

22nd March 2017

Dear Headteacher and Chair of Governors,

I am writing to share with you significant changes that the Board of Education is making to the future of our work with you. I believe that the content of this letter is crucial to the long term future of your Church school or academy, and has the potential to enormously support you in your complex leadership role.

In the last two years we have seen an enormous increase in the support that is sought by schools – this relates to us beginning to properly professionalise our work; it also relates to the sheer scale of change and range of variables that school leaders face on every level.

Gifted Core Foundation Provision

We have been working to claim our role as servant leader; to serve Church schools we have therefore listened carefully to school leaders about their school's needs. Working with you, and learning from what you say, we have reimagined, reinvented and enormously improved our core work and the leaflet enclosed defines for the first time, in one place, the statutory and non-statutory work provided, **gifted** (without charge), to all SDBE Church of England schools and academies. This **Core Foundation Provision** is yours by right as the leader of a Church school or academy; including from September 2017 **professional development** for all headteachers, gifted, at no extra charge.

I would ask you to look at the breadth and depth of the Core Foundation Provision and reflect on the scope of the gift of the DBE to your school and the way in which through this provision we can further support you.

Partnership Service Agreement 2017/18

To complement the gifted Core Foundation Provision we have developed over the last five years our Partnership Service Agreement – a subscription service. This service and your subscription to it, is precious to us, further supporting our all-important relationship with each other. You have been clear with us that in order for church school effectiveness to be truly supported by your church school distinctiveness the PSA needs to meet some very specific needs. September 2017 will therefore see a major change in the PSA subscription.

At the very heart of the new structure of the PSA with schools are five key strands of work which are the **entitlement, of all schools and academies that subscribe, without further cost**. These key strands have been carefully planned to help schools to ensure that their church school distinctiveness leads to effectiveness.

The Partnership Service Agreement 2017/18, your subscription of £575 will give you the support of 5 key strands:

1. a link adviser and a school/academy improvement visit to every school and academy
2. a local CPD programme for RE Co-ordinators and a local CPD programme for Collective Worship Co-ordinators
3. a training and support programme for all Headteachers new to post
4. training and support for all new (or those who wish to refresh) Foundation Governors
5. discounted menu of bespoke support (see leaflet), CPD programme and academy conversion fee through the purchase of credits

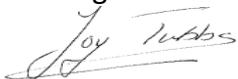
The main changes in the 2017/18 PSA are:

- access to the 5 key strands at NO additional cost
- re-imagining the initial visit - this can now be accessed anytime up to the Easter break, and will be for up to 3 hours rather than just 2 hours, enabling a full support visit
- just buy credits as your school/academy needs them
- you will still be able to share the cost of CPD between schools/academies, however, partnership subscriptions will no longer be available (you tell us these are hard to manage)
- all support purchased through credits will be for 3 or 6 hours enabling where appropriate time for the adviser to plan or follow up work

We are pleased to talk with you about any aspect of your subscription (please return the form enclosed), which will enable us to continue to work alongside you, in partnership, for the 2017/18 academic year. We would appreciate the return of your subscription form by 26th May 2017 enabling us to plan and to prioritise work appropriately.

We look forward to the next stage in the development of our work in support of you; we hope that the leaflet and this letter is helpful in introducing the changes and gives you confidence that the DBE team are here to support you.

Kind Regards



Canon Joy Tubbs
Director of Education