

Bishop's Visitor to Church Schools Volunteer Role Description

Volunteer Role Title: Bishop's Visitor to Church Schools

Appointed by: The Bishop of Gloucester

Responsible to: Deputy Director of Education/Interim DDE

Tenure: The appointment will be for a period of three years in the first place, with the possibility of an extension.

Job purpose:

- a) to provide pastoral support to the school, especially the headteacher, as appropriate.
- b) to foster the link between the school and the Diocese.
- c) to encourage and support the expression of Christian beliefs, vision and values on which the school is founded.
- d) to foster good relationships within the school, and between the school, the local church and wider community.
- e) to encourage RE, Collective Worship and values education by sign-posting staff to appropriate officers, training and resources.

Bishop's Visitors will:

- a) establish links with designated schools using @glosdioc designated email - usually allocated on a deanery basis.
 - I. Clergy who are BVs will not normally visit schools in their own deanery.
 - II. BVs will not normally visit schools in their own parish.
- b) make a formal half-day visit to each school annually.
- c) where capacity allows, attend school events to foster relationships as a friend and pastoral support to the school.
- d) signpost schools to training, resources, officers and updates including the Diocesan Education Newsletter (DEN).
- e) write a letter to the headteacher reflecting on their visit and share with Deputy Director of Education/Interim DDE
- f) support the annual church schools' leavers' service in the Cathedral.
- g) attend three training and update meetings each year, with the

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- h) attend Diocesan training (including safeguarding) and keep up to date with local and national guidance and initiatives.
- i) receive and read school newsletters (by email) to keep informed of events and other matters relating to the life of the school.
- j) view schools' websites regularly.

Deputy Director of Education/Interim DDE will:

- a) meet with BVs three times a year, for updates and training.
- b) liaise between the Bishop and BVs.
- c) hold BV to account and monitor letters to schools.
- d) signpost BVs to appropriate training, guidance and materials.
- e) provide pastoral support for BVs.
- f) provide advice regarding IT and GDPR.
- g) provide support for BVs new to their role

Schools are asked to:

- a) agree half day visit date and be familiar with the BV letter template available online.
- b) introduce BV to staff and children as appropriate.
- c) invite BV to events and special occasions as appropriate, to foster the relationships as a friend of the school.
- d) inform BV if the Bishop has been invited to the school.
- e) inform BV of change of head and deputy head teachers.
- f) inform BV of any pastoral issues they would appreciate support with.
- g) share the annual BV letter with PCC and governors.
- h) contact education@glosdioc.org.uk if you have any questions, queries or concerns regarding this role.

Expenses:

The post of Bishop's Visitor is honorary. Travel expenses at the agreed diocesan rate will be paid, together with costs for parking, postage and telephone calls (please use for the form provided)