



# **Catholic Schools and Colleges – Building the Future Together April 2023**

**Christine Fischer** *Assistant Director*

**Catholic Education Service**



# CES

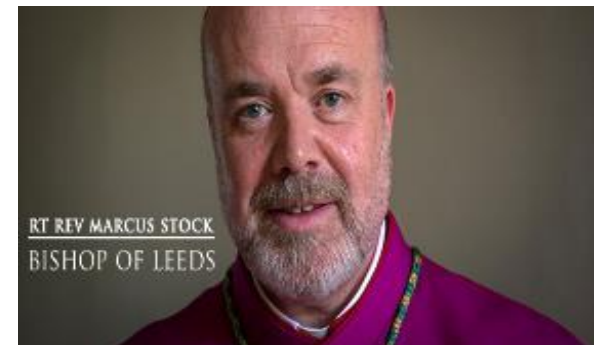
## Function and objectives



Founded in 1847 as the Catholic Poor School Committee - The CES acts on behalf of the Catholic Bishops' Conference to support and advance Catholic education.

### OUR KEY OBJECTIVES ARE TO:

- promote and secure Catholic education
- liaise with Government, DfE, Ofsted etc.
- serve, support and guide dioceses
- support and promote the provision of religious education
- engage politically
- positively communicate the work of the Church in the education of young people





# CES Teams

Paul Barber (Director)

Christine Fischer (Assistant  
Director, Head of Legal)

Marie Southall (Director  
of Partnerships & Public  
Affairs)

Catherine Bryan  
(Assistant Director,  
Education)

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**Protocol - where we receive a query from a school or its advisers they will be asked to contact the relevant diocese in the first instance.**



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- The Catholic School as Part of the Diocese
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# Mission and History

# The Mission

*Christ  
Teaches his  
Disciples*  
Duccio di  
Buoninsegna



‘Go and  
teach all  
Nations’



# Catholic Church: Mission



- 1833 Parliamentary Grant
- 1847 Settlement for Catholic Schools (CPSC)
- 1850 Restoration of Hierarchy
- 1852 First Synod of Westminster
  - **First and paramount subject: Education of the Poor**
  - *“prefer the establishment of good schools to every other work. Indeed, wherever there may seem to be an opening for a new mission, we should prefer the erection of a school, so arranged to serve temporarily for a chapel, to that of a Church without one.”*
  - *“A place in a Catholic school for every Catholic child”*  
(Cardinal Manning)



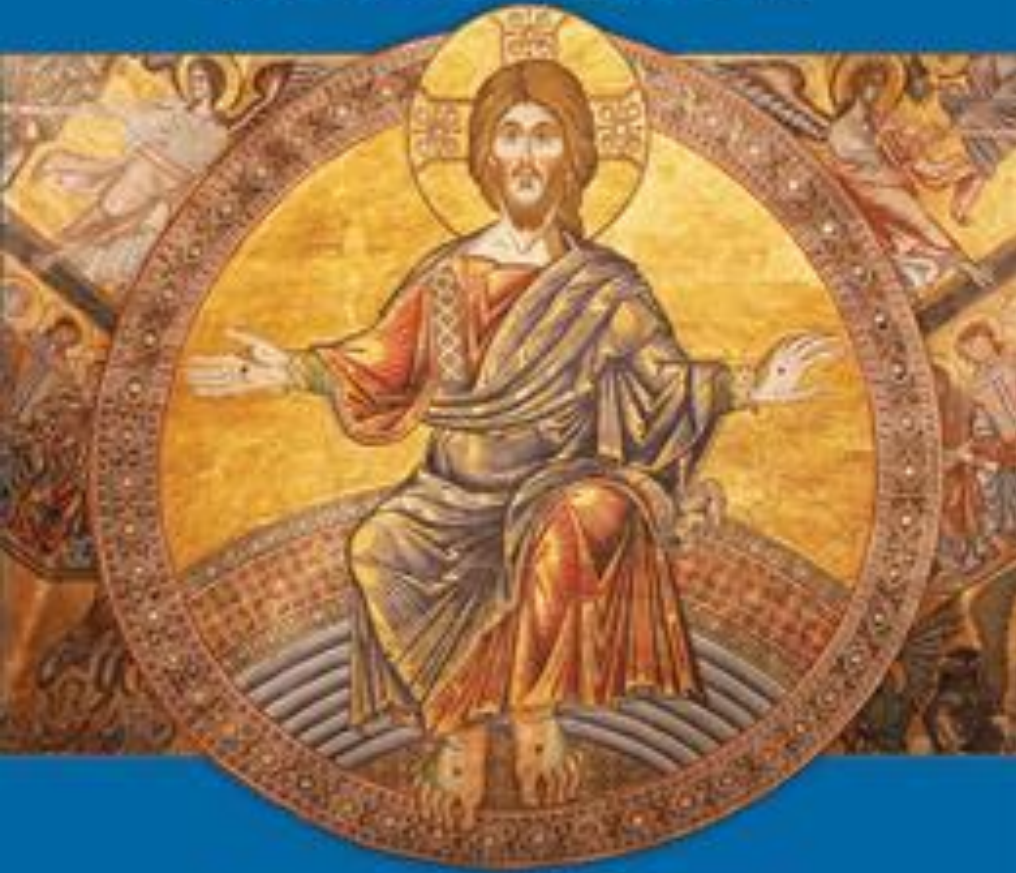
# Freedoms & Protections 'The Five Pillars'



- Trustees own the school premises – Governing Bodies and Academy Companies occupy at the will of the Trustees
- Appointment of the majority of Governors & Directors by Bishop or Superior
- Control of Admission Arrangements
- Catholic Curriculum: RE, Worship and its inspection
- Employment of Staff



# CHRIST AT THE CENTRE



Why the Church provides  
Catholic schools



BY MGR. MARCUS STOCK



## The Church provides schools to:

- **Assist in its teaching mission**
    - Proclaim the Good News
    - Encounter the living God
    - Faith, culture and life are harmonised
    - Essential resource for New Evangelisation
  - **Assist parents as primary educators**
    - Church and State have the right to assist
    - Formation of the whole person
  - **Be a service to the local Church**
    - Home - School – Parish
    - Mission and Communion
  - **Be a service to society**
    - “Parental Choice”
    - Social Cohesion
    - Respect & Diversity
- *“... the Catholic Church provides schools to contribute to the creation of a society that is highly educated, skilled and cultured. For this reason the Church emphasises the contribution that Catholic schools make to the common good of society and its culture.”*



# An understanding of Education



- The complete formation of the whole person, ordered both to **the pupil's eternal destiny**, as well as **the common good of society**. Pupils must therefore be nurtured in such a way that:
  - their physical, moral and intellectual talents may develop harmoniously;
  - they may attain a greater sense of responsibility and a right use of freedom; and
  - they are formed to take an active part in social life.



# An understanding of Education



“Education is integral to the mission of the Church to proclaim the good news. First and foremost, every Catholic educational institution is a place to encounter the living God who in Jesus Christ reveals his transforming love and truth.”

**Pope Benedict XVI**



# The Catholic Church in England and Wales



# Dioceses across England and Wales



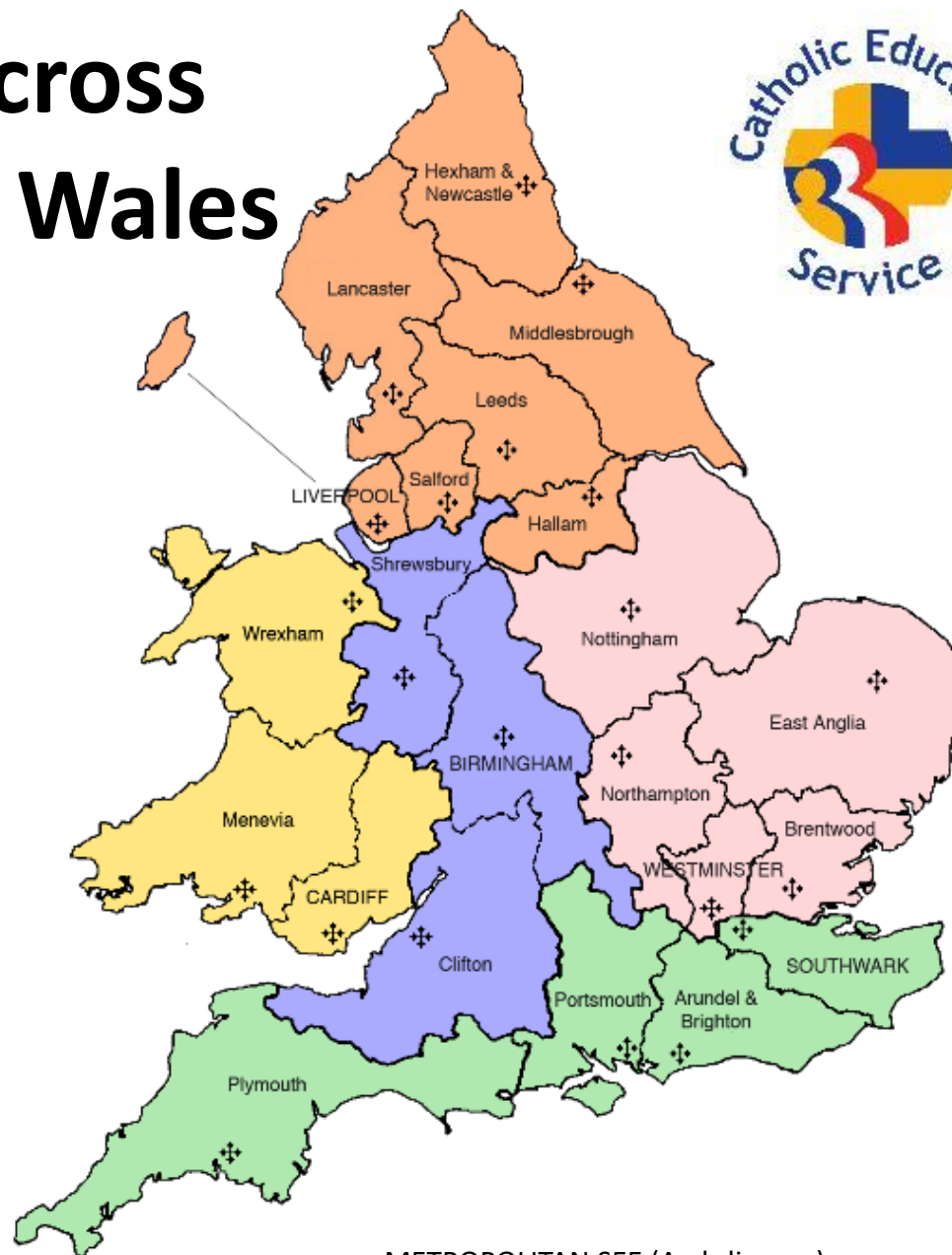
## ▶ Basic Unit: the Diocese

- 22 Catholic dioceses across England and Wales
  - 19 in England
  - 3 in Wales (Archdiocese of Cardiff includes Herefordshire)

## ▶ The Diocesan Bishop

## ▶ The Bishops' Conference of England and Wales

- The Catholic Education Service (CES)



METROPOLITAN SEE (Archdiocese)

Suffragan See (Diocese)

✠ Cathedral



# The Diocesan Bishop



## ▶ The Diocesan Bishop

- Successor to the Apostles
- Vicar of Christ in his Local Church (The Diocese)

## ▶ Diocesan Curia

- Education Service
  - Schools Commissioners
  - Inspectors and Advisers

## ▶ Duties:

- Sufficient Places
- Recognition
- Supervision/Oversight
- Inspection
- Estate Management
- **Strategy**



The Bishop of Brentwood



# Responsibility for Strategy



- Strategic future of Catholic education is decided by the Bishop, supported by his Trustees
  - For RO schools, this is decided by the Religious Superior, supported by his or her Trustees, in the context of the obligation of religious superiors to collaborate with the Diocesan Bishop's strategic vision for his Diocese
- Governing Bodies and Academy Companies have a responsibility to act in accordance with those strategic decisions and to implement them, in accordance with the Objects of their School or Academy Company
- Foundation Governors have a particular responsibility to ensure this happens, and are accountable to the Bishop (or Religious Superior) for doing so



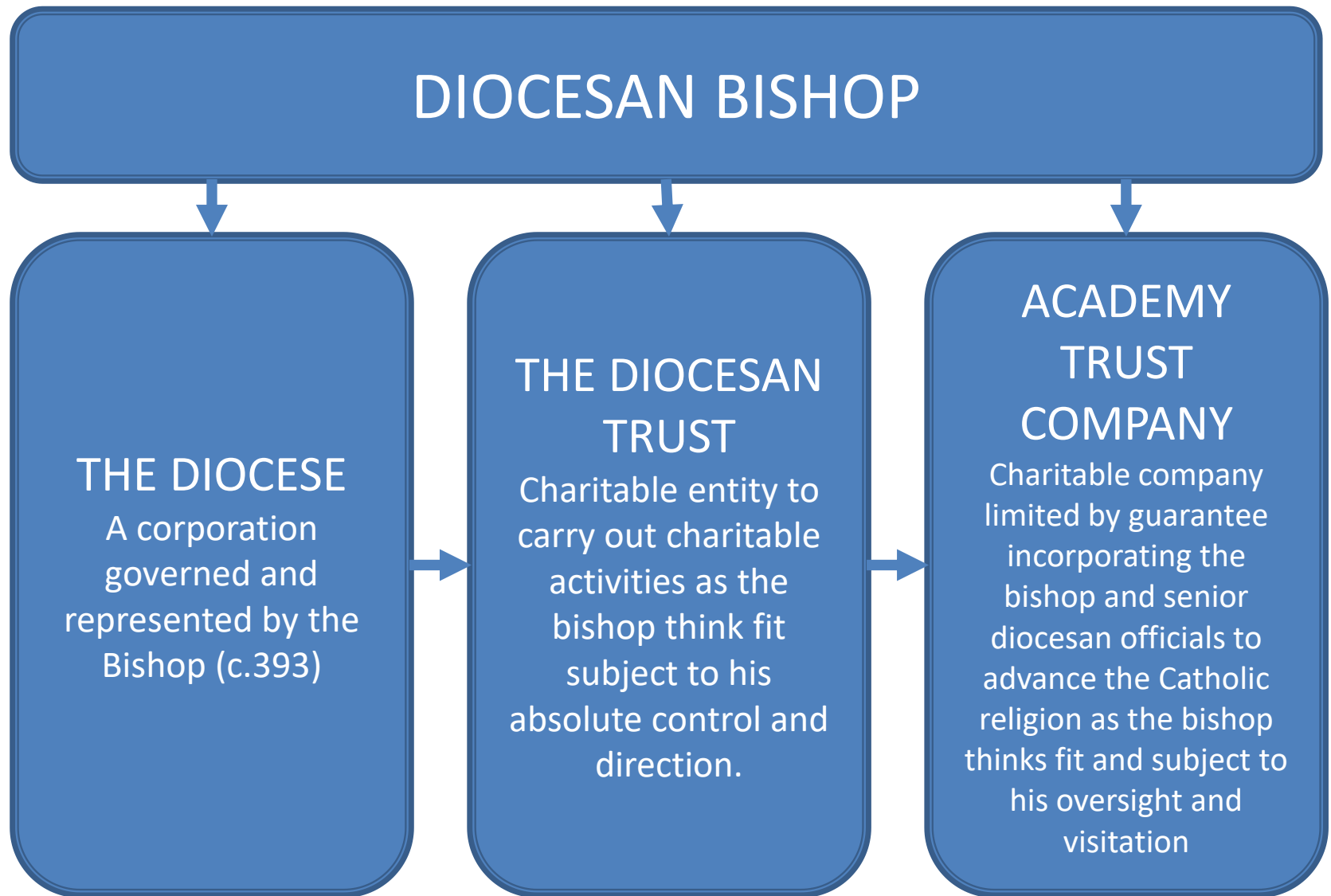
## Objects

***Or: the only reason the charity exists***

The advancement of the Catholic religion in the Diocese by such means as the Diocesan Bishop (or Religious Superior) may think fit and proper



# Implementing ecclesial structures





# Bishop as Leader of the Mission



- ▶ Bishop: Vicar of Christ
- ▶ National Implications (22 head offices)
- ▶ Vision for education in his Diocese
- ▶ Protocols
- ▶ Local Implications
- ▶ Co-operation by all in pursuit of the common good

# Education Responsibilities of the Diocesan Bishop

## In Canon Law

- making arrangements so that Catholic education is available
- establishing Christian schools where there are insufficient, including catering for special needs
- safeguarding the titles 'Catholic School' and 'Catholic University'
- regulating and watching over formation and education in the Catholic religion
- approving the appointment of teachers of religion and theology
- watching over and inspecting all Catholic schools in his diocese
- issuing directives concerning the general regulation of Catholic schools
- supervising the maintenance of distinguished academic standards in Catholic schools in the diocese
- establishing and supervising Catholic Universities and Institutes of Higher Studies

## In English Law

- promoting new schools and colleges
- right of appeal to adjudicator
- approving Instruments of Government & Articles of Association
- appointing Foundation Governors & Foundation Directors
- receiving section 5 and HMI Inspection Reports
- conducting Section 48/50 inspections
- advising governing bodies on the appointment and dismissal of senior staff
- Nominating or appointing representatives on:
  - local authority Overview & Scrutiny Committees
  - SACREs & ASCs
  - Admissions Forums
  - Schools Forums
- Statutory consultee:
  - School Organisation Plans
  - School Organisation Proposals
  - Education Development Plans
  - Early Years and Childcare Development Plans
  - Asset Management Plans



# The Catholic School as Part of the Diocese



# Constitution of a Catholic School



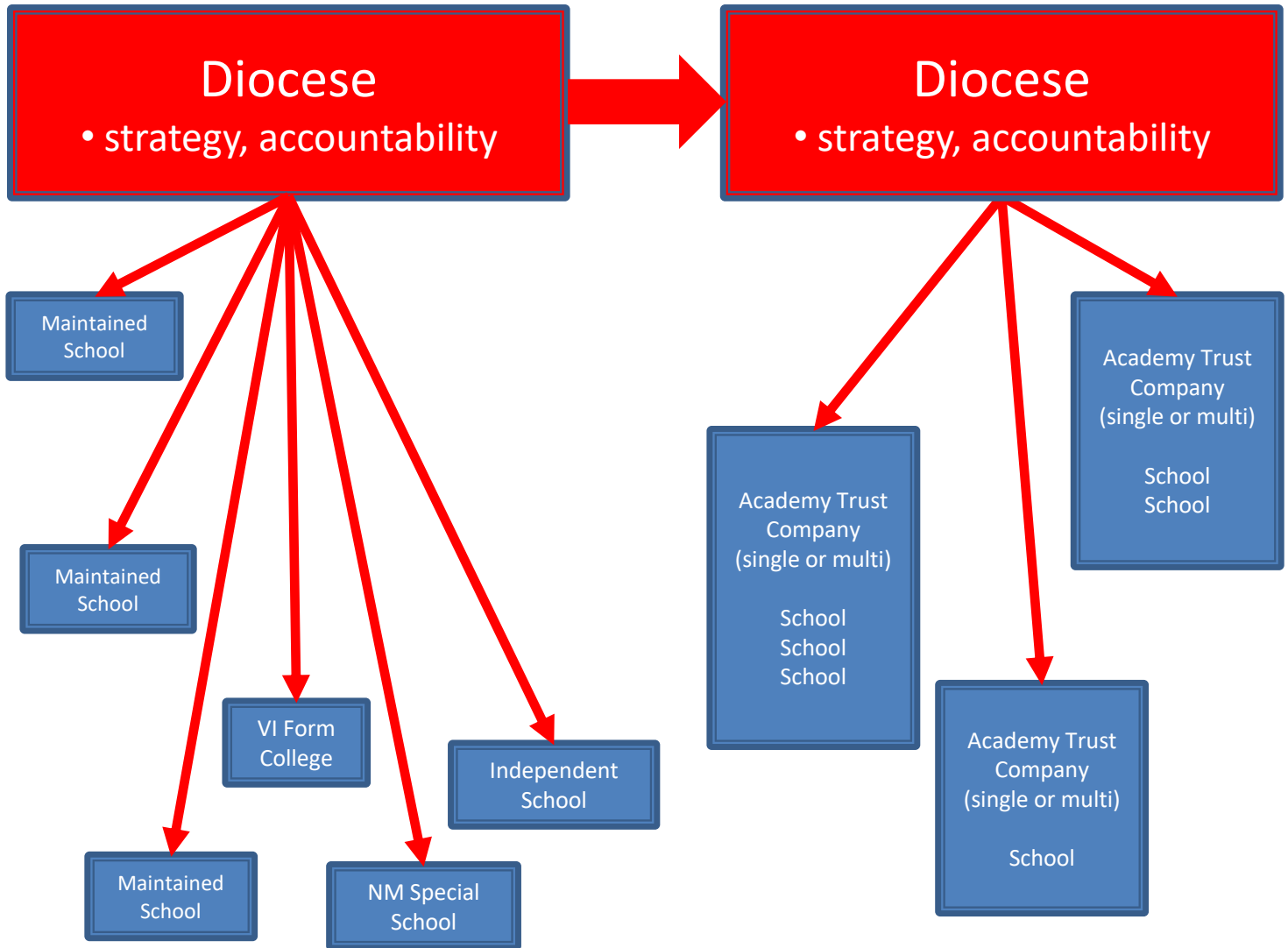
- VA schools, VI Form College Corporations and academy companies are the civil entities that the Church has chosen to carry out the work for which they were established
- The constitutions of each of those entities have been carefully designed to **reflect** ecclesial reality i.e. Church control
- The Church has secured important legislative freedoms and protections which allow it to retain strategic control, oversight and accountability of Catholic schools and the Catholic education system as a whole

# Function

**Episcopal Oversight**



**Trusteeship:**  
Ownership and control by (or on behalf of) a Public Juridical Person



**Conducting a Catholic school or schools on behalf of their Trustees**  
(under the supervision of the Diocesan Bishop)



# An 'Ecclesial Entity'



- *'...is part of the Catholic Church...'* (IoG/AoA)
- **Controlled/directed** by the Church
  - i.e. Trustees are a Diocese or Religious Order
  - **Recognised** by the Diocesan Bishop
- Provided for the education of Catholic Children
- Conducted in accordance with **Catholic Teachings** and **Canon Law**
- Subject to the **Oversight** and **Inspection** of the Bishop
  
- ***A school cannot be a Catholic School without the Bishop (ubi episcopus, ibi ecclesia)***



# A Successful System

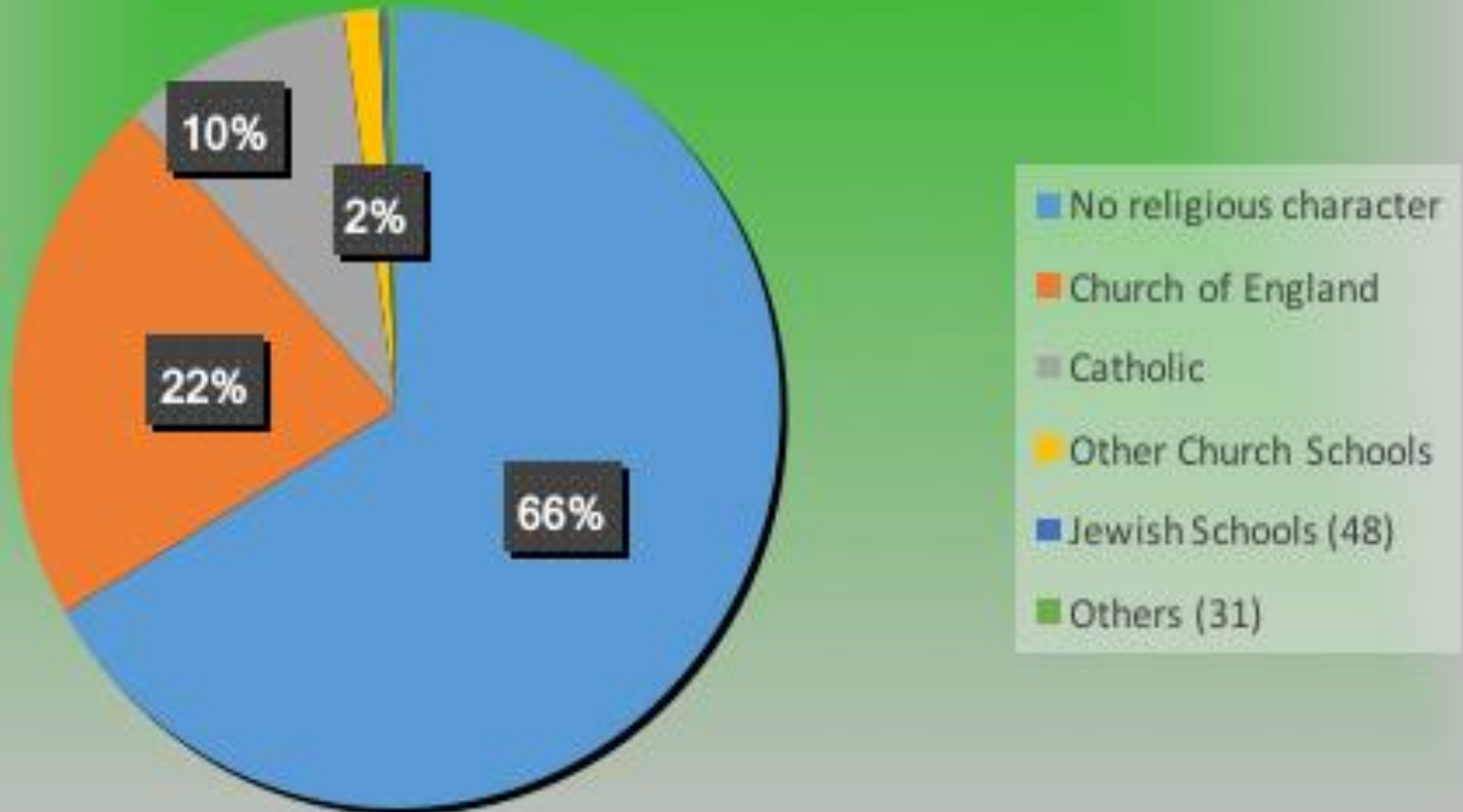




# Church Schools



## All Schools



**850,000** pupils are educated  
in Catholic schools



**Largest provider  
of secondary  
education**



**Second largest  
provider of  
primary education**



# Success!



- ▶ The world's best settlement
  - Catholic schools accessible to all
- ▶ School system matching Catholic Population
  - A place in a Catholic school for every Catholic child
- ▶ Partnership with State and other Churches
- ▶ The best 10% of the education system
- ▶ Popular with parents beyond the Catholic community
- ▶ Poised to take advantage of the new opportunities?

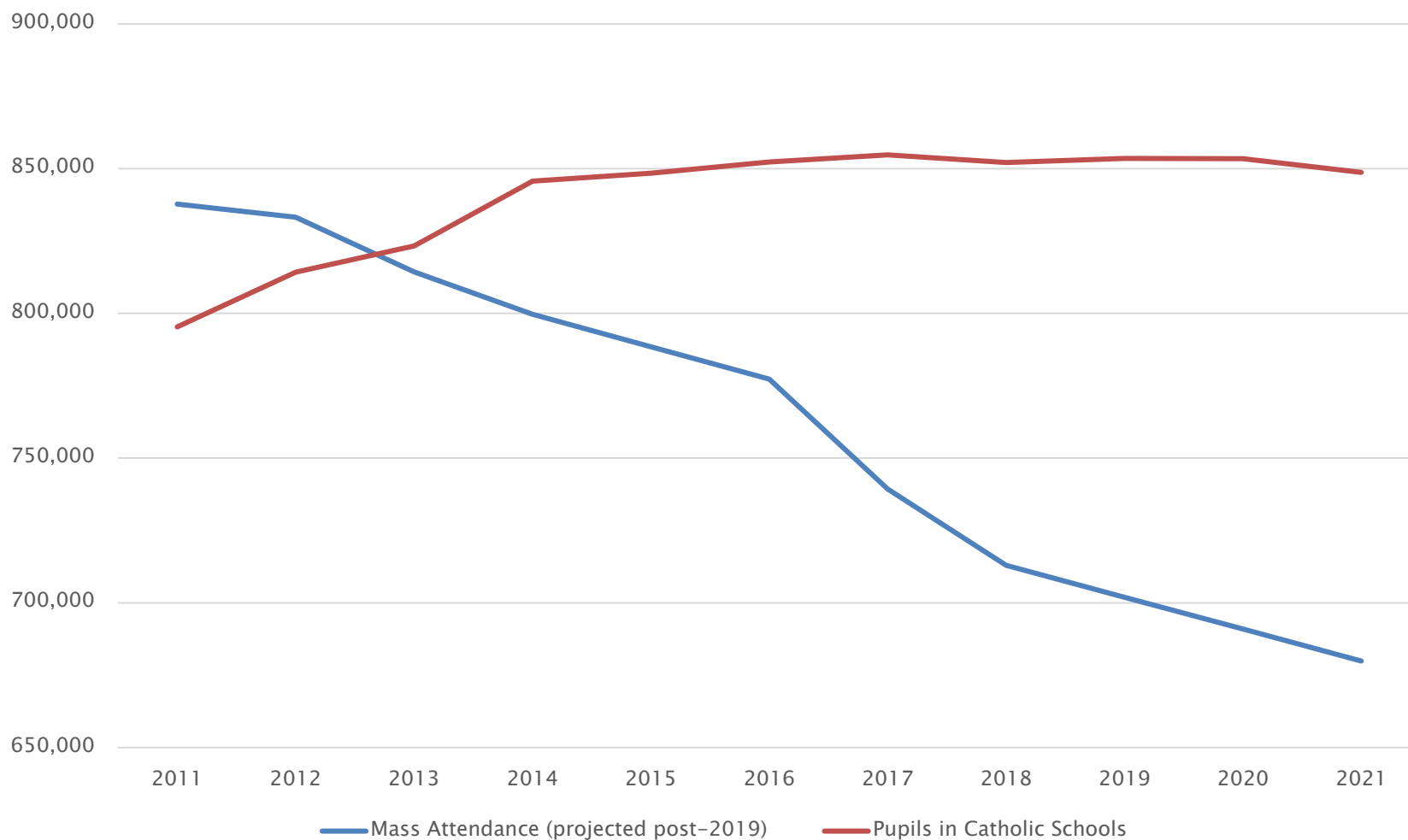


# The Emerging Landscape



# October 2013

Mass Attendance and Pupil Numbers (E&W)





Schools do not have a mission.

**The Mission has schools.**



# At the Crossroads...



- ▶ A bigger change than 1944?
- ▶ An opportunity to be seized?
- ▶ Full academisation?



# Opportunities



- ▶ Organisation
  - Economies of Scale – support to schools
  - More systematic induction and formation of staff
  - Coherent Catholic curriculum 3-19
  - Greater enrichment opportunities
  - Recruitment and retention opportunities – growth and development of talent
- ▶ Funding
  - School improvement function under church control
  - 100% capital funding
  - Support of episcopal leadership

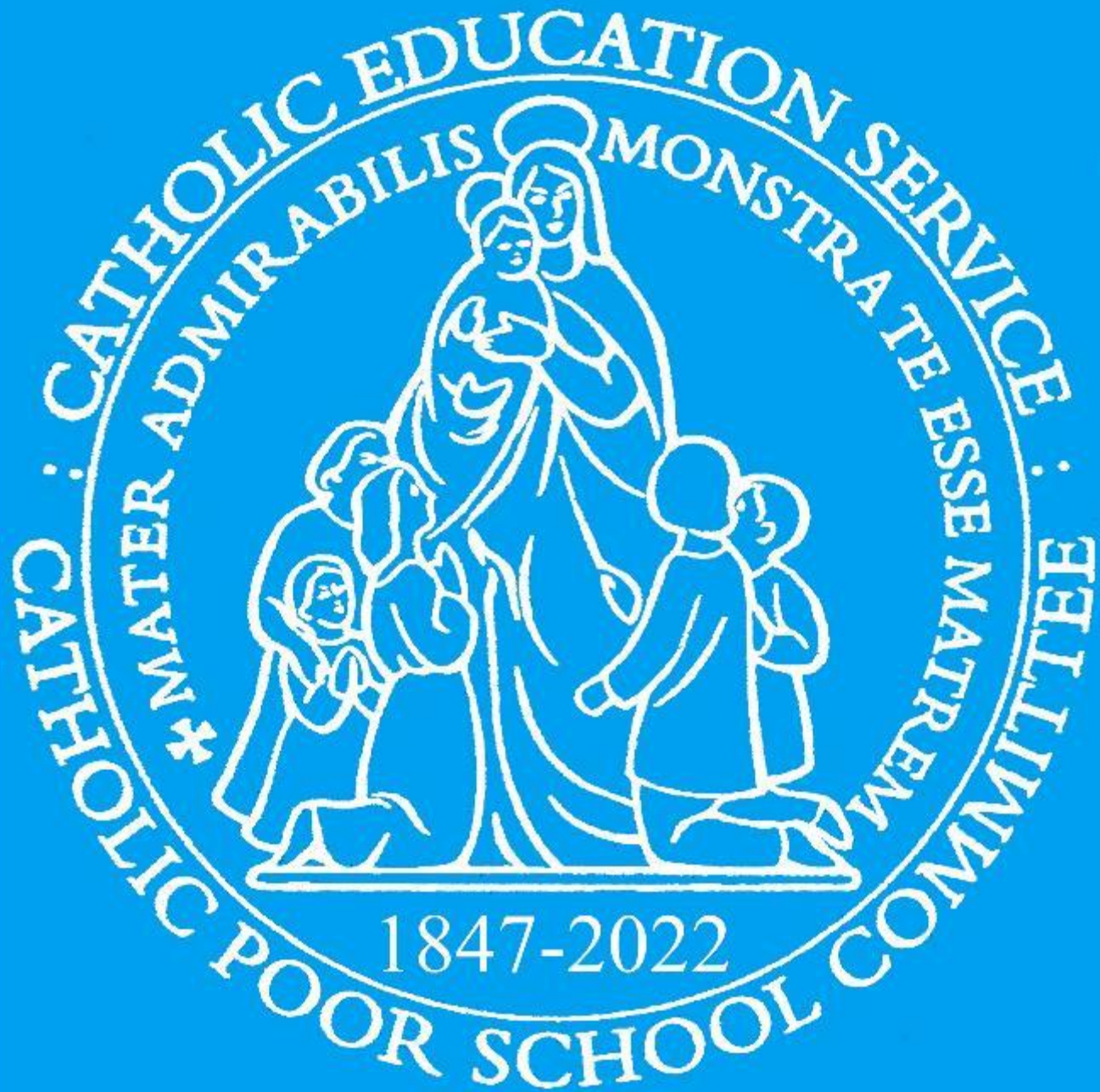




# Risks



- ▶ Loss of legacy and detachment from the mission
- ▶ Loss of standards (parental choice)
- ▶ Loss of authenticity
- ▶ Where will future generations of children encounter God???





# Catholic Education Service

The Education Agency of the Bishops' Conference of England and Wales



***Supporting Catholic Education for 175 years:***

***1847-2022***

[www.catholiceducation.org.uk](http://www.catholiceducation.org.uk)

International Office of Catholic Education (OIEC)  
England and Wales Presidency 2019-2022

[www.globalcatholiceducation.org](http://www.globalcatholiceducation.org)

