



September 2024

Dear Synod Member

Welcome - or welcome back - to Diocesan Synod. May I offer my congratulations on your appointment and look forward to meeting with the new Synod at November's meeting

**With a new Synod in place we now need to populate the Board of Education, through nomination and election by Synod.** This letter explains the process for this, and asks for your help either as a nominee or in nominating a candidate.

### Education in our Diocese

The Diocese of Sheffield has 39 church schools as well as multi-academy trusts that include a mix of church and community schools. We have one secondary and 38 primaries.

In a Diocese committed to growing lively and diverse Christian communities these schools are a distinctive and treasured aspect of our wider mission.

As an education department we are committed to five strategic marks for our mission:

- cultivation of Christian distinctiveness in the ethos and practice of our schools
- securing of excellence in education for all children
- effective leadership and capacity to improve within our service
- fellowship leading to excellence through the sharing of school to school development
- an offer of service beyond the Diocese.

### The Board

The Board of Education meets four times a year, usually on a Wednesday afternoon between 4.00 and 6.00pm. They receive a report from myself and give direction to education policy and strategy in our Diocese. To give a few examples, this board has overseen the growth of our multi-academy trusts, the training we provide to schools and the development of the place of spirituality in the curriculum. It is an interesting Board and its impact wide ranging and vital for our work with the 8000 children in our schools.

### Make-up of the Board

The Board consists of:

- (a) the Diocesan Bishop,
- (b) the Bishop of Doncaster, nominated by the bishop, and Chair of the Board;
- (c) seven elected members, including at least two clergy and two laity;
- (d) three co-opted members, including two with experience of church schools and one with experience of other areas of concern to the board;
- (e) two additional persons the Bishop may nominate to the Board.



## What we need

You are requested to submit nominations using the attached form. Nominees will require a proposer and seconder, and to enable the election process candidates are asked to submit a short statement of up to 350 words briefly detailing the skills and experience they would bring to the Board.

You are reminded of the mission as stated in the five bullet points above, as you ask yourself: what would I bring to this board?

## Nomination and Election

**Synod members are asked to consider whether they would seek nomination or know someone who would support the above criteria. Candidates do not need to be members of the Diocesan Synod.**

They do need to be nominated and seconded by members of Diocesan Synod (a list of members is available on the Diocesan website under governance).

The candidate must also indicate her or his willingness to serve, if elected, by signing the nomination form.

## Timescale

Nominations are to be returned by 12 noon on Monday 14<sup>th</sup> October 2024

Should there be more nominations than the seven places available on the Board, postal ballot papers will be issued on Friday 18<sup>th</sup> October 2024.

Ballot returns will be requested by 12 noon on Monday 11<sup>th</sup> November 2024.

The result of the process and any election will be announced at Diocesan Synod on Saturday, 30<sup>th</sup> November 2024.

The new Board of Education will then be in place from 1<sup>st</sup> January 2025 and will meet in the Spring term.

If you have any questions about this process you can contact Huw Thomas, Diocesan Director of Education, on 01709 309100 or by emailing [huw.thomas@sheffield.anglican.org](mailto:huw.thomas@sheffield.anglican.org)

May I take this opportunity to thank you for your anticipated interest, and also to thank the Board that have served in the past triennium for their sage advice, lively challenge and much needed support during a lively few years on the education scene,

Yours,



Huw Thomas

Director of Education

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