



 THE CHURCH  
OF ENGLAND

 Diocese of  
Rochester

Board of Education

**Assistant Director of Education (Finance)**

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Our Ref:

Your Ref:

1 September 2010.

Dear Colleague

Welcome back to a new academic year, I hope you all enjoyed a well deserved rest.

Following The Rev. Canon John Smith's retirement, there is to be an interregnum and I have accepted an invitation to act as the Acting Director of Education from the 1 September 2010. I very much look forward to working closely with you in what I am sure will prove to be an interesting period in the educational world.

The Church of England's commitment to the provision of education extends over many centuries. It was most powerfully evident in its drive for the mass provision of Christian education for the poor, in the early 1800's. By the time of the national census of 1851, the Church of England had established 17,000 schools. This was a remarkable achievement, given that they were funded from private and congregational contributions, (State provision for public education did not arrive until the Education Act of 1870).

Church of England Schools have a distinctive Christian ethos and provide an inclusive, caring and supportive environment where children learn and flourish in a setting shaped by Christian values. They are successful, popular and are at the heart of the communities, which they serve, entirely due to the dedicated commitment of Headteachers, staff and Governors.

The Academies Bill was enacted on the 27 July 2010 and it can be viewed at [http://www.opsi.gov.uk/acts/acts2010/ukpga\\_20100032\\_en\\_1](http://www.opsi.gov.uk/acts/acts2010/ukpga_20100032_en_1). There have, over the years, been many Education Acts and the importance of this latest one should not be underestimated. Further guidance is attached.

We are determined that the core values of Church of England schools should be retained and attach the criteria we shall apply when deciding whether or not to agree to individual applications for conversion. It would be helpful for us to have an indication of your intention to adhere to the outlined principles and would urge you to liaise with us, at an early stage over your proposals.

There is currently, great uncertainty over future spending plans, which will now not be clarified until the Government's Capital Spending Review, towards the end of October. Let us hope that the expenditure reductions in education are not so stringent as to impede the development and growth of the future generations, which we serve.

Kind regards

Yours sincerely

**John Constanti**  
**Acting Director of Education**

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