

## Annex: the distinctiveness of Church colleges: a suggested framework

**1.** A Church of England college of higher education might be expected to offer:

- courses in teacher education including specialist religious education;
- courses relating to the needs of other caring professions;
- courses in Christian theology and Church education;
- courses leading to the Church Colleges' Certificates.

In its initial teacher education courses, the college should:

- meet at the highest possible quality the requirements relating to religious education, spiritual and moral development, and collective worship;
- inform students about Church schools and give students the opportunity to undertake teaching practice and to prepare for careers in Church schools;
- encourage all students to see teaching as a vocation.

In its continuing professional development courses, the college might be expected to:

- provide for the needs of headteachers, teachers and governors of Church schools;
- provide for the needs of Christian teachers in all schools.

In all its courses, the college might be expected to offer opportunities for students:

- to develop the ability and commitment to contribute to the improvement of the human condition;
- to consider matters relating to values and insights from Christian scholarship relevant to their subject area.

**2.** With regard to the educational context which it offers, the Church college should be a community:

- which is welcoming, caring and supportive;
- which displays values of honesty, openness, friendliness, trust and respect;
- in which all students and staff are valued as individuals and helped to reach their full potential;
- which recognizes and tries to meet responsibilities to serve those in need in the wider community and to act as stewards of creation;
- which is committed to strive for excellence in all that it does.

The community should:

- be based on Christian principles;
- provide opportunities for Christian worship;
- offer a Christian influence to all its members.

- 3.** The purposes of the Church colleges should reflect their Christian foundation and their response to the great commandments to love God and to love one's neighbour as oneself. Among other things the colleges should seek to:
  - **help all students to reach their full potential as complete and individual human beings;**
  - **provide an education which stretches the mind, strengthens the body, enriches the imagination, nourishes the spirit, encourages the will to do good and opens the heart to others;**
  - **develop in all students a sense of vocation.**
- 4.** As Christian institutions, the colleges might also be expected to respond in particular ways to the needs of groups of stakeholders, including students, the Church and society. For example, with respect to students, the Church college should make special provision for:
  - **Christian students;**
  - **students from developing countries and from sections of society which have been traditionally underrepresented in higher education, including those with disabilities and those from minority ethnic groups.**

The Church college might also be expected to help to meet the needs of the Church and especially the Anglican Church by:

- **making available human and material resources;**
- **educating and training teachers for Church schools;**
- **supporting governors and clergy and members of faith communities at national, diocesan and parish level in meeting their responsibilities for Church schools;**
- **contributing to theological training for lay people, readers and the ordained ministry;**
- **playing a role in evangelism and in ecumenism.**

In addition the Church college might be expected to respond to the needs of society by:

- **preparing students to serve in the teaching and the caring professions;**
- **providing opportunities for continuing professional development in those areas;**
- **making available its resources to the community.**