

SOUTHWARK DIOCESAN BOARD OF EDUCATION

Developing Church of England Education



POLICY STATEMENT

ADMISSION TO CHURCH OF ENGLAND SCHOOLS

In a diverse and largely secular society, the Board endorses the view that the Church School of today has a dual purpose, offering a Christian education to the children of Christian parents, and yet still fulfilling its historic mission in the practical expression of its pastoral responsibility to all children in the local community, irrespective of faith.

The Church School is integral to the wider mission and ministry of the Church. It follows that both its ethos and its admission policy, and indeed all other aspects of the school, are vital elements in the pursuit of that mission. If that mission is to serve and glorify God, then it follows that the Church School must be a genuine witness to the Incarnation. Therefore the Church School must:

- (a) serve by loving and valuing all humanity equally as the Father does in Jesus;
- (b) proclaim the Gospel by the whole nature of its words, actions, community life and concern for the individual, thus witnessing to God's gift of free grace in Jesus, not according to individual merit, but because of his love;
- (c) build up the people of God so that the Church may not live for itself, but may live in Him and for others and thus be truly alive.

The governors of a church school are required to present the love of God to the community: this must be reflected in the admission policy; a document that can proclaim publicly, more than any other, the governors' understanding of the place and function of a church school in contemporary society.

May 1995

Reviewed: 2009

Reviewed: 2012

Reviewed 2015

Reference: *Admission and appeals in Church of England Schools*, SDBE September 2015

Date of next review: November 2018