



**GUIDANCE FOR GOVERNORS
ON USE OF CHURCH SCHOOL BUILDINGS
BY OTHER CHRISTIAN GROUPS**

Applications for the use of the church school premises for outside groups is decided by the Governors (see The Governors' Guide to the Law, Chapter 17), unless the Trust Deed specifically says otherwise. In a Voluntary Aided school, it is the whole Governing Body who decides on the use; in a Voluntary Controlled school the Governing Body decides on the use from Monday to Saturday but the Foundation Governors alone decide on use of the premises on a Sunday.

While the final decision on the use of church school premises rests with the Governing Body or part thereof, the Board of Education is happy to make the following recommendations:

- 1 It is appropriate to hire out church school premises, notably the school hall, to non-Anglican Christians where it is practical to do so and the money received makes it worthwhile to employ the caretaker to open and lock up and to heat the building.
- 2 This would only be appropriate with Trinitarian Christian groups who are either a member of Churches Together in Britain and Ireland or affiliated to the Evangelical Alliance or Affinity. Please talk to the Diocesan Director of Education if you are unsure on this.
- 3 The practicalities of opening the church school at the weekend should always be considered, and the effect on the local community should be borne in mind. For example, if a church school is next to the parish church, and having two groups of people using adjacent buildings early on the Sunday morning will cause problems, then it may be appropriate to turn down the request for hiring.
- 4 It would be inappropriate to hire a hall on a regular basis to an Anglican church from outside the parish without the express permission of the local Rector/Vicar/Priest-in-charge.

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