

Dear Headteacher/ Chair of Governor

We are pleased to enclose a copy of the **Capital Programme** for 2026 2027 for your information. The allocations have been prioritised with the help and support of Area Surveyors and members of the Education Estates Group within the archdiocese.

As we have underlined, there is considerable demand on a limited budget to meet the needs of all schools across the estate and we apply a simple methodology of 'safe, warm and dry' to help with priorities. This is drawn from DfE guidance in Good Estate Management for School (GEMS) document and is captured through the **Education Estates Strategy** which we launched last year. We also try to consider the relative spend over a number of years to ensure all our schools have a fair level of investment over time.

As the academisation of schools is now moving along, we would want to **reassure** any schools identified on the programme that any **commitments will be maintained** even if the school is joining a CMAT this year. Once placed into a CMAT, **any further VASCA allocation** would then be made to the CMAT and **not to us** at the archdiocese.

You will be aware that the **School Levy** is of critical importance in enabling major projects to be realised as part of the Voluntary Aided School Condition Allocation (VASCA). There is an allocation of 90% from the DfE and a further 10% funded by governors. On major projects, this would be prohibitive for most schools, so the archdiocese pools the levy each year to meet this demand. It is important that **all schools contribute to the levy each year** to enable this commitment to be met.

The use of **Devolved Formula Capital** (DFC) is delegated to individual schools and we ask that you address condition related issues at school to ease the burden on VASCA projects at the centre. It is also critical that you **spend the allocation** within 3 years of receiving the grant. Area surveyors can help with this.





Please contact Area Surveyors or us directly at the archdiocese if you have pressing concerns about support with school buildings and we will endeavour to support where we can.

Michael Boland



Archdiocese of Liverpool

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