

Find out more about The Church of England and The Diocese of York



The Church of England



The **Church of England** is led by the Archbishops of Canterbury and York and 106 other bishops. They provide guidance and direction to the churches across the country and make decisions on the Church in society. The **General Synod** is an assembly of bishops, clergy and laity (all members who are not part of the clergy), and creates the laws of the Church. 'Synod' is a Greek word meaning "coming together and finding a way".

The **Archbishop of Canterbury** has oversight for the ministry and mission in the southern two-thirds of England. He also fills a unique position in the world-wide Anglican communion as spiritual leader. The **Archbishop of York** has oversight for the ministry and mission in the northern third of England. Together they lead the vision and direction of the Church of England.

Our two archbishops and 24 other bishops sit in the House of Lords, making a major contribution to Parliament's work. They are known as **Lords Spiritual**.

His Majesty the King is the **Supreme Governor of the Church of England**. The King appoints archbishops, bishops and deans of cathedrals on the advice of the Prime Minister.

There are 42 dioceses in the Church of England (though only 40 are in England, with the other 2 being the Diocese of Sodor and Man and the Diocese of Europe). You can find them all on this map which also shows the dioceses that the Archbishop of Canterbury has oversight of and the dioceses the Archbishop of York has oversight of [Diocese: our regional presence | The Church of England](#)

The Diocese of York

The Diocese of York in the Church of England is a family of nearly 600 churches and 122 schools in over 400 parishes. A diocese is a large area that is looked after by a diocesan bishop. The Diocese of York is a little unusual in that our diocesan Bishop is also an Archbishop. The Diocese of York led and guided in their faith and work by the Archbishop of York, Stephen Cottrell.

Every Diocese has a **Diocesan Synod**. The York Diocesan Synod is the governing body of the Diocese of York. Clergy and Laity from across the Diocese are elected on to the Diocesan Synod to represent people's views as decisions are made. You can find out more about it here: [Diocesan Synod - Diocese of York](#)



You could use the copy of the diocesan map on our website here: <https://dioceseofyork.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2024/10/Diocesan-map.pdf> and create a classroom display as you learn more about the Diocese of York.

The Diocese of York is divided into 3 **Archdeaconries** and 21 **Deaneries**.

An **Archdeaconry** is a large area in a diocese that is overseen by an Archdeacon. We have 3 in the Diocese of York. Archdeaconry of York, Archdeaconry of Cleveland and Archdeaconry of East Riding.

Each of our Archdeaconries is overseen by a suffragan Bishop and an Archdeacon who help Archbishop Stephen in looking after the Diocese. They are a bit like a senior leadership of a school. Archbishop Stephen is the Headteacher and our Bishops are a team of Deputy Headteachers supported by Archdeacons or Assistant Headteachers.

Deaneries are the networks of churches in each locality, inspiring, influencing and leading mission and ministry. They are served by a Deanery Synod and led by an Area Dean and Lay Dean.

Why not find out which Archdeaconry and deanery your school and church are in here [Find a Church - Diocese of York](#)

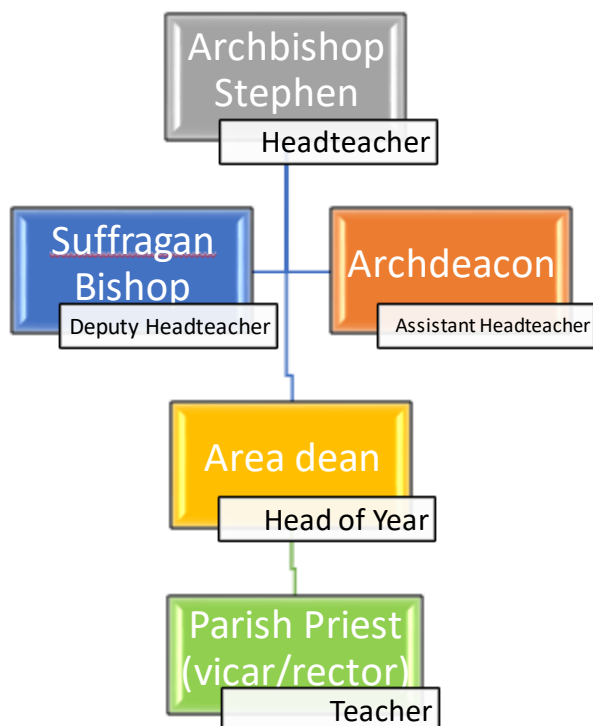
Your school is linked to a Parish. A **Parish** is local area looked after by a Church and its priest (sometimes known as an incumbent or vicar). Church schools have members of the local church sitting on their governing body as foundation governors to help the school live out its Christian vision and celebrate the link between church and school.

Why not find out more about your local church? You could find out more about the building and the people. You could interview your local vicar and find out more about the job they do and what it means to be a part of the diocesan family.

Our church schools in the Diocese of York, all 122 of them, are supported by a **Diocesan Board of Education** who work hard to champion the voice of children and young people in the diocese.

You can find out more about it here: [The Diocesan Board of Education - Diocese of York](#)

Here is a diagram that might help you understand how everyone connects together. All these people work together to support our diocese, helping parishes and schools reach their local communities, growing together as they serve God.



Whatever you do, in word or deed, do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him.' Colossians 3:17

Metropolitan Church of St Peter in York

A cathedral serves its community as the mother church of its area and the seat of a bishop. They are physical and cultural landmarks, often the most magnificent, complex and ancient buildings in their local area. Commonly known as York Minster, the Metropolitan Church of St Peter in York is the mother church of the Diocese of York and the Cathedral seat of the Archbishop of York. There has been a Minster in York since 627AD, and today it holds many different ministries.



York Minster hosts major Diocesan events such as the ordination of priests and deacons, and the licensing of readers.

As the cathedral for the Archbishop of York, York Minster is the principal church in the northern province of the Church of England, and as such hosts the consecration of Bishops in the Northern Province.

As well as providing a home for services of regional and national importance, the Minster maintains a round of daily prayer and a ministry of welcome to its many visitors.

A cathedral is led by the Dean of the Cathedral who is appointed by the King. The Dean of York Minster is the Very Reverend Dominic Barrington.

Find out more about our Mother Church –York Minster here: <https://yorkminster.org/>

Why not plan a visit. York Minster invites all church schools in the diocese to a diocesan day with the York Minster Centre of School Visits on rotation. To find out when your visit is contact bookings@yorkminster.org

South African Link

The Diocese of York is twinned with three Dioceses in South Africa - Cape Town, False Bay and Saldanha Bay. You can find out more by using the fact sheet on the website <https://dioceseofyork.wpenginepowered.com/wp-content/uploads/2024/04/year-of-diocese-discover-york-link-dioceses-2.pdf>



Why not find out more about our companion links with South Africa? You could work together with your local church to do a class or school project.

Are there any other worldwide links your school or local church has?