

Every Child Matters and the Diocesan Education Board

Changes in Legislation

The Green Paper *Every Child Matters [ECM]* was published in 2003. It was a response to Lord Laming's report on the death of Victoria Climbié and its principles were put into law as the Children Act 2004. Its aim was to produce practical improvement in children's welfare. These improvements were grouped under Five Outcomes that reflect a consultation with children, young people and adults. They are:

- Be healthy
- Stay safe
- Enjoy and Achieve
- Make a positive contribution
- Achieve economic well-being

The Children Act 2004 also made provision for the establishment of a Children's Commissioner to promote awareness of the views and interests of children. At local authority level, it required the establishment of integrated children's services, which brought together the functions previously split between educational and social services. Each children's services authority was required to engage with relevant partners to produce a children and young people's plan, setting out its strategy for discharging those functions. Local authorities and schools would now be inspected on their effectiveness in delivering improved outcomes for children and young people.

Following on this, the White Paper *Higher Standards, Better Schools for All* was published in October 2005. Its aim was to transform the education system in order to ensure that every child in every school in every community got the education they need to enable them to fulfil their potential.

The Education and Inspections Act gave legal force to proposals, and to some additional measures that were not included in the original White Paper. It received Royal Assent on 8 November 2006.

The main provisions in the Act are:

Trust schools

The Act enabled all schools to become Trust schools by forming links with external partners. If the school chooses, these external partners are able to appoint the majority of the Governing Body. Trust schools:

- own their own assets;
- employ their own staff;
- set their admission arrangements;
- are able to apply for additional flexibilities.

There are safeguards around the acquisition of Trusts. Churches have increased opportunities for involvement in non-denominational schools through the establishment of diocesan Trusts with the power to appoint governors to affiliated schools.

Local authorities

Local authorities took on a new strategic role including:

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- duties to promote choice, diversity, high standards and the fulfilment of potential for every child;
- a duty to respond to parental concerns about the quality of local schools;
- acting as decision-maker on school organisation matters;
- responsibility for making sure young people have a range of exciting things to do in their spare time;
- appoint School Improvement Partners for maintained schools;
- provide positive activities for young people.

Fair access

The Act tightened the admissions framework to ensure fair access for all by:

- reaffirmed the ban on new selection by ability;
- placed a ban on interviewing;
- strengthened the status of the Code on School Admissions;
- brought in new powers for admissions forums;
- extended the duty on local authorities to provide free transport for the most disadvantaged families.

The Act also:

- placed a duty on governing bodies to promote well-being and community cohesion, and to take the Children and Young People's Plan into consideration;
- created a power for staff to discipline pupils;
- extended the scope of parenting orders and contracts;
- improved provision for excluded pupils;
- put in place a new entitlement to specialised Diplomas for young people;
- established new nutritional standards for food and drink served in maintained schools;
- merged several existing inspectorates into a single inspectorate to cover the full range of services for children and young people, as well as life-long learning.

Mapping DEB work onto the ECM outcomes framework

The legislative changes outlined above were the most significant and far-reaching changes affecting children and young people for decades. They had an impact on the way local authorities structure their work with children and young people and the DEB needed to take account of them in its work.

The *Every Child Matters* agenda challenged us philosophically and practically. In what sense does every child matter to the Church? How do biblical views of the child – as learner, prophetic leader, symbol of relationship to God, undeveloped adult or role model to the adult, for example – inform our approach to working with children and young people?

Diocesan Priorities

The work of the DEB and Church schools is relevant to all six diocesan priorities, but the one that focuses on children and young people is directly relevant to the ECM agenda. DEB officers are working closely with the diocesan children's and youth officers and Cathedral staff to ensure that we respond positively as a diocese to the significant opportunities offered by these changes in legislation and that we make a Christian impact on work with children and young people both within and outside formal education.

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The DEB and the ECM outcomes

In November 2006 the Board considered how it works with the five ECM outcomes under the Diocesan Boards of Education Measure. Below the areas identified are listed along with the DEB outcomes which would indicate successfully meeting the targets. The asterisk * denotes targets relating to more than one outcome. The reflections (in the boxes) were offered by Paul Ferguson, the Archdeacon of Cleveland, to the Archbishop's Council (York), & are included with permission.

BE HEALTHY

ECM Aims

Physically healthy
Mentally and emotionally healthy
Sexually healthy
Healthy lifestyles
Choose not to take illegal drugs

Beloved, I pray that all may go well with you and that you may be in health; I know it is well with your soul. <i>3 John 2</i>	The concepts of health, wholeness and peace are all present in the meaning of <i>shalom</i> . Christianity inherits from Judaism a respect for the body: Paul describes it as a temple of the Holy Spirit (1 Cor 6.19). Refreshment and recreation on the Sabbath is a gift of God (Ex 20.11 & 23.12; cf Mk 2.27). As well as the physical and mental health to which <i>ECM</i> gives prominence, spiritual well-being is vital (Gal 5.22-23; Phil 4.4-9). While it is good to see young people's spiritual growth, it is important that spirituality is marked by joy and celebration, that moral development does not become distorted into harmful feelings of guilt, and that young people have the opportunity to be the successors of those who heard Jesus gladly.
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NDEB Target Areas

- Promote partnership of all those involved in working for the benefit and well being of children and young people in Church schools. *
- Support the provision of high quality Acts of Collective Worship *
- Encourage the provision of opportunities for spiritual and moral development *
- Support staff and governors as they address *Be Healthy* +Spiritual & Moral development
- Encourage schools to use the diocesan Sex and Relationships Education Guidelines*
- Provide appropriate training for governors and clergy
- Encourage schools to take account of North Tyneside LA's materials for their sixth outcome *Be Spirited*

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NDEB Outcomes

- Excellent Collective worship provided
- Joined up diocesan services and provision for children and young people, and churches involved in extended school activities
- Diocesan Sex and Relationships Education Guidelines used in schools
- ALL schools supported through the work of SACREs
- Clergy, teachers and governors well trained regarding spiritual development
- School communities trained and able to deal with issues of long term illness and death of community members.
- Opportunities provided for spiritual development through events such as the Leavers' Service, Advent Services, 200th Anniversary of the National Society in 2011.

STAY SAFE

ECM Aims

- Safe from maltreatment, neglect, violence and sexual exploitation.
- Safe from accidental injury and death
- Safe from bullying and discrimination
- Safe from crime and anti social behaviour in and out of school
- Have security, stability and are cared for

Every person, of whatever age, hopes to be safe from emotional and physical harm and exploitation. In several of the Psalms (e.g. Ps 69) we hear the cry of the one who is in fear and looks to God for protection. Sometimes the intimidation comes from an unexpected source: the Bible recognises this, for Ps 55.12-14 is the heartbroken complaint of friendship betrayed. But the Spirit-filled Christian community is to model good and safe relationships (Gal 5.25-26; Phil 2.4; Col 3.12-17). People who live in safety and security can yet be aware of what it is like to be denied them (Deut 26.5-9), and ensure that the poor and alien are provided for (Lev 19.9-10). Legal processes must be impartial (Lev 19.15). Those in positions of trust must not take advantage of others (1 Pet 5.1-3). Our dealings with one another show whether we have understood what it is to be in relationship with God (Mt 25.31-46; 1 Jn 3.17 & 4.19-21).

Deliver me from my persecutors, for they are too strong for me!
Psalm 142.6

NDEB Target Areas

- Support staff and governors to develop health and safety expertise
- Encourage schools to understand their part in safeguarding children and to develop robust procedures

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- Promote the valuing and understanding of diversity and encourage the development of harmonious and mutually beneficial relationships *
- Establish sound and constructive partnerships with LAs, diocesan groups and other agencies working with and on behalf of children and young people and their families *
- Encourage schools to implement the diocesan Sex & Relationships Education Guidelines*

NDEB Outcomes

- Accessible Church schools with an excellent Health and Safety record
- Safeguarding children guidelines implemented and schools clear about their role in identifying problems e.g. domestic abuse
- Best value solutions and appropriate support provided for VA schools undertaking building works
- Schools provide relevant and imaginative PSHE and citizenship education that includes Christian perspectives
- Regeneration of communities through collaboration with the local authorities, e.g. Walker, PLF

ENJOY AND ACHIEVE

ECM Aims

- Ready to attend school
- Attend and enjoy school
- Achieve stretching national standards at primary school
- Achieve personal and social development and enjoy recreation
- Achieve stretching national standards at secondary school.

<p>If you continue in my word, you are truly my disciples, and you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free <i>John 8.31-32</i></p>	<p><i>ECM</i> is most concerned here with educational standards. We have a particular concern that religious education should be of good quality, and that worship in schools should be appropriately designed and shared. Young people respond to various ways of worshipping, including encountering the numinous (Ps 96). It is important to promote ethical awareness (Prov 1). It is unhelpful to give young people the impression that science and faith are incompatible. The Church has particular opportunities to support achievement and encounter with new experiences, including through the imaginative use of its buildings. All abilities and good opportunities are the gifts of God: we should be generous in recognising and affirming those gifts, ready where possible to help overcome obstacles caused by disability, and humble in recognising our mutual dependence (Rom 12.3-8; 2 Cor 12).</p>
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NDEB Target areas

- Work with the LA and other organisations as appropriate to help Church schools to provide an excellent education for all their pupils, and to engage with pre-school children & their families where possible *

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- Support Ofsted 5 and SIAS section 48 inspection process by encouraging schools to undertake a rigorous process of self review.
- Provide INSET and governor training complementary to LA provision*
- Encourage clergy and churches to work with schools to deliver extended School activities, including activities for parents and carers and pre school aged children
- Training for clergy about RE, ACW and extended schools
- Liaise with children's and youth officers to develop extended school activities
- Encourage learning about and from Christianity and other faiths

NDEB Outcomes

- Schools and churches reaching out to the under 4s and working with their families and other early years providers to deliver experiences that will help to prepare them for school
- Attendance rates in C of E schools are above the national average
- The distinctive Christian character of C of E schools is valued by all in the school community and beyond (e.g. Ofsted)
- Ofsted and SIAS reports confirm that Church schools are providing an excellent Christian education
- Evaluations indicate that training provided for staff, governors and clergy is relevant and well delivered

MAKE A POSITIVE CONTRIBUTION

ECM Aims

- Engage in decision making and support the community and environment.
- Engage in law abiding and positive behaviour in and out of school
- Develop positive relationships and choose not to bully or discriminate.
- Develop self confidence and successfully deal with significant life changes and challenges.
- Develop enterprising behaviour

Young people are encouraged in *ECM* to contribute positively as citizens. Promoting a just society, and living in accordance with its principles, is a responsibility dating from ancient times (Mic 6.8). We bear responsibility too for the local and global environment. Conscious of their need for forgiveness and reconciliation, Christians must themselves be agents of reconciliation (Mt 5.21-24; 2 Cor 5.16-21). *ECM* aims that young people should be able to deal with significant life changes and challenges: the Christian faith holds out the firm hope of a relationship with God that persists through even the worst experiences, and beyond death itself (Rom 8.31-39), while the Church offers pastoral care and rites particularly at the important and difficult stages of life.

Give justice to the weak and the orphan; maintain the right of the afflicted and the destitute.
Psalm 82.3

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<i>ECM</i> aims that young offenders should be given support after serving their sentences: rehabilitation and the opportunity of a fresh start have had a Christian context since Philemon.	
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NDEB Target areas

- Encourage headteachers and governors of church schools to provide an education that helps to develop 'a heart for others' and care for the environment *
- Support schools to develop a behaviour policy based on relevant Christian principles such as forgiveness and reconciliation and treating others as we would like to be treated by them *
- Provide information about charities and how to support them e.g. Send A Cow, Shoe Box Appeal, PICA
- Encourage schools to make use of DEB Sex and Relationship Education guidelines
- Promote the diocesan guidelines on valuing cultural diversity
- Share good ideas for marking significant milestones or coping with major life changes across the family of C of E schools
- Encourage schools to find appropriate ways to actively listen to their pupils (Student Voice) and to support them in listening to each other, e.g. by establishing school councils
- As a member of the Council of Faiths promote intercultural understanding and community cohesion

NDEB Outcomes

- Pupils take part in diocesan events that mark significant times or major change in their lives
- Strategies in place to ensure children and young people are heard within schools, churches and their communities
- Schools participate in activities to support charities both locally and internationally.
- Relationships within C of E schools are harmonious and respectful

ACHIEVE ECONOMIC WELL-BEING

ECM Aims

Engage in further education, employment or training on leaving school
Ready for employment
Live in decent homes and sustainable communities
Access to transport and material goods
Live in households free from low incomes

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<p>You know the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, that though he was rich, yet for your sake he became poor, so that through his poverty you might become rich. <i>2 Corinthians 8.9</i></p>	<p><i>ECM</i> promotes steps that will secure young people's financial security, with an eye to their long-term welfare. There is more here than a question whether it is ethically acceptable to amass wealth. Low income is linked to poor health, low life expectancy and loss of educational opportunity. Christians must think not only of ownership but also of stewardship. Giving money to support worship and faith is an aspect of acknowledging God's generosity and sovereignty (1 Chr 29.10-17; 2 Cor 8 & 9). Excessive rates of interest are an abomination (Ps 15.5), as are economic decisions that reduce people to destitution and slavery (Neh 5.1-13).</p>
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NDEB Target Areas

- Work with the Family and Children's Trusts in each LA to support the delivery of the Children and Young Peoples' Plans
- Support representatives to scrutinize the work of LAs in relation to C & YP Plans
- Liaise with diocesan youth officers and keep abreast of national and local developments
- Support schools to provide an education that allows each child to flourish and gain skills, attitudes and qualifications that will maximise their life chances*
- Encourage schools to find ways to help children learn about the world of work
- Support the FE Task Group's work

NDEB Outcomes

- DEB representatives on Scrutiny equipped and able to participate fully in the process
- DEB represented on FACTs in the 3 LAs
- Schools, clergy and congregations engaging with young people to support the development of life skills and inter-generational working
- FE colleges, supported and resourced by local faith communities encouraging students of all faiths and none to address current issues and ultimate questions
- Churches and schools collaborating to serve young people
- The FE Task Group meets its targets