

Preface

To the Archbishops' Council

- 1.** We offer this final report in response to the remit you gave us to advise on the achievements and future development of Church of England schools. Much of our work builds on the excellent work of the dioceses and the Church of England Board of Education and National Society over the past fifteen years.
- 2.** For all of us it has been a real privilege to be invited to advise at a time when society is increasingly welcoming to the contribution of the churches to education, and when the Church, through the General Synod, has identified the Church of England's schools as being at the centre of the Church's mission to the nation. We are conscious that much of what we have to say is a challenge, but a positive challenge, to the whole Church community at every level. We have consciously aimed very high, whilst recognizing that our future achievement, particularly in increasing secondary provision, by no means lies within the gift of the Church alone. But there is much, especially in terms of the way we think as a Church and the action we take, that does lie in our hands, and in these things lies the heart of our message.
- 3.** Our warmest thanks go to all those who have contributed to our work: to the diocesan boards of education; to those listed in Appendix 6 who contributed to the work of our subgroups; and to the many individuals and organizations who have submitted evidence or responded to our consultation. A list of all those who have helped us in our task can be viewed on the National Society website (www.natsoc.org.uk). Our thanks go also to the many Church schools and colleges we have visited for making us so welcome.
- 4.** We offer our grateful thanks to our three assessors, the Most Revd Vincent Nichols, Professor Arthur Pollard and Mrs Oona Stannard, and to our Adviser, the Revd Canon John Hall. We also thank his colleagues in the Church of England Board of Education and National Society, especially Mr Alan Brown, Mrs Liz Carter, Ms Daphne Griffith and Mr David Lankshear. They have all given generously of their time and wisdom. We warmly thank the Allchurches Trust Ltd, the Central Church Fund and the National Society for their generous grants towards the cost of the Review Group. Our thanks go also to Mr Mark Warbrooke, who helped in the research, to Mrs Pauline Ford who typed the drafts of this report, and to Mr Henry Head who helped in the analysis of consultation responses.
- 5.** Our greatest debt is to our Secretary, Mr Colin Hopkins, whose commitment to the task has been well beyond the call of duty. The flow of paper has been immense and the resources available to him very small, and yet,

thanks to him, all proceedings have been well ordered, well recorded, and now finally reported.

Signed

Ron Dearing (Chairman)

Linda Borthwick

✠ Rowan Cambrensis

Peter Crook

Peter Hill

John Rea

Christine Whatford

Julie Wilks

17 April 2001