



THE BLACKBURN  
DIOCESAN BOARD  
OF EDUCATION

## **The Bishop's Award**

### **Celebrating Christian Distinctiveness in Church Schools and Academies**

***Planted in the House of the Lord they shall FLOURISH! Psalm 92***

The purpose of this award is to provide Church Schools with an opportunity to celebrate and be recognised for their distinctive ethos and practice, in line with the Church of England's vision for education to be 'Deeply Christian, serving the common good'.

Many other aspects of school life are acknowledged by the presentation of awards. Therefore, it is important that the elements of Church School life that actually lie at the very heart of what makes a Church School unique, are highlighted in this way.

Meeting the criteria for this award will make a strong contribution towards schools receiving an outstanding judgement in SIAMS and their support of the Diocesan Vision 2026.

Awards will be presented to Church Schools and Academies that have carried out sustainable areas of school improvement or projects, which raise the profile of the distinctive elements of Church School life. The school must be able to demonstrate that the work done is a direct result of effective self-evaluation, is creative, innovative and has a positive impact on the spiritual journey of individuals and all members of the school community.

### **The Criteria**

*The school improvement/project that will be acknowledged by the award must contribute to the flourishing of each child, the school and the wider community.*

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The award criteria are the three strands of the Diocesan Vision 2026:

- Making Disciples of Jesus Christ
- Being Witnesses to Jesus Christ
- Growing Leaders for Jesus Christ

The award criteria can be interpreted and displayed in many ways, a school meeting this criterion will clearly demonstrate:

- Inspirational Christian Leadership
- Deeply embedded Christian Values
- Christian Character is lived out in daily school life
- The spiritual journey of individuals and the school community as a whole is nurtured
- Inspirational Collective Worship
- Strong links between School, Church and Community
- The ways in which the Diocesan Vision 2026 is being supported.

Successful schools will be places where.....

- Christian values are explicit and deeply embedded in the daily life of the school.
- The school's Christian character has a high profile (and clearly shapes its approach to issues of attendance and pupil exclusion for all groups of learners).
- The Christian character and values are lived out by all members of the school community and have significant impact on the children's spiritual, moral, social and cultural development. (SIAMS 2013)