



Our Ref: JLS/H/Schools

Your Ref:-

The Head Teacher, Chair of Governors, parish priest,
Foundation governors, Clerks

18 January 2010

Dear Colleagues,

Director's letter, 2010

All Voluntary Schools are charities, whether Aided or Controlled, and the same is true of our foundation school. There is a move afoot to rationalise charities, and I am enclosing a brief statement about the existing situation. Incidentally, your school's charitable status means that governors can benefit from Gift Aid regulations, getting tax back on donations from parents to the governing body.

Another hot topic, for us at least, is the Service Level Agreement. From consultation responses, our proposals will not run, and we need to look again. We must do a number of things for our schools, but are not paid for them by the DCSF, unlike Local Authorities. If we cannot come to an agreement on an SLA, then we shall have to begin charging for services on an itemised basis. Several schools suggested this.

However, a resolution of this problem will not be down to me, as I shall be retiring as Director on 31 August. I'll have worked an extra year past my retirement; but it's great fun and a massive privilege to be Director of Education for Rochester Diocese, and I've valued all your support, help and comradeship over this amazing 11 years.

Finally: we think we've got problems: try running schools in Africa! I'm enclosing a flier from Build Africa, a local charity which links schools in England with schools in East Africa. I've tried to set up links with schools in three African dioceses, with no success to speak of. I see that Build Africa is already effective in the field, and I commend their work to any of you who wish to set up such a link.

Happy New Year,

John Smith

The Revd Canon John L Smith

 THE CHURCH
OF ENGLAND

 Diocese of
Rochester

Board of Education

**Bishop's Officer & Director of
Education**

Rev Canon. John L. Smith, M.A.

Email: john.smith@rochester.anglican.org

Rochester Diocesan Board of Education, St Nicholas' Church, Boley Hill, Rochester, Kent
ME1 1SL

Telephone 01634 560000 • Fax 01634 408942 • Email: education@rochester.anglican.org

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