



POLICY STATEMENT

PROVISION OF SCHOOL PLACES – PLANNING PRINCIPLES

The Board's preference is for Voluntary Aided Schools but it recognises that other structures are increasingly being explored and will continue to provide support as schools change. Within the Diocese of Southwark, decisions regarding the provision of school places will be made with reference to the following principles

- (i) Maintaining the historic place of Church of England schools in the Diocese;
- (ii) Maintaining the proportion of places in Church of England schools;
- (iii) Exploring opportunities to develop new Church of England schools;
- (iv) Promoting extended schools provision and community cohesion;
- (v) Promoting the development of schools to achieve single age classes i.e. whole forms of entry;
- (vi) Seeking opportunities for schools to expand where there is demand;
- (vii) Promoting pre-statutory provision in the form of nurseries;
- (viii) Supporting small rural schools as centres for their communities;
- (ix) Encouraging the integration of pupils with special educational needs but recognising that the special provision is needed for those with profound and complex needs;
- (x) Monitoring sixth form provision where this exists and promoting new provision where there is support from governing bodies and parental demand;
- (xi) Promoting high quality education demonstrating Christian beliefs as expressed in the ethos statement of the school's Instrument of Government; and
- (xii) Recognising the role of the school in the mission of the Church and the life of the community.

March 2014 (Schools Committee)