



**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 2024**

# The Blackburn Diocesan Board of Education

Annual Report and Financial Statements  
For the year ended 31 December 2024

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## Contents

VISION STATEMENT .....	3
LEGAL OBJECTS .....	3
STRATEGIC REPORT.....	3
STRATEGIC AIMS AND OBJECTIVES FOR THE YEAR.....	3
ACTIVITIES AND PERFORMANCE.....	15
FINANCE REVIEW .....	15
PRINCIPLE RISKS AND UNCERTAINTIES .....	17
STRUCTURE GOVERNANCE AND MANAGEMENT.....	18
TRUSTEES RESPONSIBILITIES .....	19
STATEMENT OF DISCLOSURE TO THE AUDITORS.....	19
APPOINTMENT OF AUDITOR.....	19
ADMINISTRATIVE DETAIL.....	20
INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT TO THE MEMBERS OF THE BLACKBURN DIOCESAN BOARD OF EDUCATION .....	22
STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES .....	25
INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT .....	26
BALANCE SHEET .....	27
CASH FLOW STATEMENT .....	28
NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS .....	29

# The Blackburn Diocesan Board of Education

Annual Report and Financial Statements  
For the year ended 31 December 2024

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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.

**The Blackburn Diocesan Board of Education**

Annual Report and Financial Statements  
For the year ended 31 December 2024

<b>Prayer for the work of the Board</b>	
<b>Objectives</b>	<b>DBE Actions</b>
Encouraging a 'pray first culture' at diocesan and parish level to uphold children and young people and the specific ministries working with them	Prayer continues to be visible and intentional. Meetings and training sessions start and end with prayer.
Writing prayers for the young to be used in intercessions, services and events	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.
Encourage dedicated time and energy to the pursuit of hearing God's heart and waiting on Him	Associate Advisers' meetings begin with a prayer or a Reflection.
Encouraging prayer sponsors in parishes where congregation members pray directly for individual children and young people	Advisers' Autumn Term Visits ask Headteachers for specific prayer requests and advisers pray regularly for their schools.
Equipping young people with the confidence to pray	<p>The weekly Collective Worship Video for Primary Schools Exploring God's Big Story has increased the number of creative ways to pray used in each series. Therefore, modelling good practice.</p> <p>The launch of the Diocesan Year of Prayer took place in November 2024. Over 22,000 primary school children zoomed in to join Bishop Philip and pray together.</p> <p>Each Primary school has a Year of Prayer poster and classroom resources. Schools are being encouraged to all pray the same prayer or pray for the same topic during the same week throughout the year.</p> <p>New courses, (<i>e.g. Creative and Inspirational Prayer</i>) have been introduced to BoE CPD offer to further develop teacher skills to enhance the prayer life of their schools. The 'Living Well Together: Church, School, and Community Links' workshop encourages Headteachers and Clergy to pray for the school and the church respectively.</p> <p>The half termly online '<i>Pressing the Pause Button: Prayer and Reflection to Renew Our Spirits</i>' introduced this year provides HTs and Senior Leaders with the opportunity to gather for fellowship and spiritual renewal through prayer.</p> <p>Each session of the New HTs' and DHTs' Induction Programme starts with a Reflection and emphasizes the importance of 'Prayer' in the faith journey of the Church school leader.</p> <p>All Governor training begins with prayer. The Diocesan Governor Prayer will be used in all workshops going forward.</p> <p>Members of the BoE continue to meet each Monday morning to pray for our schools, churches, and the work of the BoE.</p>

**The Blackburn Diocesan Board of Education**

Annual Report and Financial Statements  
For the year ended 31 December 2024

<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Children and Youth</b></p>	
<p>Overall objectives</p>	<p><b>To see growth of 11–17-year-olds (worshipping community statistics) of 1030 by 2026</b>  <b>To see 25% growth in new disciples between the ages of 5-11 years (worshipping community statistics)</b>  <b>To see 50% increase in toddler groups that share the gospel</b>  <b>To see double the number of boys in worshipping communities</b></p>
<p>Response</p>	<p>The Board of Education set ambitious targets for growth among children and young people in our worshipping communities, including specific aims for 11–17-year-olds, new disciples aged 5–11, toddler groups sharing the gospel, and increasing the number of boys in our congregations. Achieving and measuring progress towards these targets has been challenging, primarily because consistent data collection processes were not in place at the outset, and the impact of COVID-19 led to a significant fall in church attendance from which we are only now recovering. Most of our robust data is from the last two years, limiting our ability to track longer-term trends and progress.</p> <p>Despite these challenges, recent data collection using the Blackburn Diocese Data Collection form has enabled us to begin more accurate analysis. While initial figures between 2023 and 2024 indicate a slight reduction in overall attendance among children and young people, this is likely affected by incomplete data returns (97% in 2023 vs. 88% in 2024). Once all returns are gathered and inconsistencies addressed, we anticipate a clearer and more consistent picture will emerge. Notably, there is evidence of positive shifts, such as growth in the high school age group and significant percentage increases in attendance in several parishes, especially those starting from a low base. These small but meaningful increases provide a strong foundation for future growth.</p> <p>In response to the targets, the Board has taken substantial action:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Expanded training for clergy, lay ministers, and volunteers, including specific focus on making worship more accessible to children and young people, and on retaining confirmation candidates.</li> <li>• Supported parishes in launching or revitalising youth groups and toddler groups that share the gospel, with new resources and training widely accessed.</li> <li>• Delivered targeted initiatives to engage boys and promote sports and activity-based ministries.</li> <li>• Launched the 'Ignite' project, which aims to employ 30 children's and youth leaders</li> </ul>

**The Blackburn Diocesan Board of Education**

Annual Report and Financial Statements  
For the year ended 31 December 2024

	<p>across the diocese, with the goal of more than doubling the number of children and young people in our churches.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Developed and promoted digital content and new resources to support faith development and leader training.</li> <li>• Continued to run well-attended events, camps, and family activities that encourage faith exploration and community building among young people.</li> </ul> <p>While the set numerical targets have not yet been fully achieved, the groundwork laid in the past two years—through improved data collection, targeted training, new resources, and innovative projects—demonstrates clear movement towards our aims. In 2025 and 2026 the objectives will be focused and reported on in the areas set out below the narrative.</p>
<p><b>Key Objectives to be achieved by Dec 2024</b></p>	<p><b>Actions</b></p>
<p><b><i>Making Disciples</i></b> We will support the making disciples team to resource and equip local churches to:</p>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Make more Sunday services child/youth-friendly</li> </ul>	<p>Training has been delivered to Authorised Lay Ministry (ALM) participants choosing the Worship elective on All Age Worship which was delivered by the children and youth team. Participants on the Children’s Work elective received a training session on ‘Children and Worship’ which again was well attended this year.</p> <p>The children and youth advisers have continued to deliver training to curates in the diocese as part of IME2 training, focusing on the discipleship of children and young people. This training has 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>Bespoke training on All Age Worship was delivered in Preesall by the Children’s Work Adviser in partnership with the Vocations team.</p> <p>Launchpad and Youthscape Essentials, continue 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 team 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>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Improve preparation and follow-up for confirmation, retaining confirmation candidates as part of the church’s worshipping community</li> </ul>	<p>The ‘how to follow up confirmation’ crib sheet continues to be used by the Parish Renewal team as well as being recommended by youth and children’s team. This has been a valuable resource given the conversations that have taken place in previous years.</p>

**The Blackburn Diocesan Board of Education**

Annual Report and Financial Statements  
For the year ended 31 December 2024

	<p>The main confirmation resources that are used by parishes are still available in the reference library in Clayton House should clergy or youth leader wish to explore new or alternative confirmation preparation resources.</p> <p>Several churches have been supported in the process of exploring Admission to Holy Communion before Confirmation and have now been authorised by the Diocesan Bishop.</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Equip 50 parishes to set up small youth groups that develop faith</li> </ul>	<p>Launchpad continues 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 in 3 locations 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 2024 the Youth Leader Conference took place in Clitheroe and was well attended. This offered support, input and encouragement to youth leaders from across the diocese. Inputs included:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-connection to conversations of faith with young people,</li> <li>-how to support young people with additional needs,</li> <li>-the place of a hybrid approach,</li> </ul> <p>amongst other topics of input. We also introduced the new Alpha Youth Course that has been launched at the end of 2024 and is being run in many youth groups and churches in the Diocese in early 2025.</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Support parishes in providing events and experiences that encourage children and young people in their faith</li> </ul>	<p>In April 2024 the children and youth team ran the annual youth event 'Abide: As You Are', which saw further growth in the number of young people and their youth leaders attending from across Lancashire.</p> <p>The Children's team supported the Schools Ventures Residential for Chorley Primary schools at Borwick Hall in Lancaster. 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>In the summer, the children's team supported Whalley Abbey in offering a Family Activity Day which offered families an opportunity to explore the Abbey and participate in activities based on the Parable of the Lost Sheep.</p> <p>The youth team supported the Borwick Hall, 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>After the return of national festivals in 2022, we continued to signpost 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"> <li>• 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"> <li>○ Youtube content</li> <li>○ Podcasts</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	<p>Considerable thought has gone into Social Media communications and the Team have worked together with the Digital Team to streamline what is offered.</p> <p>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</p>

**The Blackburn Diocesan Board of Education**

Annual Report and Financial Statements  
For the year ended 31 December 2024

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>o Social media interactive resources</li> </ul>	<p>Christian youth work community to connect, be encouraged and inspired.</p> <p>Resolute – the Minster Model initiative in Lancaster and surrounding areas that draws in over 100 young people to stand alone events is still supported by the Youth Team.</p> <p>2024 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 titled '30 Things to Pray Before You're Four and a Half' which is available to all as a download via the resources of the website.</p> <p>Following conferences and events we have continued to upload suitable content to the Board of Education's YouTube account for support and training purposes.</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Produce more parish resources for work with children and young people</li> </ul>	<p>Pick n Mix, our seasonal youth ministry resource is in the gradual process of being rewritten and developed into 'app style' content. This year we have added brand new content around the themes of Stewardship working in partnership with the Making Disciples Team.</p> <p>The widely used 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.</p> <p>Weekly@ Summer (Back to the Garden) was created to help children to explore themes around stewardship and looking after all God's creations.</p> <p>The collection of resources for children with additional needs has expanded in collaboration with Additional Needs Specialist, Lynn McCann. We now have social (why) stories for Christmas and Easter and widgets which can be used alongside the materials.</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Create new or renewed toddler groups that share the gospel as part of their work</li> </ul>	<p>A Toddler Group Ministry Training session was delivered in Summer 2024 which formed part of the Children's Ministry Elective of the ALM Course but could also be accessed by anyone who wished to attend.</p> <p>The Children's Work Adviser continued to support the National Growing Faith Team to provide a national online network for Toddler Group leaders.</p> <p>Through continued engagement with the National Toddler Group Month of Prayer, the Children's Adviser was involved in the preparation of resources and planning for the national launch which took place online. Also, during the National Toddler Group Month of Prayer, the Children's Adviser and colleague from the Digital Resources Team did a tour of toddler groups around the diocese to celebrate and raise the profile of this ministry which was extremely well received.</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Engage with boy friendly ministry</li> </ul>	<p>A training session on how we make our Children's Ministry appealing for boys was delivered in Summer 2024 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 participants found the session very useful.</p> <p>An active / sports ministry 'Games Day' training event was offered to children and youth workers in October</p>

**The Blackburn Diocesan Board of Education**

Annual Report and Financial Statements  
For the year ended 31 December 2024

	<p>2024 which was delivered by Claire from Ambassadors football.</p> <p>KICK supported Abide by running a Dance space and their regional lead joined the event team, which gave parishes the chance to see how sports ministry could run in a local parish context as well as explore what KICK could look like in their parishes. To develop this further, for 2025 both KICK and Ambassadors Football have been approached to be involved in the event.</p>
<p><b>Being Witnesses</b> We will support the being witnesses team to resource and equip local churches to:</p>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Plant 50 local congregations which reach out to families and young people</li> </ul>	<p>Officers connect with the Being Witnesses team as necessary and planting new congregations work continues to be ongoing – as and when support is sought.</p> <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>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Start 50 new child/youth-friendly worshipping communities (or congregations) including services in school</li> </ul>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Develop 50 new sports/active ministry activities that meet regularly</li> </ul>	
<p><b>Growing Leaders</b> 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"> <li>Creating a culture of vocational discernment so that many more can hear a call to work with the young (DoV)</li> </ul>	<p>All sessions of the Children's Ministry ALM electives were successfully delivered in 2024. The Children's Work Adviser also delivered a session on All Age Worship for the Worship Leading elective.</p> <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> <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 &amp; Young People'.</p> <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. Dr Krish Kandiah OBE, visited the diocese twice in 2024 and offered EDJ training for anyone in parish roles, including those involved in children and youth ministry.</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</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>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)</li> </ul>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Ensuring that everyone who works with children and young people knows their safeguarding responsibilities (in partnership with DSO)</li> </ul>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Liturgically commissioning new and existing leaders and helpers, at Confirmation Services where possible</li> </ul>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Holding a Service of Celebration and Re-commissioning for those who minister to the young</li> </ul>	

**The Blackburn Diocesan Board of Education**

Annual Report and Financial Statements  
For the year ended 31 December 2024

	<p>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> <p>In the Autumn of 2024, the Board of Education leadership team participated in Vocations Training to familiarise themselves with the vocational discernment process and how this is relevant to their roles.</p>
<p>To develop and implement a project that is designed to grow work with 11-17 years.</p>	<p>The development of a new children's and youth strategy to support growth of under 18's ministry has been developed and a successful application to the national church for funding saw the 'Ignite' project begin to take shape in the Autumn of 2024 with the appointment of the Project Manager. The project seeks to employ 30 Children and / or Youth Leaders in parishes across the diocese with the aim of more than doubling the number of children and young people in churches.</p> <p>The Ignite Project has appointed two members of staff and 2025 will see the momentum grow.</p> <p>Also see Launchpad and Youthscape Essentials notes above.</p>

<b>Schools</b>	
<b>Aspiration for schools by Dec 2024</b>	<b>Actions of the DBE</b>
<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 DBE vision in all training materials and emphasis is placed on the Biblical root of the vision.</p> <p>Strong emphasis on the creation and living out of a theologically rooted vision runs through all induction training materials.</p> <p>The 'Be Prepared for SIAMS and Self Evaluation' courses took place each term via zoom and face to face and were very well attended. Bespoke training has been delivered in both Primary and High schools across the Diocese.</p> <p>A comprehensive CPD Programme for both Primary and High schools have been accessed by most schools in the Diocese.</p> <p>Associate advisers continue with pastoral calls and SLA visits</p> <p>The number of schools inspected for SIAMS in 2024 was 34. Every school had an outcome of J1 and was found to be living up to its foundation as a church school. The theologically rooted Christian vision was found to be a strength in every school.</p> <p>Consultancy visits to high schools including tailored resources, Chaplaincy and Religious Education networks took place through the year.</p> <p>Governor CPD stresses the importance of governors living out the school and diocesan Vision in fulfilling their roles.</p>

# The Blackburn Diocesan Board of Education

Annual Report and Financial Statements  
For the year ended 31 December 2024

<p>Embody a vision shaped by the personal faith and commitment of their leaders</p>	<p>Headteachers Conference took place at the Dunkenhalgh Hotel Clayton– le- Moors. Attendance was high and all 3 Bishops were present. Headteacher meetings continued via zoom and face to face as in previous years. These have been well attended.</p> <p>A Deputy Headteacher and Headteacher induction programme has taken place including input on Christian vision and courageous Christian leadership, Governance and SIAMS</p> <p>All ECT induction training has been well attended</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> <p>Active engagement with National Networks, and Local Networks continues (NASACRE, CEFEL, Local SACRE) to support leaders at all levels on their faith journeys.</p>
<p>To embody a vision rooted in the bible</p>	<p>The Head Teachers Conference launched the foundation scripture for the year. All material produced for primary schools Collective Worship and RE are clearly rooted in scripture.</p> <p>All courses refer to scripture and emphasise that what drives our work is underpinned by biblical text with Jesus as role model. Primary School Collective Worship - Worship Together 'God's Big Story' video content is focused on a different Bible story each week. The video highlights where the story can be found in the Bible and how it all connects to God's Big Story.</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>Worship together across the Diocese video resources are continuing to be produced for key events in the church year.</p> <p>Schools' resources for the Bishops' Harvest Appeal 2024 was produced.</p> <p>The 2024 Year 6 Leavers service at the cathedral were well attended and we were delighted that Chip Kendal led the worship alongside Bishop Philip.</p> <p>New resources have been shared with schools via Head Teachers meetings and emails. DBE Team members have frequently been invited to lead celebration services in schools.</p> <p>The Enhancing Children's Spirituality course supports teachers to offer a wide range of opportunities to support children's spiritual development by focusing on a range of spiritual styles and preferences, (e.g. Word, Emotion, Action, Symbol.)</p>
<p>Ensure Religious Education is at the heart of the curriculum and is a core subject</p>	<p>Our Questful RE syllabus website now has over 3000 users. Community schools in Blackburn with Darwen are all engaged and working well with the DBE team. The number of primary schools in Chester and Carlisle Dioceses using Questful has increased.</p> <p>Syllabus units have been updated and bespoke films produced.</p> <p>RE coordinator Cluster meetings continued throughout 2024 via zoom and face to face</p>

**The Blackburn Diocesan Board of Education**

Annual Report and Financial Statements  
For the year ended 31 December 2024

	<p>The Primary RE Coordinators conference took place at the Dunkenhalgh Hotel. Lat Blaylock was the speaker.</p> <p>SIAMS Inspection reports indicate that RE in schools is challenging and creative. It is rigorous and of high quality.</p> <p>Illuminating Pathways has been moved to a new website along with the guiding light worship resources. This makes resources accessible to all. 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 equality, diversity and justice has continued.</p> <p>A suite of courses was designed, revised, and delivered centrally and in schools</p> <p>In 2024 the second EDJ conference was delivered twice attended by over 120 schools. Keynote speakers included Professor Paul Miller and Dr Krish Kandiah.</p>
<p>Develop a broad community open to the world in which we live, which seeks to change it for the better</p>	<p>Multicultural Christianity resources in the RE syllabus have significantly increased and resources for the teaching about World Faiths and World views has continued to grow.</p> <p>Many of our Primary schools have received positive publicity due to their social action. Schools are encouraged to take part in the Global Neighbours and Arch-Bishop Award initiatives.</p> <p>All Equity, Diversity, and Justice courses emphasize the need for all adults and children to become courageous advocates who stand up for what is right and what is just to change the world. They also stress the biblical directive underpinning EDJ work.</p>
<p>Celebrate success and treat failure with compassion</p>	<p>Engagement with schools using social media has increased, and being regularly used to praise success.</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> <p>Schools celebrate and share examples of best practice by delivering inputs at BoE workshops.</p>
<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>	<p>Worship materials and RE Curriculum content support schools in fulfilling these points</p>
<p>Be strong and sustainable presences in their community with a structure that best serves the needs of the children and young people</p>	<p>Recognition given to schools achieving The Christian Aid Global Neighbours Award and for schools with ABYT Schemes</p>
<p>Seek to work in collaboration with churches in delivering <i>Vision 2026</i></p>	<p>The Headteachers and Incumbents conference held in March 2024 focused on the role of headteacher and incumbent a spiritual leaders transforming and supporting the community.</p> <p>A suite of primary and secondary conferences and training continues to encourage connection and worship and work together between churches and schools.</p>

# The Blackburn Diocesan Board of Education

Annual Report and Financial Statements  
For the year ended 31 December 2024

	The DBF Choir Church initiative has also created better connections between churches and schools across the diocese.
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<b>School Buildings</b>	
Ensure that school buildings are developed and maintained to best meet the needs of pupils	The School Condition Allocation (SCA) program has been successfully managed this year in collaboration with DBE Services. However, escalating expenses throughout the year have limited the scope of projects that could be implemented. Despite these challenges, a comprehensive capital works plan was developed and executed to address school requirements. Consistent with previous years, the demand for improvements exceeded the available funding by approximately threefold.
Seek opportunities for expansion of existing church schools or new church school provision	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.
Ensure the correct treatment of school assets when schools close or relocate	<p>The Diocesan Board of Education (DBE) is actively managing several ongoing cases related to church school properties, with a particular focus on addressing historical inaccuracies in land treatment. This area represents a significant workload for the DBE, as they strive to rectify past errors and establish clear ownership records.</p> <p>In an effort to solidify legal ownership, the DBE has initiated the process of registering multiple titles with the Land Registry for various school properties. This step is crucial in ensuring that the ownership of church school land is properly documented and legally recognised.</p> <p>Concurrently, the DBE is conducting extensive research into the trusts and land associated with church schools. This comprehensive investigation aims to create a complete and accurate picture of the school estate, including precise details of land ownership. This thorough approach will help clarify any ambiguities and provide a solid foundation for future management of church school properties.</p>
<b>Chaplaincy</b>	
<b>Key Objectives for 2024</b>	<b>Actions of the DBE</b>
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.	An ordained full time chaplain was appointed to the University of Cumbria in the summer 2024, the appointment is one day a week supporting The Priory Church Lancaster. She has made a good start and is re-establishing the ministry that had dwindled over the gap in service and pandemic.
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	The role of Chaplain at Lancaster University was appointed to in September 2024. The role has been made part time as an interim arrangement. The post holder is ordained and also a part time incumbent. He has quickly established a ministry amongst students and holds a Eucharist once a week. He is making networks across the Christian and other faith communities on campus and has
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>become a central member of the chaplaincy student support there.</p> <p>The role of Chaplain at UCLAN and student support at Preston Minster has operated well and has been covered by a maternity leave for several months in 2024. The Church are exploring the way forward for this role with The Bishop of Lancaster.</p>
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In 2025 and 2026 the objectives will be focused and reported on in the following areas in the accounts

**A) Expanding Youth and Children's Work through the IGNITE Project**

- The IGNITE project represents a significant step change in our approach to ministry for children and young people, both within and beyond the parishes receiving funding. Our primary focus for 2025-2026 will be to further develop, effectively communicate, and implement the strategy for the IGNITE project. This initiative promises to have a transformative impact on our ability to inspire and engage young people across the diocese.

**B) Enhancing Children and Youth Work**

- Continue to support the creation and renewal of toddler groups that share the Gospel through a training and equipping programme
- Continue and expand the Youth Hub initiative and further develop and promote the Launchpad programme for youth ministry
- Develop varied training programmes for those involved in children's and youth work, including annual conferences

**C) Supporting Schools**

- Develop new curriculum resources and training programs to support high-quality RE and collective worship in church schools.
- Encourage greater engagement between church schools and local parishes to strengthen the connection between school and church communities, including worship opportunities.
- In line with EDJ strategy be a prophetic voice on behalf of schools, challenging issues that schools face, such as SEND provision, diversity, Social Care support, and Senior Leader Wellbeing.

**D) Strengthening Chaplaincy Services**

- Expand the provision of chaplaincy services in higher and further education institutions across the diocese.
- Explore new ways to support the spiritual development of students and staff in these settings, potentially incorporating innovative approaches developed through IGNITE.

# The Blackburn Diocesan Board of Education

Annual Report and Financial Statements  
For the year ended 31 December 2024

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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

## FINANCE REVIEW

### Financial Performance

During the year to 31 December 2024 the Charity made a net surplus of £102k against a surplus of £396k in 2023.

### 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 2024 is £308,154 (2023: £324,061).

Service level agreements to provide support services to schools £222,985 (2023: £268,638).

Total interest and dividends income is £512,000 (2023: £409,000) representing 39% of total income (2023: 29%). 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 17% of the income came from service level agreements.

During the year a gift aid donation of £5,000 (2023:£153,808) was received from DBE Services Ltd.

### Significant expenditure

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 £360,590 of school and governor support (2023: £421,945) 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 £168,313 (2023: £169,137).

The charitable company also supports university chaplains and this support amounted to £56,683 (2023: £59,426) of activities directly undertaken.

### Balance Sheet Position

Net assets at 31 December 2024 are £6,236,000 (2023: £6,134,000) which is made up of designated funds of £2,816,000, restricted funds of £685,000, endowment funds of £94,000 and unrestricted funds of £2,641,000.

## The Blackburn Diocesan Board of Education

Annual Report and Financial Statements  
For the year ended 31 December 2024

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Within the balance sheet, are the following assets and liabilities relating to Barchester. (See page 29). Cash on deposit and at bank is held in separate bank accounts as client funds.

	£000
Debtors less than 1 year	484
Debtors greater than 1 year	126
Cash on deposit	5,125
Cash at bank	160
Creditors less than 1 year	(5,895)
	-

### 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.

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 2024 are £6,236,000, of which £685,000 are restricted and £94,000 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 £1,356,000 and three to six months budgeted running costs for 2024, £467,675 (six months). The total approved level of reserves is £1,823,675.

The total value of free reserves (general reserves less assets used in the charity, designated funds and any pension adjustment) is £2,121,000. The level of free reserves is £297,325 above 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 £2,816,000 (2023: £2,990,000). Material designated funds include the New Opportunity Fund at £342,834 for school buildings support and the Elmslie Fund at £471,627 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 7% 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 £139,608 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

Annual Report and Financial Statements  
For the year ended 31 December 2024

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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.

## **The Blackburn Diocesan Board of Education**

Annual Report and Financial Statements  
For the year ended 31 December 2024

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### **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 2024. 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.

#### **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 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 are appointed by the Bishop, at least 4 but not more than 5 members are elected by Diocesan Synod and at least 4 but not more than 5 members are 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.

## The Blackburn Diocesan Board of Education

Annual Report and Financial Statements  
For the year ended 31 December 2024

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### TRUSTEES' RESPONSIBILITIES

The trustees (who are also directors of The Blackburn Diocesan Board of Education for the purpose of company law) are responsible for preparing the Trustees' Annual Report (including the Strategic Report) and the financial statements in accordance with applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice).

Company law requires the trustees to prepare financial statements for each financial year.

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 incoming resources and application of resources, including the income and expenditure 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 2019 (FS102);
- make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent;
- state whether applicable UK Accounting Standards have been followed; and
- prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the charitable company will continue in operation.

The trustees are responsible for keeping adequate accounting records that 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 Companies Act 2006. They are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the charitable company and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of 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 trustees are aware:

- a. there is no relevant audit information of which the charitable company's auditor is unaware, and
- b. the trustees have taken all the steps that they ought to have taken to make themselves aware of any relevant audit information and to establish that the auditor is aware of that information.

### APPOINTMENT OF AUDITOR

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

## The Blackburn Diocesan Board of Education

Annual Report and Financial Statements  
For the year ended 31 December 2024

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### 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 2024.

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
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 Ms E Gregory-Witham (Appointed 1 January 2025) Mr P Duckworth (Appointed 1 January 2025) Rev C D Anderton (Appointed 1 January 2025) Mrs J Hackett (Appointed 1 January 2025)

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
Investment Advisors	CCLA Investment Management Ltd Senator House, 85 Queen Victoria Street London EC4V 4ET
Registered Auditor	BHP LLP 1 Waterside Place, Basin Square, Birmingham Rd Chesterfield, S41 7FH
Registered Address	Diocesan Office Clayton House Walker Office Park Blackburn BB1 2QE

**The Blackburn Diocesan Board of Education**

Annual Report and Financial Statements  
For the year ended 31 December 2024

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In approving the Trustees' Annual Report, we also approve the Strategic Report included therein, in our capacity as company directors.

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

9 June 2025

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

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**Opinion**

We have audited the financial statements of The Blackburn Diocesan Board of Education (the 'charitable company') for the year ended 31 December 2024 which comprise the Statement of Financial Activities, the Balance Sheet, the Statement of Cash Flows and the related notes, 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 2024 and of its incoming resources and application of resources, including its 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 Auditors' 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 other information comprises the information included in the Trustees' Report other than the financial statements and our auditor's report thereon. The Trustees are responsible for the other information. 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. 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 course of 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 this gives rise to a material misstatement in the financial statements themselves. 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.

### **Opinion on other matters prescribed by the Companies Act 2006**

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

- the information given in the Trustees' 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 Trustees' Report have been prepared in accordance with applicable legal requirements.

### **Matters on which we are required to report by exception**

In the light of our 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 Strategic Report or the Directors' Report included within the Trustees' Report.

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

- adequate accounting records have not been kept, or returns adequate for our audit have not been received from branches not visited by us; or
- the 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**

As explained more fully in the Trustees' Responsibilities Statement, 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.

### **Auditors' 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 Auditors' 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:

Our approach to identifying and assessing the risks of material misstatement in respect of irregularities, including fraud and non-compliance with laws and regulations, was as follows:

- the senior statutory auditor ensured that the engagement team collectively had the appropriate competence, capabilities and skills to identify or recognise non-compliance with applicable laws and regulations;
- we identified the laws and regulations applicable to the charitable company through discussions with directors and other management, and from our commercial knowledge and experience of the ecclesiastical sector;
- we focused on specific laws and regulations which we considered may have a direct material effect on the financial statements or the operations of the charitable company, including the Charities Act

## The Blackburn Diocesan Board of Education

Annual Report and Financial Statements  
For the year ended 31 December 2024

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2011, Companies Act 2006, taxation legislation, data protection, employment and health and safety legislation;

- we assessed the extent of compliance with the laws and regulations identified above through making enquiries of management and inspecting legal correspondence; and
- identified laws and regulations were communicated within the audit team regularly and the team remained alert to instances of non-compliance throughout the audit.

We assessed the susceptibility of the charitable company's financial statements to material misstatement, including obtaining an understanding of how fraud might occur, by:

- making enquiries of management as to where they considered there was susceptibility to fraud, their knowledge of actual, suspected and alleged fraud; and
- considering the internal controls in place to mitigate risks of fraud and non-compliance with laws and regulations.

To address the risk of fraud through management bias and override of controls, we:

- performed analytical procedures to identify any unusual or unexpected relationships;
- tested journal entries to identify unusual transactions;
- assessed whether judgements and assumptions made in determining the accounting estimates were indicative of potential bias; and
- investigated the rationale behind significant or unusual transactions.

In response to the risk of irregularities and non-compliance with laws and regulations, we designed procedures which included, but were not limited to:

- agreeing financial statement disclosures to underlying supporting documentation;
- reading the minutes of meetings of those charged with governance; and
- enquiring of management as to actual and potential litigation and claims.

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](http://www.frc.org.uk/auditorsresponsibilities). This description forms part of our Auditors' 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.

**BHP LLP**

**Nicola O'Sullivan (Senior statutory auditor)**  
for and on behalf of

**BHP LLP**

One Waterside Place  
Basin Square  
Brimington Road  
Chesterfield  
S41 7FH

Date: 19/08/2025 GMT

# The Blackburn Diocesan Board of Education

Annual Report and Financial Statements  
For the year ended 31 December 2024

## STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES

for the year ended 31 December 2024

	Note	Unrestricted		Restricted Funds £000	Endowment Funds £000	Total 2024 £000	Total 2023 £000
		General Fund £000	Designated Fund £000				
<b>Income and endowments from:</b>							
Donations and legacies	3	308	-	12	-	320	637
Charitable activities	3	456	-	26	-	482	484
Other trading activities	3	2	-	-	-	2	2
Investments	3	467	41	9	-	517	563
<b>Total</b>		<b>1,233</b>	<b>41</b>	<b>47</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>1,321</b>	<b>1,686</b>
<b>Expenditure on:</b>							
Raising funds	4	2	-	-	-	2	2
Charitable activities	5	1,098	63	98	-	1,259	1,390
<b>Total</b>		<b>1,100</b>	<b>63</b>	<b>98</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>1,261</b>	<b>1,392</b>
<b>Net income/(expenditure) before Investment gains</b>		<b>133</b>	<b>(22)</b>	<b>(51)</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>60</b>	<b>294</b>
Net gains on investments	9	40	-	-	2	42	102
<b>Net income/(expenditure)</b>		<b>173</b>	<b>(22)</b>	<b>(51)</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>102</b>	<b>396</b>
Transfer between funds	13	134	(152)	18	-	-	-
Actuarial gains/(losses) on defined benefit pension schemes	2	-	-	-	-	-	-
<b>Net movement in funds</b>		<b>307</b>	<b>(174)</b>	<b>(33)</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>102</b>	<b>396</b>
<b>Total funds brought forward</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>2,334</b>	<b>2,990</b>	<b>718</b>	<b>92</b>	<b>6,134</b>	<b>5,738</b>
<b>Total funds carried forward</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>2,641</b>	<b>2,816</b>	<b>685</b>	<b>94</b>	<b>6,236</b>	<b>6,134</b>

All activities derive from continuing activities.

The notes on pages 29 to 43 form part of these financial statements.

Details of comparative figures by fund are disclosed in note 21.

# The Blackburn Diocesan Board of Education

Annual Report and Financial Statements  
For the year ended 31 December 2024

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## INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT *for the year ended 31 December 2024*

	2024 £000	2023 £000
Total income	1,321	1,686
Total expenditure	(1,261)	(1,392)
Operating surplus for the year	<u>60</u>	<u>294</u>
Net gains on investments	42	102
Actuarial loss defined benefit scheme	-	-
<b>Net income for the year</b>	<u><u>102</u></u>	<u><u>396</u></u>

# The Blackburn Diocesan Board of Education

Annual Report and Financial Statements  
For the year ended 31 December 2024

## BALANCE SHEET at 31 December 2024

	Note	2024		2023	
		£000	£000	£000	£000
<b>Fixed assets</b>					
Tangible assets	8		520		508
Investments	9		2,316		2,274
			2,836		2,782
<b>Current assets</b>					
Debtors (amounts receivable after more than One year £275,000 (2023: £323,000))	10	1,059		2,116	
Cash on deposit	11	7,810		7,299	
Cash at bank and in hand	11	1,071		3,109	
			9,940	12,524	
<b>Creditors: amounts falling due within one year</b>	12	(6,405)		(9,033)	
<b>Net current assets</b>			3,535	3,491	
<b>Total assets less current liabilities</b>			6,371	6,273	
<b>Creditors: amounts falling due after more than one year</b>	12		(135)		(139)
<b>Net assets</b>			6,236	6,134	
<b>Fund balances</b>					
<b>Endowment funds:</b>	13		94		92
(including investment revaluation reserve of £66,384 (2023:£64,268))					
<b>Restricted income funds</b>	13		685		718
(including investment revaluation reserve of £32,087 (2023:£31,252))					
<b>Unrestricted income funds:</b>					
General funds (including revaluation reserve of £943,000 (2023:£906,998))	13		2,641		2,334
<b>Designated funds</b> (including revaluation reserve of £nil (2023:£nil))	13		2,816		2,990
			6,236	6,134	

The notes on pages 29 to 43 form part of these financial statements.

These financial statements were approved by the board of directors and were signed on its behalf on  
9 June 2025 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

Annual Report and Financial Statements  
For the year ended 31 December 2024

## CASH FLOW STATEMENT

for the year ended 31 December 2024

	2024 £000	2023 £000
<b>Cash (outflow)/ inflow from operating activities</b>		
Net (expenditure)/income	102	396
Net (gains)/losses on investments	(42)	(102)
Depreciation	27	26
Dividends and interest income	(517)	(563)
(Increase)/Decrease in debtors current assets	1,009	106
Decrease/(Increase) in debtors long term assets	48	48
(Decrease)/Increase in creditors current liabilities	(2,636)	(2,557)
(Decrease)/Increase in creditors long term liabilities	4	4
Net cash (outflow) / inflow	<u>(2,005)</u>	<u>(2,642)</u>
<b>Cash from investing activities</b>		
Dividends and interest income	517	563
Purchase of tangible fixed assets	(39)	(6)
Net cash inflow/(outflow)	<u>478</u>	<u>557</u>
<b>(Decrease) in cash in the year</b>	<b>(1,527)</b>	<b>(2,085)</b>
Cash and cash equivalents at the beginning of the year	10,408	12,493
Cash and cash equivalents at the end of the year	<u>8,881</u>	<u>10,408</u>
<b>Analysis of cash and cash equivalents</b>		
	2024 £000	2023 £000
Cash on deposit	7,810	7,299
Cash at bank and in hand	1,071	3,109
	<u>8,881</u>	<u>10,408</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)

**9 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 Trustees' 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.

**Functional currency**

These financial statements are rounded to the nearest £000.

**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.

***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 recognised when there is an obligation at the Balance Sheet date as a result of a past event, it is probable that a transfer of economic benefit will be required in settlement, and the amount of the settlement can be estimated reliably.

Creditors are recognised at the amount that the Charitable Company anticipates it will pay to settle the debt or the amount it has received as advanced payments for the goods or services it must provide.

***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 Blackburn Diocesan Board of Education

Annual Report and Financial Statements  
For the year ended 31 December 2024

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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.

During 2024 the total expenditure was £9,305,937 (2023: £11,445,729). 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.

Two employees are members of the Church of England Funded Pension Scheme. At 31 December 2024 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 31.12.24

### **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.

# The Blackburn Diocesan Board of Education

Annual Report and Financial Statements  
For the year ended 31 December 2024

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## *Realised gains / losses on investments*

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

## 10 Remuneration of trustees

No trustee has received remuneration from the Board of Education during the year (2023: £nil).

Travel expenses were reimbursed to one trustee during the year, these amounted to £1,335 (2023: £2,098).

### Staff numbers and costs

The average number of people employed during the year was 10 (2023: 15).

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	
	2024	2023
Director of Education		
Deputy and Assistant Directors	1	1
Principal Schools Adviser	1	1
Schools Improvement Officers	1	1
Youth and Children's Chaplains/ Officers	3	5
Administration and Secretarial	4	7
	<hr/>	<hr/>
	10	15
	<hr/>	<hr/>

The aggregate payroll costs of these employees were as follows:

	2024	2023
	£000	£000
Wages and salaries	476	525
Social security costs	44	43
Other pension costs	69	74
	<hr/>	<hr/>
	589	642
	<hr/>	<hr/>

During the year one employee received a salary in excess of £60,000. In 2023 there were no employees 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 2024 they were:

Chief Executive officer	Iain Parks
Deputy Director	Sally Schofield

Remuneration, pensions and expenses for these employees amounted to £176,894 (2023: £102,409).

**Pension schemes**

**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 £10,474 in 2024 (2023: £19,280), 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 following the valuation results agreed in 2023, the deficit contributions paid were £0 (2023: £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
31 December 2024	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.

# The Blackburn Diocesan Board of Education

## Annual Report and Financial Statements For the year ended 31 December 2024

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 2024 is nil. The movement in the balance sheet liability over 2023 and over 2024 is set out in the table below.

	2024 £000	2023 £000
Balance sheet liability at 1 January	-	-
Deficit contribution paid	-	-
Interest cost (recognised in SoFA)	-	-
Remaining change to the balance sheet liability* (recognised in SoFA)	-	-
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.

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.

## 11 Analysis of Income

	General Fund £000	Designated Fund £000	Restricted Fund £000	Endowment Funds £000	Total 2024 £000	Total 2023 £000
<b>Donations and legacies</b>						
Donations	-	-	12	-	12	310
Diocesan Board of Finance General Funds	308	-	-	-	308	324
External organisations	-	-	-	-	-	3
	<u>308</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>12</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>320</u>	<u>637</u>

	General Fund £000	Designated Fund £000	Restricted Fund £000	Endowment Funds £000	Total 2024 £000	Total 2023 £000
<b>Income from Charitable activities</b>						
Fees and chaplaincy income	10	-	-	-	10	-
Sale of publications and courses	122	-	-	-	122	141
Service level agreements	269	-	-	-	269	266
Rent	55	-	26	-	81	77
	<u>456</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>26</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>482</u>	<u>484</u>

	General Fund £000	Designated Fund £000	Restricted Fund £000	Endowment Funds £000	Total 2024 £000	Total 2023 £000
<b>Other trading activities</b>						
DBE Services Fees	2	-	-	-	2	2
	<u>2</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>2</u>	<u>2</u>

# The Blackburn Diocesan Board of Education

Annual Report and Financial Statements  
For the year ended 31 December 2024

	General Fund £000	Designated Fund £000	Restricted Fund £000	Endowment Funds £000	Total 2024 £000	Total 2023 £000
<b>Investment income</b>						
DBE Services gift aid donation (17% owned)	5	-	-	-	5	154
Dividends	440	41	9	-	490	376
Interest	22	-	-	-	22	33
	<u>467</u>	<u>41</u>	<u>9</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>517</u>	<u>563</u>

## 12 Fund Raising Costs

	Activities undertaken directly £000	Grant funding of activities £000	Support costs £000	Total 2024 £000	Total 2023 £000
Fundraising trading	2	-	-	2	2
	<u>2</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>2</u>	<u>2</u>

All fundraising trading costs are unrestricted.

## 13 Charitable Activities

Activity or Programme	Activities undertaken directly £000	Grant funding of activities £000	Support costs £000	Total 2024 £000	Total 2023 £000
<b>Cost of charitable activities:</b>					
<i>School and governor support</i>	361	-	303	664	710
<i>Higher and further education</i>	42	14	36	92	100
<i>Children's work</i>	74	-	63	137	111
<i>Youth work</i>	91	3	77	171	169
<i>Central - designated</i>	-	27	-	27	48
<i>School buildings support</i>	65	49	54	168	252
Charitable activities subtotal	<u>633</u>	<u>93</u>	<u>533</u>	<u>1,259</u>	<u>1,390</u>

None of the grants were to individuals.

	General Fund £000	Designated Fund £000	Restricted Fund £000	Endowment Fund £000	Total 2024 £000	Total 2023 £000
<i>School and governor support</i>	313	48	-	-	361	422
<i>Higher and further education</i>	42	-	-	-	42	59
<i>Children's work</i>	74	-	-	-	74	67
<i>Youth work</i>	91	-	-	-	91	103
<i>Central</i>	527	-	49	-	576	512
<i>School buildings support</i>	51	15	49	-	115	227
	<u>1,098</u>	<u>63</u>	<u>98</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>1,259</u>	<u>1,390</u>

## The Blackburn Diocesan Board of Education

Annual Report and Financial Statements  
For the year ended 31 December 2024

### 6 Net income/(expenditure) for the year

	2024 £000	2023 £000
These are stated after charging: Auditors remuneration	16	19
<b>Total</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>19</b>

### 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

	Freehold Buildings £000	Fixtures, fittings and other equipment £000	Total £000
<b>Cost</b>			
At beginning of year	625	93	718
Additions	19	20	39
Disposals	-	-	-
At end of year	644	113	757
<b>Depreciation</b>			
At beginning of year	132	78	210
Charge for year	18	9	27
Elim on disposal	-	-	-
At end of year	150	87	237
<b>Net book value</b>			
At 31 December 2024	494	26	520
At 31 December 2023	493	15	508

### 14 Investments

	Investment Fund £000	Fixed interest securities fund £000	Property Fund £000	Total UK investments £000
Market valuation				
At 31 December 2023	1,451	190	633	2,274
Increase/(Decrease) in market value	33	6	3	42
At 31 December 2024	1,484	196	636	2,316
Historic cost	1,145	224	700	2,069

Unlisted securities  
Central Board of Finance  
Church of England

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 (2023: £12).

# The Blackburn Diocesan Board of Education

Annual Report and Financial Statements  
For the year ended 31 December 2024

## 15 Debtors

	2024 £000	2023 £000
<i>Amounts receivable within one year</i>		
Deferred payments on school building projects	484	1,436
Deferred Payment Arrangements	7	6
Amount owed from related party (Cidari)	-	40
Other debtors	119	124
Loans	1	1
Prepayments	12	6
Accrued income	135	125
Amounts due from Diocesan Board of Finance	25	52
Amounts due from DBE Services Ltd	1	2
Amounts due from Whalley Abbey	-	1
	<u>784</u>	<u>1,793</u>
Debtors: amounts receivable within one year		
<i>Amounts receivable after more than one year</i>		
Deferred Payment Arrangements	126	133
Loans	9	10
Amount owed from related party (Cidari)	140	180
	<u>275</u>	<u>323</u>
Debtors: amounts receivable after more than one year		

	Instalments due in one year		Instalments payable due in two and five years		Instalments due in five years or more		Total	
	2024 £000	2023 £000	2024 £000	2023 £000	2024 £000	2023 £000	2024 £000	2023 £000
Deferred Payment Arrangements	7	6	81	21	45	112	133	139
Loans	1	1	4	4	5	6	10	11
	<u>8</u>	<u>7</u>	<u>85</u>	<u>25</u>	<u>50</u>	<u>118</u>	<u>143</u>	<u>150</u>

## 16 Deposits and cash at bank and in hand

	2024 £000	2023 £000
Bank (Current Account and Deposits)	1,071	3,109
Deposits with Central Board of Finance Church of England	7,810	7,299
	<u>8,881</u>	<u>10,408</u>

# The Blackburn Diocesan Board of Education

Annual Report and Financial Statements  
For the year ended 31 December 2024

## 17 Creditors

	2024 £000	2023 £000
<i>Amounts falling due within one year</i>		
Receipts in advance on behalf of boards of school governors	3,148	2,917
Monies held on behalf of schools in relation to Devolved Formula Capital (DFC)	2,014	3,094
Monies held on behalf of schools in relation to SCA Funding	733	1,896
Monies held on behalf of schools in relation to PSDS Funding	-	583
Other creditors	398	435
Accruals	25	44
Deferred income	87	64
	<u>6,405</u>	<u>9,033</u>
<i>Amounts falling due after more than one year</i>		
Education trust funds	135	139
	<u>135</u>	<u>139</u>
<i>Deferred Income:</i>		
At beginning of year	63	
Recognised in year	(63)	
Deferred income 2024	87	
	<u>87</u>	
At end of year	<u>87</u>	

Deferred income is recognised as follows:

Deferred income arises from the school SLA agreements

	Recognised in one year		Recognisable between two and five years		Recognisable after five years		Total	
	2024	2023	2024	2023	2024	2023	2024	2023
	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000
Deferred income	87	63	-	-	-	-	87	63
	<u>87</u>	<u>63</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>87</u>	<u>63</u>

## 18 Funds

	Unrestricted				Total
	General fund	Designated fund	Restricted fund	Endowment fund	
	£000	£000	£000	£000	
At beginning of year	2,334	2,990	718	92	6,134
Surplus/(deficit) of income over expenditure in the year	133	(22)	(51)	-	60
Investment gains in the year	40	-	-	2	42
Transfers between funds	134	(152)	18	-	-
	<u>2,641</u>	<u>2,816</u>	<u>685</u>	<u>94</u>	<u>6,236</u>

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

## The Blackburn Diocesan Board of Education

Annual Report and Financial Statements  
For the year ended 31 December 2024

	At 1 January 2024 £000	Income £000	Expenditure £000	Net investment gains, losses and transfers £000	At 31 December 2024 £000
<b>Designated funds</b>					
Sponsoring academies	365	-	-	(100)	265
Elmslie Fund	462	25	(15)	-	472
New Opportunity Fund	327	16	-	-	343
Church Workers Pension Deficit	53	-	-	(53)	-
Admissions & Appeals	126	-	(27)	(40)	59
Appointments	49	-	(8)	(11)	30
Vision 2026	429	-	-	-	429
Statutory Governance	101	-	(13)	(25)	63
Schools causing concern	194	-	-	-	194
Digital Resources	84	-	-	(23)	61
Underwriting DBF grant	700	-	-	-	700
Youth Development	100	-	-	-	100
SEND	-	-	-	100	100
	<u>2,990</u>	<u>41</u>	<u>(63)</u>	<u>(152)</u>	<u>2,816</u>
<b>Restricted funds</b>					
Residential Income Fund	44	5	-	-	49
Education Trust Funds	363	4	(3)	-	364
Common Fund	281	12	(48)	-	245
Other restricted funds	30	26	(47)	18	27
	<u>718</u>	<u>47</u>	<u>(98)</u>	<u>18</u>	<u>685</u>
<b>Endowment funds</b>					
Residential Endowment Fund	92	-	-	2	94

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

The Sponsoring 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.

New Opportunity Fund - for school buildings support.

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.

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.

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.

Youth Development Fund - for the support of chaplaincy work.

SEND – to deliver the Board of Education SEND strategy, supporting schools with support of those with SEND.

## The Blackburn Diocesan Board of Education

Annual Report and Financial Statements  
For the year ended 31 December 2024

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

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

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

### 19 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.

### 20 Analysis of net assets between funds

	Tangible fixed assets £000	Investments £000	Net current assets £000	Net current liabilities £000	Creditors falling due after more than one year £000	Total £000
Unrestricted Funds	520	2,185	3,262	(510)	-	5,457
Restricted Fund (restricted)	-	37	6,678	(5,895)	(135)	685
Endowment fund	-	94	-	-	-	94
	<u>520</u>	<u>2,316</u>	<u>9,940</u>	<u>(6,405)</u>	<u>(135)</u>	<u>6,236</u>

### 21 Commitments

There were no commitments in 2024 nor 2023.

### 22 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 £44,760 (2023: £1,700). Grants received in the year from this company amounted to £308,154 (2023: £324,061) and grants paid to this company amounted to £27,154 (2023: £19,274). Recharges in the year were £30,406 (2023: £27,867).

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 (2023 £2,400) at the year end and recharges in the year were £14,437 (2023: £9,018).

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 2024 £179,608 (2023: £219,608) was due from this company and recharges in the year were £183 (2023: £10,006).

### 23 Financial instruments

	2024 £000	2023 £000
Financial assets measured at fair value	<u>2,316</u>	<u>2,274</u>
Financial assets measured at amortised cost	<u>9,940</u>	<u>12,524</u>
Financial liabilities measured at amortised cost	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>
Financial liabilities measured at fair value	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>

# The Blackburn Diocesan Board of Education

Annual Report and Financial Statements  
For the year ended 31 December 2024

## 24 Prior year comparative Statement of Financial Activities

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

## 25 Prior year Charitable Activities

Activity or Programme	Activities undertaken directly £000	Grant funding of activities £000	Support costs £000	Total 2023 £000	Total 2022 £000
<b>Cost of charitable activities:</b>					
<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
<b>Charitable activities subtotal</b>	<b>712</b>	<b>191</b>	<b>487</b>	<b>1,390</b>	<b>1,170</b>

# The Blackburn Diocesan Board of Education

Annual Report and Financial Statements  
For the year ended 31 December 2024

## 26 Prior year Funds

	Unrestricted				Total £000
	General fund £000	Designated fund £000	Restricted fund £000	Endowment fund £000	
	At beginning of year	2,001	3,109	544	
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	2,334	2,990	718	92	6,134

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
<b>Designated funds</b>					
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 & Appeals	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
	3,109	36	(52)	(103)	2,990
<b>Restricted funds</b>					
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
	544	349	(139)	(36)	718
<b>Endowment funds</b>					
Residential Endowment Fund	84	-	-	8	92

# The Blackburn Diocesan Board of Education

Annual Report and Financial Statements  
For the year ended 31 December 2024

## 27 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	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>
	=====	=====	=====	=====	=====