools proactively take part in local projects. Increasingly schools are helping families to access information and help regarding housing, benefits, health care etc. This also includes the increase of support that schools need to provide for pupils with SEND needs. Schools involved in the Disadvantaged and Poverty Action Research Programme are developing bespoke strategies to support the needs of their children, families and the community.</p>
Seek to work in collaboration with churches in delivering <i>Vision 2026</i>	<p>DBE continues to encourage schools and churches to worship and work together. Many schools regularly attend mid-week worship in churches with their local congregations. Schools and churches together run holiday clubs and have set up after school family worship sessions.</p> <p>The new 'Living Well Together: Developing Church School and Community Links' course will support schools to strengthen their relationship with church and community.</p>

School Buildings	
Key Objectives for 2024	DBE Actions
Ensure that school buildings are developed and maintained to best meet the needs of pupils	<p>The SCA system has been run effectively this year alongside a partner company DBE Services. Much of the projects delivered are essential works to ensure schools remain open and meet Health and Safety Regulations.</p> <p>A full programme of capital work has been planned and delivered to meet school needs. As in previous years, the level of need outweighed the funding envelope by around three times the amount with much of this continues to be essential works and very few 'nice to have' projects.</p>
Seek opportunities for expansion of existing church schools or new church school provision	<p>Regular meetings take place with the school place planning team in Lancashire and detailed conversations took place with Blackburn with Darwen over future pupil number projections. This has been highlighted for three of our schools to expand in 2024/25 and the board has been actively engaging with delivery of these projects</p>
Ensure the correct treatment of school assets when schools close or relocate	<p>A number of live cases continue to be handled by the DBE and is an area of significant work. These are often cases of historic incorrect treatment of land.</p> <p>The DBE has sought to register a number of titles with the Land Registry for school properties</p>

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	The DBE continues to research trusts and land of church school to build a complete picture of the school estate and ownership of land
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Chaplaincy	
Key Objectives for 2024	DBE Actions
We want to help young people accept the salvation offered through Jesus' death on the cross and embark on a lifelong journey as a disciple	<p>Young people are being connected with and encouraged to understand who Jesus is through active chaplaincy. This is happening and we are working closely and have good relationships with all 3 universities:</p> <p>UCLAN, Lancaster University, University of Cumbria</p>
We want to help students in our universities to be disciplined, nurtured and challenged in their faith, encouraged to share their faith, and develop to lead others in discipleship, witness and service.	<p>UCLAN and Preston Minster are working well at this. The shared chaplaincy model began there first. The first year was a success but the post holder moved to take up a job in Manchester with a church. We were involved in recruiting the replacement and she has begun in post September 23 and made a successful start.</p>
We want to help chaplains that enable the people of God in our High Schools and Universities to live out the Christian life and witness to the presence of Jesus	<p>Chaplaincy for Lancaster Universities was reimagined to the shared model that matches UCLAN/Preston Minster early in 2023 and a new style was introduced where the university chaplain is line managed by a local church thus having a peer group and reducing the previous silo situation. Two large local churches of differing tradition, with good student populations, were approached and agreed to host the chaplain for the two universities. The vision sees the chaplains supporting each other spiritually and physically – covering for absence, helping at busy times etc.</p> <p>Two recruitment rounds for the chaplain at the University of Cumbria have led to a successful appointment and she takes up the role in September. The role is based at Lancaster Priory.</p> <p>Lancaster University is yet to appoint after two rounds of recruitment. The process is ongoing together with St Thomas Lancaster</p> <p>Nb. The post at Lancaster University became vacant in 2023 thus allowing this symbiotic relationship</p>
We want to help young people transition from a school place of worship to engagement in a Church of England multigenerational worshipping community that is accessible to the young	<p>School chaplaincy is still supported. Regular half termly sessions for Worship coordinators are organised by the Diocesan Youth Advisor. The DBE was involved in the recruitment for the chaplain to Archbishop Temple Highschool.</p> <p>The strategy being employed: hosting the chaplain role within large local Anglican churches is modelled on the university chaplaincy at Dundee. The transition is thus organic with links built in between chaplains at the universities and local churches. It is envisaged that this will ease the transition between school and university setting churches.</p> <p>The Minster Preston, Lancaster Priory, St Thomas Lancaster. The understanding is that the chaplains signpost to whichever churches are most appropriate not only recommending their link church always bearing the ease of transition in mind</p>

Future Objectives

The objectives for the board of education remain as above until 2024

The Blackburn Diocesan Board of Education

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For the year ended 31 December 2023

POST BALANCE SHEET EVENTS

In August 2024 there was adverse publicity for an associated charity around a historic safeguarding issue previously reported to the charity commission. This has been reported again to the charity commission due to the risk of the reputational harm from the publicity.

In August 2024, a non-recent safeguarding disclosure involving an employee deployed at an associated charity came to light, resulting in a police investigation. This incident has been reported to the Charity Commission due to the potential reputational harm stemming from any publicity. The company is cooperating fully with all relevant authorities and has taken appropriate measures to address the situation in accordance with established safeguarding protocols.

FINANCE REVIEW

Financial Performance

During the year to 31 December 2023 the Charity made a net surplus of £396k against a deficit of £278k in 2022, this is due to a gain on investments in the year of £102k and the release of a creditor regarding the sale of Out Rawcliffe school of £299K.

Principal Funding Sources

There is an annual grant agreed in advance by the Blackburn Diocesan Board of Finance Limited as agreed by the Diocesan Synod. A grant of service is provided in addition for the provision of finance. The Board is also in receipt of funds allocated from the BDBF Restricted Funds. Total funding from these sources for the year ended 31 December 2023 is £324,061 (2022: £359,360).

Service level agreements to provide support services to schools £268,638 (2022: £278,862).

Total interest and dividends income is £409,000 (2022: £153,000) representing 29% of total income (2022: 12%). This is due to investing in Property Shares in CCLA to generate income.

The Blackburn Diocesan Board of Finance grants represented around 23% of the total income of the charity for the year, equally 19% of the income came from service level agreements and interest and dividend income was 29%.

During the year a gift aid donation of £153,808 (2022:£144,321) was received from DBE Services Ltd.

Significant expenditure

The charitable company employs staff to support schools in their maintenance and building projects. During the year £28,437 (2022: £40,117) was spent on directly undertaking activities in this area which includes generating voluntary income.

Additional school support is provided by staff and consultants for the development and delivery of religious education, school vision and ethos and collective worship. This may be in the form of direct support for schools or running training courses and events for the schools. During the year £421,945 of school and governor support (2022: £443,340) was spent on directly undertaking activities in this area.

Youth and children's work occur both in schools and parishes. Youth and children's work directly undertaken activities cost £169,137 (2022: £181,453).

The charitable company also supports university chaplains and this support amounted to £59,426 (2022: £89,591) of activities directly undertaken.

Balance Sheet Position

Net assets at 31 December 2023 are £6,134,000 (2022: £5,738,000) which is made up of designated funds of £2,990,000, restricted funds of £718,000, endowment funds of £92,000 and unrestricted funds of £2,334,000.

Within the balance sheet, are the following assets and liabilities relating to Barchester. (See page 28). Cash on deposit and at bank is held in separate bank accounts as client funds.

	£000
Debtors less than 1 year	1,436
Debtors greater than 1 year	133
Cash on deposit	4,525
Cash at bank	2,396
Creditors less than 1 year	(8,490)
	-

Investment policy

The charity utilises the CBF fund with CCLA for investments.

This ensures ethical investment, as investments are held in companies which have high standards of corporate governance and act in a responsible way towards stakeholders.

The Blackburn Diocesan Board of Education

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Unrestricted and restricted funds are invested to balance income, liquidity and the reimbursement of capital. The investment policy for long-term funds is aimed primarily at generating a sustainable income with due regard to the need for preservation of capital value.

Reserves policy

The total funds of the charitable company as at 31 December 2023 are £6,134,000, of which £718,000 are restricted and £92,000 are endowment funds.

The reserves of the company provide working capital for the activities of the Board. The Board also requires funds to be available to provide assistance to schools for their contribution to building projects and to ensure continued operation if income is disrupted.

The trustees have reviewed the charity's needs for reserves in line with the guidance issued by the Charity Commission. They have agreed to set a reserves figure equivalent of 20% of predicted income for SCA and DFC expenditure costs on behalf of schools £1,335,000 and three to six months budgeted running costs for 2023, £580,341 (six months). The total approved level of reserves is £1,915,341.

The total value of free reserves (general reserves less assets used in the charity and designated fund and any pension adjustment) is £1,826,000. The level of free reserves is £89,341 below the approved level. The directors at their summer meeting will review free reserves and designated funds along with plans for the future.

The level of designated funds at the year end is £2,990,000 (2022: £3,109,000). Material designated funds include the New Opportunity Fund at £340,798 for school buildings support and the Elmslie Fund at £470,706 for educational purposes in the Blackpool area.

Financial assistance and grant making policy

Organisations must make applications to the Board of Education Executive. The Executive considers these in the light of their benefit for promoting Christian education within the Diocese. Consideration is also given to the financial circumstances of the organisation applying.

Grants were 14% of total expenditure.

Related parties

Blackburn Diocesan Board of Finance is a registered charity and the financial arm of the diocesan synod. It provides a grant to support the work of the Diocesan Board of Education and to enable the Diocesan Board of Education to undertake children and youth work.

Cidari is the diocesan multi academy trust which owes £179,608 to the Diocesan Board of Education for the initial start-up of the trust.

DBE Services Ltd is owned by six dioceses, one of which is Blackburn Diocesan Board of Education and it provides total property maintenance to schools and manages the school condition grants.

Directors – the chair of the board David Picken is also a director of the Diocesan Board of Finance. Canon Stephen Whittaker is a director of the Diocesan Board of Education and is the diocesan secretary of the Diocesan Board of Finance.

The Blackburn Diocesan Board of Education

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PRINCIPLE RISKS AND UNCERTAINTIES

The trustees of the charitable company have overall responsibility for ensuring that the charity has an appropriate system of controls, financial and otherwise. The systems of internal control are designed to provide reasonable, but not absolute, assurance against material misstatement or loss. There is no internal audit function as it is not considered an efficient use of the resources of the charity.

They include:

- A strategic plan and annual budget approved by the trustees;
- Regular consideration by the Board of Education of financial results and variance from budgets;
- Delegation of authority and segregation of duties;
- Identification and management of risks.

During the year the trustees have further developed their risk management process to assess and document business risks and implement risk management strategies. This involved assessing the types of risks the charity faces, prioritising them in terms of potential impact and likelihood of occurrence, and identifying means of mitigating the risks. This process has drawn on the on-going consideration of business risk, which already forms a significant aspect of the trustees' duties.

An annual meeting has been put in place to review the risks of the Blackburn Diocesan Board of Education.

During the year consultants and advisers have been engaged to assist in the management of on-going work where there has been identified need.

The key risks, which may impact on the charitable company, are:

Key risks	Mitigations
Loss of grant funding from the DBF;	The company holds sufficient reserves to cope with funding shortages and would be able to restructure the business to manage such a reduction
Reduction in income from SLAs to a level not sufficient to cover running costs;	The company holds sufficient reserves to cope with funding shortages and would be able to restructure the business to manage such a reduction
A tight labour market leading to staff shortages;	Effective recruitment campaigns and reviews of employment benefits hope to tackle this need
An increase in statutory duties that cannot be recharged to schools.	Use of reserves and clarity in SLA agreements to reduce risks.

Impact on risk and risk management

The company risk register already contained income losses and actions associated with them and has been updated to include loss of income from the DBF. The company continues to be strong and anticipates that even with no DBF grant and reduction in investments and income, costs can be managed to ensure continued viability.

STRUCTURE GOVERNANCE AND MANAGEMENT

The Board of Education is a statutory body under the Diocesan Boards of Education Measure 2021. This requires every diocese to have a Board of Education which has responsibility for overseeing the work of Church Schools and being responsible for managing Education Charitable Trusts. The Board of Education was incorporated in November 1955 and is a company limited by guarantee.

Those persons who are normally referred to as members of the Board of Education are in company law the Directors of the Board and Trustees in charity law.

The Trustees present their report and audited financial statements for the year ended 31 December 2023. The Trustees and the Trustees' Report constitute the Directors and Directors' Report for Companies Act purposes.

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the charity's Memorandum and Articles of Association, the Companies Act 2006, the Charities SORP (Second Edition, effective 1 January 2019) and applicable accounting standards FRS102.

The Blackburn Diocesan Board of Education

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Organisation

The Board of Education, as defined in statute, has overall control of the activities of the Company. The Board operates with four sub-committees. The finance, staffing and resources committee is responsible for all financial matters across the work of the Board of Education. The schools work is split over two committees with school Christian ethos development considered by the Distinctiveness Committee and the other aspects of work considered by the School Strategy Committee. Parish support work is considered by the Children's and Youth Committee. The Board reports to the Diocesan Synod (Membership of the Diocesan Synod is also the membership of the Diocesan Board of Finance) annually and the Director of Education also reports to the Bishop's Council.

Method of Appointment of Trustees

The trustees are appointed in the following way:

The Chair of the Board is nominated by the Diocesan Bishop. At least 4 but not more than 5 members appointed by the Bishop, at least 4 but not more than 5 members elected by Diocesan Synod and at least 4 but not more than 5 members co-opted by the DBE

The trustees elected by synod are elected every three years.

Induction and Training of Trustees

On induction there is a meeting with prospective trustees to explain their roles and responsibilities. They are advised of the structure of the Blackburn Diocesan Board of Education and associated companies.

Trustee training is provided as a need is identified.

Remuneration of key management personnel

The Board is responsible for setting the pay for the key members of staff and any annual increments are agreed by the Chair of the Board.

Custodian Trustee

The charitable company is the custodian trustee for all Voluntary Aided Church of England Schools in the Benefice area (Diocese of Blackburn) except in cases where it is the actual trustee either by right of the trustee document or following an order under S86 of the 1944 Education Act.

Under the 2021 Diocesan Board of Education Measure, the governing body or (in the case of an Academy) the proprietor of a church school which is on land in which a freehold or leasehold interest is held on trust for the purposes of a church school must obtain the consent of the DBE before entering into an agreement or arrangement in connection with an alteration to or repair the premises of the school.

TRUSTEES' RESPONSIBILITIES

The trustees are responsible for preparing the Trustees' Annual Report and the financial statements in accordance with applicable law and regulations.

Company law requires the trustees (as Directors) to prepare financial statements for each financial year. Under that law the trustees have elected to prepare the financial statements in accordance with UK Accounting Standards and applicable law (UK Generally Accepted Accounting Practice), including FRS 102 *The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland*.

Under company law the trustees must not approve the financial statements unless they are satisfied that they give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the charitable company and of the surplus or deficit of the charitable company for that period. In preparing these financial statements, the trustees are required to:

- select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently;
- observe methods and principles in the Charities SORP;
- make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent;
- state whether applicable UK Accounting Standards have been followed, subject to any material departures disclosed and explained in the financial statements; and
- prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the charitable company will continue its activities.

The trustees are responsible for keeping adequate accounting records that are sufficient to show and explain the charitable company's transactions and disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the charitable company and enable them to ensure that the financial statements comply with the

The Blackburn Diocesan Board of Education

Annual Report and Financial Statements
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Companies Act 2006. They have general responsibility for taking such steps as are reasonably open to them to safeguard the assets of the charitable company and to prevent and detect fraud and other irregularities.

The trustees are responsible for the maintenance and integrity of the corporate and financial information included on the charitable company's website. Legislation in the UK governing the preparation and dissemination of financial statements may differ from legislation in other jurisdictions.

STATEMENT OF DISCLOSURE TO THE AUDITORS

So far as the Directors are aware:

- a. there is no relevant audit information of which the charitable company's auditors are unaware, and
- b. we have taken all the steps that we ought to have taken as Directors in order to make ourselves aware of any relevant audit information and to establish that the charitable company's auditors are aware of that information.

APPOINTMENT OF AUDITOR

The appointment of the auditors to the BDBE will be proposed at the Annual General Meeting.

ADMINISTRATIVE DETAIL

The Blackburn Diocesan Board of Education Limited (by guarantee) hereafter referred to as the "charitable company" is a registered company and is registered with the Charity Commission. The company was incorporated on 30 November 1955.

The trustees, who are also directors for the purposes of company law, present their trustees' report, together with the audited financial statements, for the year ended 31 December 2023.

This report constitutes the Strategic Report and the Directors' Report required under the Companies Act 2006.

Charity Registration number 1020101

Company registration number 557954

Company Secretary	Mr I Parks	Appointed 1 September 2023
Directors/Trustees	Mr JMP Hewitt Miss J Snape Mr R Jones Rev Canon A Holliday Rev P R M Venables Mrs A C Abernethy Rev Canon David Arnold Mrs D L Metcalfe Venerable D A Picken Rev S Lloyd Rev C Abbott Ms Y Arshad Rt Revd P North Mr S Whittaker	Appointed 25 April 2023 (Ex officio) Appointed 1 September 2023

Appointments are made under the Diocesan Board of Education Measure 2021

Advisers

Solicitors	Anthony Collins Solicitors LLP 134 Edmund Street Birmingham B3 2ES
Bankers	National Westminster Bank 35 King William Street Blackburn BB1 7DJ
Insurers	Ecclesiastical Insurance Group Beaufort House Brunswick Road Gloucester, GL1 1JZ

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Investment Advisors	CCLA Investment Management Ltd Senator House, 85 Queen Victoria Street London EC4V 4ET
Registered Auditor	Haysmacintyre LLP 10 Queen Street Place London, EC4R 1AG
Registered Address	Diocesan Office Clayton House Walker Office Park Blackburn BB1 2QE

By order of the board



The Venerable David Picken

Chair of the Board of Education

Blackburn Diocesan Board of Education Limited
Clayton House
Walker Office Park
BLACKBURN
BB1 2QE

16 September 2024

INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT TO THE MEMBERS OF THE BLACKBURN DIOCESAN BOARD OF EDUCATION

Opinion

We have audited the financial statements of The Blackburn Diocesan Board of Education for the year ended 31 December 2023 which comprise the Statement of Financial Activities, the Income and Expenditure Account, the Balance Sheet, the Cash Flow Statement, and notes to the financial statements, including a summary of significant accounting policies. The financial reporting framework that has been applied in their preparation is applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards, including Financial Reporting Standard 102 The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice).

In our opinion, the financial statements:

- give a true and fair view of the state of the charitable company's affairs as at 31 December 2023 and of the charitable company's net movement in funds, including the income and expenditure, for the year then ended;
- have been properly prepared in accordance with United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice; and
- have been prepared in accordance with the requirements of the Companies Act 2006.

Basis for opinion

We conducted our audit in accordance with International Standards on Auditing (UK) (ISAs (UK)) and applicable law. Our responsibilities under those standards are further described in the Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements section of our report. We are independent of the charitable company in accordance with the ethical requirements that are relevant to our audit of the financial statements in the UK, including the FRC's Ethical Standard, and we have fulfilled our other ethical responsibilities in accordance with these requirements. We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion.

Conclusions relating to going concern

In auditing the financial statements, we have concluded that the trustees' use of the going concern basis of accounting in the preparation of the financial statements is appropriate.

Based on the work we have performed, we have not identified any material uncertainties relating to events or conditions that, individually or collectively, may cast significant doubt on the charitable company's ability to continue as a going concern for a period of at least twelve months from when the financial statements are authorised for issue.

Our responsibilities and the responsibilities of the trustees with respect to going concern are described in the relevant sections of this report.

Other information

The trustees are responsible for the other information. The other information comprises the information included in the Annual Report. Our opinion on the financial statements does not cover the other information and, except to the extent otherwise explicitly stated in our report, we do not express any form of assurance conclusion thereon.

In connection with our audit of the financial statements, our responsibility is to read the other information and, in doing so, consider whether the other information is materially inconsistent with the financial statements or our knowledge obtained in the audit or otherwise appears to be materially misstated. If we identify such material inconsistencies or apparent material misstatements, we are required to determine whether there is a material misstatement in the financial statements or a material misstatement of the other information. If, based on the work we have performed, we conclude that there is a material misstatement of this other information, we are required to report that fact. We have nothing to report in this regard.

Opinions on other matters prescribed by the Companies Act 2006

In our opinion, based on the work undertaken in the course of the audit:

The Blackburn Diocesan Board of Education

Annual Report and Financial Statements
For the year ended 31 December 2023

- the information given in the Annual Report (which includes the strategic report and the directors' report prepared for the purposes of company law) for the financial year for which the financial statements are prepared is consistent with the financial statements; and
- the strategic report and the directors' report included within the Annual Report have been prepared in accordance with applicable legal requirements.

Matters on which we are required to report by exception

In the light of the knowledge and understanding of the charitable company and its environment obtained in the course of the audit, we have not identified material misstatements in the Annual Report (which incorporates the strategic report and the directors' report).

We have nothing to report in respect of the following matters in relation to which the Companies Act 2006 requires us to report to you if, in our opinion:

- adequate accounting records have not been kept by the charitable company, or returns adequate for our audit have not been received from branches not visited by us; or
- the charitable company financial statements are not in agreement with the accounting records and returns; or
- certain disclosures of trustees' remuneration specified by law are not made; or
- we have not received all the information and explanations we require for our audit

Responsibilities of trustees for the financial statements

As explained more fully in the trustees' responsibilities statement set out on page 12, the trustees (who are also the directors of the charitable company for the purposes of company law) are responsible for the preparation of the financial statements and for being satisfied that they give a true and fair view, and for such internal control as the trustees determine is necessary to enable the preparation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

In preparing the financial statements, the trustees are responsible for assessing the charitable company's ability to continue as a going concern, disclosing, as applicable, matters related to going concern and using the going concern basis of accounting unless the trustees either intend to liquidate the charitable company or to cease operations, or have no realistic alternative but to do so.

Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements

Our objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements as a whole are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an auditor's report that includes our opinion. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance, but is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with ISAs (UK) will always detect a material misstatement when it exists. Misstatements can arise from fraud or error and are considered material if, individually or in the aggregate, they could reasonably be expected to influence the economic decisions of users taken on the basis of these financial statements.

Irregularities, including fraud, are instances of non-compliance with laws and regulations. We design procedures in line with our responsibilities, outlined above, to detect material misstatements in respect of irregularities, including fraud. The extent to which our procedures are capable of detecting irregularities, including fraud is detailed below:

Based on our understanding of the charitable company and the environment in which it operates, we identified that the principal risks of non-compliance with laws and regulations related to the Companies Act 2006 and the Charities Act 2011 and we considered the extent to which non-compliance might have a material effect on the financial statements. We also considered other factors such as income tax, payroll tax and sales tax.

We evaluated management's incentives and opportunities for fraudulent manipulation of the financial statements (including the risk of override of controls) and concluded that the risk was low. Audit procedures performed by the engagement team included:

- Discussions with management including consideration of known or suspected instances of non-compliance with laws and regulation and fraud;
- Evaluating management's controls designed to prevent and detect irregularities;
- Identifying and testing journals, in particular journal entries posted with unusual account combinations, postings by unusual users or with unusual descriptions; and

The Blackburn Diocesan Board of Education

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- Challenging assumptions and judgements made by management in their critical accounting estimates

Because of the inherent limitations of an audit, there is a risk that we will not detect all irregularities, including those leading to a material misstatement in the financial statements or non-compliance with regulation. This risk increases the more that compliance with a law or regulation is removed from the events and transactions reflected in the financial statements, as we will be less likely to become aware of instances of non-compliance. The risk is also greater regarding irregularities occurring due to fraud rather than error, as fraud involves intentional concealment, forgery, collusion, omission or misrepresentation.

A further description of our responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements is located on the Financial Reporting Council's website at: www.frc.org.uk/auditorsresponsibilities. This description forms part of our auditor's report.

Use of our report

This report is made solely to the charitable company's members, as a body, in accordance with Chapter 3 of Part 16 of the Companies Act 2006. Our audit work has been undertaken so that we might state to the charitable company's members those matters we are required to state to them in an Auditor's report and for no other purpose. To the fullest extent permitted by law, we do not accept or assume responsibility to anyone other than the charitable company and the charitable company's members as a body, for our audit work, for this report, or for the opinions we have formed.



Adam Halsey
(Senior Statutory Auditor)

For and on behalf of Haysmacintyre LLP, Statutory Auditors

Date: 30 September

2024

10 Queen Street Place
London EC4R 1AG

The Blackburn Diocesan Board of Education

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STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES

for the year ended 31 December 2023

	Note	Unrestricted		Restricted Funds £000	Endowment Funds £000	Total 2023 £000	Total 2022 £000
		General Fund £000	Designated Fund £000				
Income and endowments from:							
Donations and legacies	3	327	-	310	-	637	374
Charitable activities	3	461	-	23	-	484	513
Other trading activities	3	2	-	-	-	2	2
Investments	3	511	36	16	-	563	297
Total		1,301	36	349	-	1,686	1,186
Expenditure on:							
Raising funds	4	2	-	-	-	2	2
Charitable activities	5	1,199	52	139	-	1,390	1,170
Total		1,201	52	139	-	1,392	1,172
Net income/(expenditure) before Investment gains		100	(16)	210	-	294	14
Net (losses)/ gains on investments	9	94	-	-	8	102	(293)
Net income/(expenditure)		194	(16)	210	8	396	(279)
Transfer between funds	13	139	(103)	(36)	-	-	-
Actuarial gains/(losses) on defined benefit pension schemes	2	-	-	-	-	-	1
Net movement in funds		333	(119)	174	8	396	(278)
Total funds brought forward	13	2,001	3,109	544	84	5,738	6,016
Total funds carried forward	13	2,334	2,990	718	92	6,134	5,738

All activities derive from continuing activities.

The notes on pages 27 to 42 form part of these financial statements.

Details of comparative figures by fund are disclosed in note 23.

The Blackburn Diocesan Board of Education

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For the year ended 31 December 2023

INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT

for the year ended 31 December 2023

	2023 £000	2022 £000
Total income	1,686	1,186
Total expenditure	(1,392)	(1,172)
Operating profit/(deficit) for the year	294	14
Net (losses)/gains on investments	102	(293)
Actuarial loss defined benefit scheme	-	1
Net (expenditure)/income for the year	396	(278)

The Blackburn Diocesan Board of Education

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BALANCE SHEET at 31 December 2023

	Note	2023		2022	
		£000	£000	£000	£000
Fixed assets					
Tangible assets	8		508		528
Investments	9		2,274		2,170
			2,782		2,698
Current assets					
Debtors (amounts receivable after more than One year £323,000 (2022: £371,000))	10	2,116		2,272	
Cash on deposit	11	7,299		3,994	
Cash at bank and in hand	11	3,109		8,499	
			12,524		14,765
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	12		(9,033)		(11,590)
Net current assets			3,491		3,175
Total assets less current liabilities			6,273		5,873
Creditors: amounts falling due after more than one year	12		(139)		(135)
Net assets			6,134		5,738
Fund balances					
Endowment funds:	13		92		84
(including investment revaluation reserve of £64,268 (2022:£56,256))					
Restricted income funds	13		718		544
(including investment revaluation reserve of £31,252 (2022:£29,979))					
Unrestricted income funds:					
General funds (including revaluation reserve of £906,998 (2022:£781,720))	13		2,334		2,001
Designated funds (including revaluation reserve of £nil (2022:£nil))	13		2,990		3,109
			6,134		5,738

The notes on pages 27 to 42 form part of these financial statements.

These financial statements were approved by the board of directors and were signed on its behalf on 16 September 2024 by:

The Venerable David Picken
Chair of the Board of Education

The Blackburn Diocesan Board of Education is a company limited by guarantee registered in England and Wales (no 557954)

The Blackburn Diocesan Board of Education

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CASH FLOW STATEMENT

for the year ended 31 December 2023

	2023 £000	2022 £000
Cash (outflow)/ inflow from operating activities		
Net (expenditure)/income	396	(278)
Net (gains)/losses on investments	(102)	303
Depreciation	26	25
Dividends and interest income	(563)	(297)
(Increase)/Decrease in debtors current assets	106	575
Decrease/(Increase) in debtors long term assets	48	39
(Decrease)/Increase in creditors current liabilities	(2,557)	226
(Decrease)/Increase in creditors long term liabilities	4	(12)
Net cash (outflow) / inflow	<u>(2,642)</u>	<u>581</u>
Cash from investing activities		
Dividends and interest income	563	297
Purchase of tangible fixed assets	(6)	(10)
Purchase of investments	-	-
Net cash inflow/(outflow)	<u>557</u>	<u>287</u>
Increase/(Decrease) in cash in the year	(2,085)	868
Cash and cash equivalents at the beginning of the year	12,493	11,625
Cash and cash equivalents at the end of the year	<u>10,408</u>	<u>12,493</u>
Analysis of cash and cash equivalents		
	2023 £000	2022 £000
Cash on deposit	7,299	3,994
Cash at bank and in hand	3,109	8,499
	<u>10,408</u>	<u>12,493</u>

The charitable company does not have any debt and as such no reconciliation of net debt note has been presented.

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
(forming part of the financial statements)

1 Accounting policies

Basis of preparation and going concern

The financial statements have been prepared under the historic cost convention, with the exception of investments which are included on a market value basis, and in accordance with the Companies Act 2006, the Charities SORP (Second Edition, effective 1 January 2019) and applicable accounting standards FRS102. The charitable company manages its activities in line with income received. As a consequence, the Trustees believe the charitable company is well placed to successfully manage its risks. After making enquiries, the Trustees have a reasonable expectation that the charitable company has adequate resources to continue in operational existence for the foreseeable future and the trustees do not believe there to be any material uncertainties and as such believe the going concern basis remains appropriate. The Trustees believe they have sufficient reserves to allow time to adjust should grant funding for other operations reduce. Accordingly, they continue to adopt the going concern basis in preparing the Trustee's report and financial statements. The Trustees believe that the charitable company is a public benefit entity.

The principal accounting policies and estimation techniques are as follows.

Critical accounting judgements and key sources of estimation uncertainty

In the application of the accounting policies, trustees are required to make judgements, estimates, and assumptions about the carrying value of assets and liabilities that are not readily apparent from other sources. The estimates and underlying assumptions are based on historical experience and other factors that are considered to be relevant. Actual results may differ from these estimates.

The estimates and underlying assumptions are reviewed on an ongoing basis. Revisions to accounting estimates are recognised in the period in which the estimate is revised if the revision affects only that period, or in the period of the revision and future periods if the revision affected current and future periods.

Judgements made by the trustees, in the application of these accounting policies that have significant effect on the financial statements and estimates with a significant risk of material adjustment in the next year are deemed to be in relation to the depreciation rates of tangible fixed assets and are discussed below.

In the view of the trustees, no assumptions concerning the future or estimation uncertainty affecting assets or liabilities at the balance sheet date are likely to result in a material adjustment to their carrying amounts in the next financial year.

Fixed assets and depreciation

Assets with a value in excess of £500 are capitalised. Depreciation is provided by the company to write off the cost less the estimated residual value of tangible fixed assets by equal instalments over their estimated useful economic lives as follows:

Freehold property	2% per annum
Re-modelling	3.33% per annum
Computers	25% per annum
Fixtures and fittings	5 - 10% per annum
Office equipment	25% per annum

The charitable company will perform annual impairment testing of assets on which depreciation is not provided in accordance with FRS 102 to determine whether residual disposal values of these assets in aggregate continue to exceed carrying value.

Fixed asset investments

Fixed asset investments are included in the balance sheet at market value and the gain or loss taken to the Statement of Financial Activities.

Stocks

Stocks are stated at the lower of cost and net realisable value.

Debtors

Debtors are stated at amounts receivable less any provision for uncertain recoverability.

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Deferred Payment Arrangements

Deferred Payment Arrangements are agreements to defer payment of the governors' liabilities on buildings projects under the Barchester Scheme.

Creditors

Creditors are stated at amounts payable.

Income:

Grants received and donations

All grants and donations are recorded as income when receivable. Where grants have conditions relating to future accounting periods they are treated as deferred income and recognised in those accounting periods. Other donations are recorded as income when receivable.

Grants received from the government on behalf of the Governors of schools are not recorded as income in these accounts as they are treated as being the income of the Governors of the schools. School Condition grants are no longer allocated to individual schools. This money is "paid to eligible bodies responsible for maintaining school buildings" who are the Governors. The grant is calculated using a formula largely based on the number of pupils in VA schools and the relative condition of each school building as assessed through a government survey. For the Board of Education, the allocation of funding and the prioritisation of projects is managed by and through DBE Services who involve an independent advisor to advise on the assessment of the bids. Funding is allocated on an agreed set of principles with the highest priority being keeping all schools open, warm and safe. The Board of Education has relatively little discretion in which projects to fund as this is determined by the state of the buildings.

Fees and Chaplaincy income

Fees received are recognised on an accruals basis in the period to which they relate.

Service level agreement income

From April 1999 schools have been invoiced for the support services provided by the Board of Education. Prior to this school support contributions were voluntary. Income is recognised on an accruals basis.

Arrangement fee income

Arrangement fees are payable on loans arranged for schools by the Board of Education. The arrangement fee is deferred over the life of the loan.

Investment income

Interest and dividends are recognised on an accruals basis.

Grant from Blackburn Diocesan Board of Finance

The annual grant is agreed in advance by the Blackburn Diocesan Board of Finance Limited as agreed by the Diocesan Synod. A grant of service is provided in addition to cash for the provision of finance.

Expenditure:

Grants payable

Grants payable are debited to expenditure when the charitable company has a constructive obligation to pay.

Barchester Scheme Building work

The Board of Education has traditionally been involved in helping voluntary aided church school governing bodies with projects involving major funding streams from the Department for Education (DfE). This entails paying contractors' and professional fee invoices on behalf of the governing body concerned, claiming the appropriate grant (90%) from the DfE, and collecting the governors' (and sometimes the local authority) contributions. The Board might also have agreed deferred payments arrangements to the governors (10%) to such projects. The gross turnover of such activity can amount to considerable sums, where a major new build is concerned.

The payment of such invoices is not accounted for as expenditure of the Board. Normally, the Board has received grant funding or the governors' contribution in advance, but where this is not the case it is shown as the making of short-term cash-flow deferred payments for the governing bodies concerned. These are repaid when the appropriate DfE grant and governors' contributions are received. Essentially the Board is acting as the agent of the appropriate governing body in these transactions.

The Board also acts as an agent with DfE arrangements for making 'voluntary aided school annual devolved formula capital grants' available to schools in advance of project spend or approval.

The Blackburn Diocesan Board of Education

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During 2023 the total expenditure was £11,445,729 (2022: £7,914,196). This expenditure has not been recognised in the financial statements of the company in line with FRS 102.23.4.

Cost of Activities

The cost of running each department of the Board is recognised on an accruals basis.

Governance and support costs

Governance costs consist of the audit fee and the cost of preparing the accounts.

Board of Education administration support costs are recognised on an accruals basis. Support costs are apportioned on a basis consistent with the use of resources.

Taxation

The Blackburn Diocesan Board of Education Limited (by guarantee) is considered to pass the tests set out in paragraph 1 Schedule 6 Finance Act 2010 and therefore it meets the definition of a charitable company for UK Corporation Tax purposes. Accordingly, the charity is potentially exempt from taxation in respect of income or capital gains received within categories covered by Chapter 3 Part II Corporation Tax Act 2010 or Section 256 of the Taxation of Chargeable Gains Act 1992, to the extent that such income or gains are applied exclusively to charitable purposes.

Pensions

The charitable company operates a defined contribution pension scheme. The assets of the scheme are held separately from those of the charitable company in independently administered funds. The amount charged in the statement of financial activities represents the contributions payable to the scheme in respect of the accounting period.

Some of the charitable company's staff are members of the Church Workers Pension Fund. The costs charged as expenditure represent the charitable company's contributions payable in respect of the accounting period, in accordance with FRS102.

Three employees are members of the Church of England Funded Pension Scheme. At 31 December 2023 the Board of Education is responsible for its own liabilities on this scheme and as such the liability is held on the balance sheet. There is no liability at 31.12.23

Fund accounting

Funds held by the charitable company are either:

Unrestricted general funds – these are funds which can be used in accordance with the charitable objects at the discretion of the trustees.

Designated funds – these are funds set aside by the trustees out of unrestricted general funds for specific future purposes or projects.

Restricted funds – these are funds that can only be used for particular restricted purposes within the objects of the charitable company. Restrictions arise when specified by the donor or when funds are raised for particular restricted purposes.

Endowment funds

This is capital, held in perpetuity to create income for specified purposes.

Further explanation of the nature and purpose of each fund is included in the notes to the financial statements.

Where a grant or donation is received to fund a capital item or where an asset is donated, if there is an obligation relating to the future use or retention of the relevant asset, the balance relating to that asset is held within restricted funds as long as that restriction exists. Where there is no such restriction, the income relating to the purchase of capital items is transferred to unrestricted funds in the Statement of Financial Activities.

Realised gains on schools

Realised gains on schools represent amounts which accrue to the Board of Education from the sale of church schools' land or buildings and which have been received in the period.

Unrealised gains / losses on investments

Unrealised gains and losses on investments represent the aggregate change in market value of investments since the previous balance sheet date.

Realised gains / losses on investments

Realised gains or losses on investments relate to actual gains or losses arising in the period on disposal.

The Blackburn Diocesan Board of Education

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2 Remuneration of trustees

No trustee has received remuneration from the Board of Education during the year (2022: £nil).

Expenses reimbursed to trustees during the year amounted to £2,098 (2022: £nil).

Staff numbers and costs

The average number of people employed during the year was 15 (2022: 18).

The average number of full-time equivalent persons employed by the charitable company during the year, analysed by category, was as follows:

	Number of employees	
	2023	2022
Director of Education		-
Deputy and Assistant Directors	1	1
Principal Schools Adviser	1	2
Schools Improvement Officers	1	1
Youth and Children's Chaplains/ Officers	5	6
Administration and Secretarial	7	8
	<hr/>	<hr/>
	15	18
	<hr/>	<hr/>

The aggregate payroll costs of these employees were as follows:

	2023	2022
	£000	£000
Wages and salaries	525	498
Social security costs	43	44
Other pension costs	74	97
	<hr/>	<hr/>
	642	639
	<hr/>	<hr/>

During the year no employee received a salary in excess of £60,000. In 2022 there was one employee in the salary band £60,000 to £70,000, with £nil pension contributions.

Remuneration of key management personnel

Key management personnel are deemed to be those having authority and responsibility, delegated to them by the trustees, for planning, directing and controlling the activities of the charitable company. During 2023 they were:

Chief Executive officer	Iain Parks
Deputy Director	Sally Schofield

Remuneration, pensions and expenses for these employees amounted to £102,409 (2022: £89,976).

Pension schemes

Group Personal Pension Plan

Blackburn Diocesan Board of Education (DBS) participates in the Pension Builder Scheme section of CWPF for lay staff. The Scheme is administered by the Church of England Pensions Board, which holds the assets of the scheme separately from those of the Employer and the other participating employers.

CWPF has two sections:

1. the Defined Benefits Scheme
2. the Pension Builder Scheme, which has two subsections;
 - a. a deferred annuity section known as Pension Builder Classic, and,
 - b. a cash balance section known as Pension Builder 2014.

Pension Builder Scheme

Both sections of the Pension Builder Scheme are classed as defined benefit schemes.

Pension Builder Classic provides a pension, accumulated from contributions paid and converted into a deferred annuity during employment based on terms set and reviewed by the Church of England Pensions Board from time to time. Discretionary increases may also be added, depending upon investment returns and other factors.

Pension Builder 2014 is a cash balance scheme that provides a lump sum which members use to provide benefits at retirement. Pension contributions are recorded in an account for each member. Discretionary bonuses may be added before retirement, depending on investment returns and other factors. The account, plus any bonuses declared is payable, unreduced, from age 65.

There is no sub-division of assets between employers in each section of the Pension Builder Scheme.

The scheme is considered to be a multi-employer scheme as described in Section 28 of FRS 102. This is because it is not possible to attribute the Pension Builder Scheme's assets and liabilities to specific employers and means that contributions are accounted for as if the Scheme were a defined contribution scheme. The pensions costs charged to the SoFA in the year are the contributions payable (2023: £6,529, 2022: £22,633).

A valuation of the Pension Builder Scheme is carried out once every three years. The most recent valuation was carried out as at 31 December 2019.

For the Pension Builder Classic section, the 2019 valuation revealed a deficit of £4.8m on the ongoing assumptions used. At the most recent annual review effective 1 January 2024, the Board chose to grant a discretionary bonus of 6.7% to both pensions not yet in payment and pensions in payment in respect of service prior to April 1997; and a bonus on pensions in payment in respect of post April 2006 service so that the pension increase was 5% (where usually it would be calculated based on inflation up to 2.5%). This followed improvements in the funding position over 2023. There is no requirement for deficit payments at the current time.

For the Pension Builder 2014 section, the 2019 valuation revealed a surplus of £5.5m on the ongoing assumptions used. There is no requirement for deficit payments at the current time.

The next valuation is due as at 31 December 2022. Calculations for this are currently under way.

The legal structure of the scheme is such that if another employer fails, Blackburn Diocesan Board of Education (DBS) could become responsible for paying a share of the failed employer's pension liabilities.

Church of England Funded Pension Scheme (CEFPS)

Blackburn Diocesan Board of Education participates in the Church of England Funded Pensions Scheme for stipendiary clergy, a defined benefit pension scheme. This scheme is administered by the Church of England Pensions Board, which holds the assets of the schemes separately from those of the Responsible Bodies.

Each participating Responsible Body in the scheme pays contributions at a common contribution rate applied to pensionable stipends.

The scheme is considered to be a multi-employer scheme as described in Section 28 of FRS 102. It is not possible to attribute the Scheme's assets and liabilities to each specific Responsible Body, and this means contributions are accounted for as if the Scheme were a defined contribution scheme. The pensions costs charged to the SoFA in the year are contributions payable towards benefits and expenses accrued in that year, which were £19,280 in 2023 (2022: £21,015), plus any figures arising from contributions in respect of the Scheme's deficit (see below). The 2021 valuation showed the Scheme to be fully funded and as such in 2023, following the valuation results being agreed, the deficit contributions paid were £0 (2022: £0).

A valuation of the Scheme is carried out once every three years. The most recent Scheme valuation completed was carried out at as 31 December 2021. The 2021 valuation revealed a surplus of £560m, based on assets of £2,720m and a funding target of £2,160m, assessed using the following assumptions:

- An average discount rate of 2.7% p.a.;
- RPI inflation of 3.6% p.a. (and pension increases consistent with this);
- CPIH inflation in line with RPI less 0.8% pre 2030 moving to RPI with no adjustment from 2030 onwards;
- Increase in pensionable stipends in line with CPIH;
- Mortality in accordance with 90% of the S3NA tables, with allowance for improvements in mortality rates from 2013 in line with the CMI2020 extended model with a long term annual rate of improvement of 1.5%, a smoothing parameter of 7, an initial addition to mortality improvements of 0.5% pa and an allowance for 2020 data of 0% (i.e. w2020 = 0%).

Following finalisation of the 31 December 2021 valuation, deficit contributions ceased with effect from 1 January 2023, since the Scheme was fully funded.

The deficit recovery contributions under the recovery plan in force at each 31 December were as follows:

	% of pensionable stipends
31 December 2021	7.1% payable from January 2021 to December 2022
31 December 2022	Nil
31 December 2023	Nil

An interim reduction to deficit contributions to 3.2% of pensionable stipends was made with effect from April 2022, and remained in place until December 2022.

For senior office holders, pensionable stipends are adjusted in the calculations by a multiple, as set out in the Scheme's rules.

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Section 28.11A of FRS 102 requires agreed deficit recovery payments to be recognised as a liability. However, as there are no agreed deficit recovery payments from 1 January 2023 onwards, the balance sheet liability as at 31 December 2023 is nil. The movement in the balance sheet liability over 2022 and over 2023 is set out in the table below.

	2023 £000	2022 £000
Balance sheet liability at 1 January	-	4
Deficit contribution paid	-	(3)
Interest cost (recognised in SoFA)	-	-
Remaining change to the balance sheet liability* (recognised in SoFA)	-	(1)
Balance sheet liability at 31 December	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>

* Comprises change in agreed deficit recovery plan and change in discount rate and assumptions between year-ends.

This liability represents the present value of the deficit contributions agreed as at the accounting date and has been valued using the following assumptions. No assumptions are needed for December 2023 as there are no agreed deficit recovery payments going forward. No price inflation assumption was needed for December 2021 since pensionable stipends for the remainder of the recovery plan were already known.

	December 2023 £000	December 2022 £000	December 2021 £000
Discount rate	n/a	n/a	0.0%
Price inflation	n/a	n/a	n/a
Increase to total pensionable payroll	n/a	n/a	-1.5%

The legal structure of the scheme is such that if another Responsible Body fails, Blackburn Diocesan Board of Education could become responsible for paying a share of that Responsible Body's pension liabilities.

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3 Analysis of Income

	2023 £000	2022 £000
Donations and legacies		
Donations	310	12
Diocesan Board of Finance General Funds	324	359
External organisations	3	3
	<u>637</u>	<u>374</u>
Income from charitable activities		
Fees and Chaplaincy income	-	9
Sale of publications and courses	141	140
Service level agreements	266	279
Rent	77	85
	<u>484</u>	<u>513</u>
Other trading activities		
DBE Services Fees	2	2
Investment income		
DBE Services gift-aid donation (17% owned)	154	144
Dividends	376	147
Interest	33	6
	<u>563</u>	<u>297</u>

4 Fund Raising Costs

	Activities undertaken directly £000	Grant funding of activities £000	Support costs £000	Total 2023 £000	Total 2022 £000
Fundraising trading	2	-	-	2	2
Total Fund-Raising Costs	<u>2</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>2</u>	<u>2</u>

5 Charitable Activities

Activity or Programme	Activities undertaken directly £000	Grant funding of activities £000	Support costs £000	Total 2023 £000	Total 2022 £000
Cost of charitable activities:					
<i>School and governor support</i>	422	-	288	710	664
<i>Higher and further education</i>	60	(1)	41	100	134
<i>Children's work</i>	65	1	45	111	110
<i>Youth work</i>	98	4	67	169	158
<i>Central - designated</i>	-	48	-	48	16
<i>School buildings support</i>	67	139	46	252	88
Charitable activities subtotal	<u>712</u>	<u>191</u>	<u>487</u>	<u>1,390</u>	<u>1,170</u>

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6 Net expenditure for the year

	2023 £000	2022 £000
These are stated after charging: Auditors remuneration	19	13
Total	19	13

7 Realised gains on schools

The Church of England Primary School at Out Rawcliffe was closed in July 2013 and the Board is currently in the process of establishing the exact terms regarding closure and use of the sale proceeds of the original Trust Deed. If this is not available, the Board will follow due process in establishing how the proceeds from the sale of the school should be used or distributed.

8 Tangible fixed assets

	Buildings £000	Fixtures, fittings and other equipment £000	Total £000
Cost			
At beginning of year	625	87	712
Additions	-	6	6
Disposals	-	-	-
At end of year	625	93	718
Depreciation			
At beginning of year	114	70	184
Charge for year	18	8	26
Elim on disposal	-	-	-
At end of year	132	78	210
Net book value			
At 31 December 2023	493	15	508
At 31 December 2022	511	17	528

9 Investments

	Investment Fund £000	Fixed interest securities fund £000	Property Fund £000	Total UK investments £000
Unlisted securities Central Board of Finance Church of England				
Market valuation				
At 31 December 2022	1,326	180	664	2,170
Increase/(Decrease) in market value	125	10	(31)	104
At 31 December 2023	1,451	190	633	2,274
Historic cost	1,145	224	700	2,069

Included within Total UK Investments is a 17% holding in DBE Services Limited, a non-listed company and a related party. The Board of Education holds 12 shares in DBE Services Limited valued at £12 (2022: £12).

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10 Debtors

	2023 £000	2022 £000
<i>Amounts receivable within one year</i>		
Deferred payments on school building projects	1,436	1,414
Deferred Payment Arrangements	6	6
Amount owed from related party (Cidari)	40	40
Other debtors	124	307
Loans	1	1
Prepayments	6	16
Accrued income	125	42
Amounts due from Diocesan Board of Finance	52	75
Amounts due from DBE Services Ltd	2	-
Amounts due from Whalley Abbey	1	-
	<hr/>	<hr/>
Debtors: amounts receivable within one year	1,793	1,901
	<hr/> <hr/>	<hr/> <hr/>
<i>Amounts receivable after more than one year</i>		
Deferred Payment Arrangements	133	140
Loans	10	11
Amount owed from related party (Cidari)	180	220
	<hr/>	<hr/>
Debtors: amounts receivable after more than one year	323	371
	<hr/> <hr/>	<hr/> <hr/>

	Instalments due in one year		Instalments payable due in two and five years		Instalments due in five years or more		Total	
	2023 £000	2022 £000	2023 £000	2022 £000	2023 £000	2022 £000	2023 £000	2022 £000
Deferred Payment Arrangements	6	6	21	74	112	66	139	146
Loans	1	1	4	4	6	7	11	12
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
Total	7	7	25	78	118	73	150	158
	<hr/> <hr/>	<hr/> <hr/>	<hr/> <hr/>	<hr/> <hr/>	<hr/> <hr/>	<hr/> <hr/>	<hr/> <hr/>	<hr/> <hr/>

11 Deposits and cash at bank and in hand

	2023 £000	2022 £000
Bank (Current Account and Deposits)	3,109	8,499
Deposits with Central Board of Finance Church of England	7,299	3,994
	<hr/>	<hr/>
	10,408	12,493
	<hr/> <hr/>	<hr/> <hr/>

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12 Creditors

	2023 £000	2022 £000
<i>Amounts falling due within one year</i>		
Receipts in advance on behalf of boards of school governors	2,917	3,376
Monies held on behalf of schools in relation to Devolved Formula Capital (DFC)	3,094	3,946
Monies held on behalf of schools in relation to SCA Funding	1,896	2,187
Monies held on behalf of schools in relation to PSDS Funding	583	1,155
Other creditors	435	845
Accruals	44	13
Deferred income	64	68
	<u>9,033</u>	<u>11,590</u>
<i>Amounts falling due after more than one year</i>		
Education trust funds	139	135
Defined benefit pension liability	-	-
	<u>139</u>	<u>135</u>
<i>Deferred Income:</i>		
At beginning of year	68	
Recognised in year	(68)	
Deferred income 2023	63	
	<u>63</u>	
At end of year	<u>63</u>	

Deferred income is recognised as follows:

	Recognised in one year		Recognisable between two and five years		Recognisable after five years		Total	
	2023	2022	2023	2022	2023	2022	2023	2022
	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000
Deferred income	63	68	-	-	-	-	63	68
	<u>63</u>	<u>68</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>63</u>	<u>68</u>

13 Funds

	Unrestricted				Total £000
	General fund	Designated fund	Restricted fund	Endowment fund	
	£000	£000	£000	£000	
At beginning of year	2,001	3,109	544	84	5,738
Surplus/(deficit) of income over expenditure in the year	100	(16)	210	-	294
Investment gains in the year	94	-	-	8	102
Transfers between funds	139	(103)	(36)	-	-
At end of year	<u>2,334</u>	<u>2,990</u>	<u>718</u>	<u>92</u>	<u>6,134</u>

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The General Fund consists of those amounts available for the general purposes of the charitable company.

	At 1 January 2023 £000	Income £000	Expenditure £000	Net investment gains, losses and transfers £000	At 31 December 2023 £000
Designated funds					
Sponsoring academies	365	-	-	-	365
Elmslie Fund	451	21	(10)	-	462
New Opportunity Fund	345	15	(33)	-	327
Church Workers Pension Deficit	53	-	-	-	53
Admissions & Appeals	167	-	-	(41)	126
Appointments	59	-	-	(10)	49
Vision 2026	438	-	(9)	-	429
Statutory Governance	126	-	-	(25)	101
Schools causing concern	194	-	-	-	194
Digital Resources	111	-	-	(27)	84
Underwriting DBF grant	700	-	-	-	700
Youth Development	100	-	-	-	100
	<u>3,109</u>	<u>36</u>	<u>(52)</u>	<u>(103)</u>	<u>2,990</u>
Restricted funds					
Residential Income Fund	40	4	-	-	44
Education Trust Funds	35	299	-	29	363
Common Fund	389	11	(131)	12	281
Other restricted funds	80	35	(8)	(77)	30
	<u>544</u>	<u>349</u>	<u>(139)</u>	<u>(36)</u>	<u>718</u>
Endowment funds					
Residential Endowment Fund	84	-	-	8	92

The specific purposes for which the designated and restricted funds are to be applied is as follows:

The Youth Development fund - for the support of chaplaincy work.

The Academies fund - to support the sponsoring of academies.

The Elmslie fund is used for the work of the youth chaplain at Blackpool St George CE School.

The New Opportunity Fund - for school buildings support.

The Residential Endowment and Income Fund are used to support Youth Work activities.

The Common Fund was set up by schools make voluntary donations to support capital work in schools.

Church workers pension deficit – designated for use against deficits on the defined benefit pension scheme for some employed staff.

Admissions, Appointments and Appeals – designated to cover the cost of statutory expenditure for where there is no direct source of income.

Educational Trust Fund – the revaluation reserve on funds held in creditors awaiting final decision on ownership of the investment.

Vision 2026 – a designated fund has been created to enable churches and schools to fund initiatives and projects that seek to deliver the objectives of the diocese vision 2026.

Statutory Governance – this fund is to be used to underwrite the Board of Education's statutory duties for governance in schools.

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Schools causing concern – schools falling into difficulty often require financial support and assistance this fund will enable the diocese to work in partnership with local authorities to support schools as they seek to improve.

Digital Resources – for the production of digital resources for the Board of Education and staffing to meet the target of significantly increasing digital reach.

DBF Grant – for the underwriting of the DBF Grant.

14 Share capital

The charitable company is limited by guarantee, registered in England and does not have authorised or allotted share capital. The liability of each member of the Board may not exceed £1.

15 Analysis of net assets between funds

	Tangible fixed assets £000	Investments £000	Net current assets £000	Creditors falling due after more than one year £000	Total £000
Unrestricted Funds	508	2,145	2,671	-	5,324
Restricted Fund (restricted)	-	37	820	(139)	718
Endowment fund (restricted)	-	92	-	-	92
	<u>508</u>	<u>2,274</u>	<u>3,491</u>	<u>(139)</u>	<u>6,134</u>

16 Commitments

There were no commitments in 2023.

17 Related party transactions

The company is related to Blackburn Diocesan Board of Finance Ltd who provides significant funding by way of a grant. At the year-end the balance due to this company was £1,700 (2022: £170,070). Grants received in the year from this company amounted to £324,061 (2022: £359,360) and grants paid to this company amounted to £19,274 (2022: £9,375). Recharges in the year were £27,867 (2022: £24,314).

The company is related to DBE Services Ltd by virtue of owning 17% of the share capital. There was £2,400 due from DBE Services Ltd (2022 £nil) at the year end and recharges in the year were £9,018 (2022: £11,009).

The company is related to Cidari Multi-Academy Trust which was set up by both the DBE and DBF to look after Church of England schools converting to academies within the diocese. As at 31 December 2023 £219,608 (2022: £259,608) was due from this company and recharges in the year were £10,006 (2022: £10,492).

18 Financial instruments

	2023 £000	2022 £000
Financial assets measured at fair value	<u>2,274</u>	<u>2,170</u>
Financial assets measured at amortised cost	<u>12,524</u>	<u>15,360</u>
Financial liabilities measured at amortised cost	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>
Financial liabilities measured at fair value	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>

19 Prior year comparative Statement of Financial Activities

	Unrestricted				2022
	General Fund £000	Designated Fund £000	Restricted Funds £000	Endowment Funds £000	Total £000
Income and endowments from:					
Donations and legacies	362	-	12	-	374
Charitable activities	490	-	23	-	513
Other trading activities	2	-	-	-	2
Investments	282	11	4	-	297
Total	1,136	11	39	-	1,186
Expenditure on:					
Raising funds	2	-	-	-	2
Charitable activities	1,139	16	15	-	1,170
Total	1,141	16	15	-	1,172
Net income/(expenditure) before Investment gains	(5)	(5)	24	-	14
Net gains/(losses) on investments	(277)	-	(5)	(11)	(293)
Net income/(expenditure)	(282)	(5)	19	(11)	(279)
Transfer between funds	(536)	535	1	-	-
Actuarial (losses) on defined benefit pension schemes	1	-	-	-	1
Net movement in funds	(817)	530	20	(11)	(278)
Total funds brought forward	2,818	2,579	524	95	6,016
Total funds carried forward	2,001	3,109	544	84	5,738

20 Prior year Fund Raising Costs

	Activities undertaken directly £000	Grant funding of activities £000	Support costs £000	Total 2022 £000	Total 2021 £000
Fundraising trading	2	-	-	2	2
Total Fund-Raising Costs	2	-	-	2	2

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21 Prior year Charitable Activities

Activity or Programme	Activities undertaken directly £000	Grant funding of activities £000	Support costs £000	Total 2022 £000	Total 2021 £000
Cost of charitable activities:					
<i>School and governor support</i>	443	-	221	664	482
<i>Higher and further education</i>	89	1	44	134	135
<i>Children's work</i>	72	2	36	110	80
<i>Youth work</i>	103	4	51	158	206
<i>Central - designated</i>	7	9	-	16	-
<i>School buildings support</i>	64	-	24	88	240
Charitable activities subtotal	778	16	376	1,170	1,143

22 Prior year Funds

	Unrestricted				Total £000
	General fund £000	Designated fund £000	Restricted fund £000	Endowment fund £000	
At beginning of year	2,818	2,579	524	95	6,016
Surplus/(deficit) of income over expenditure in the year	(5)	(5)	24	-	14
Investment gains in the year	(277)	-	(5)	(11)	(293)
Transfers between funds	(536)	535	1	-	-
Actuarial loss on pension scheme	1	-	-	-	1
At end of year	2,001	3,109	544	84	5,738

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The General Fund consists of those amounts available for the general purposes of the charitable company.

	At 1 January 2022 £000	Income £000	Expenditure £000	Net investment gains, losses and transfers £000	At 31 December 2022 £000
Designated funds					
Sponsoring academies	365	-	-	-	365
Elmslie Fund	454	6	(9)	-	451
New Opportunity Fund	347	5	(7)	-	345
Church Workers Pension Deficit	53	-	-	-	53
Admissions & Appeals	206	-	-	(39)	167
Appointments & Appeals	70	-	-	(11)	59
Vision 2026	608	-	-	(170)	438
Statutory Governance	150	-	-	(24)	126
Schools causing concern	194	-	-	-	194
Digital Resources	132	-	-	(21)	111
Underwriting DBF grant	-	-	-	700	700
Youth Development	-	-	-	100	100
	<u>2,579</u>	<u>11</u>	<u>(16)</u>	<u>535</u>	<u>3,109</u>
Restricted funds					
Residential Income Fund	38	4	-	(2)	40
Education Trust Funds	49	-	-	(14)	35
Common Fund	373	12	-	4	389
Other restricted funds	64	23	(15)	8	80
	<u>524</u>	<u>39</u>	<u>(15)</u>	<u>(4)</u>	<u>544</u>
Endowment funds					
Residential Endowment Fund	95	-	-	(11)	84

23 Prior year Analysis of net assets between funds

	Tangible fixed assets £000	Investments £000	Net current assets £000	Creditors falling due after more than one year £000	Total £000
Unrestricted Funds	528	2,051	2,531	-	5,110
Restricted Fund (restricted)	-	35	644	(135)	544
Endowment fund (restricted)	-	84	-	-	84
	<u>528</u>	<u>2,170</u>	<u>3,175</u>	<u>(135)</u>	<u>5,738</u>