

Poll shows widespread support for Church Schools

Seven out of ten people believe that Church of England schools play a positive role in educating the nation's children, according to a poll by researchers ORB released last month.

Further research, by the National Institute for Christian Research Education, points to the 'added value' that Church schools offer their students and to the diversity of their learner populations.

Support for inclusive schools run with a Christian ethos remains widespread across all areas of the country and across different economic groups, with 74 per cent of respondents from rural areas supporting Church schools, and similarly high figures of 69 and 77 per cent of those surveyed from areas with predominantly Local Authority housing and separate towns respectively.

Figures also demonstrate a positive view of Church schools within other faith communities, with 62 per cent of respondents from non-Christian faith groups agreeing that Church of England schools have a positive role in society.

Church of England opens virtual door on its documentary heritage

Information on the rich documentary heritage of the Church of England is now only a click away with the launch of a dedicated Libraries and Archives section on the Church of England's popular website.

Information about Lambeth Palace Library, the Church of England Record Centre and the Library of the Cathedral and Church Buildings Division, as well as links to the major ecclesiastical libraries and archives throughout England, have been brought together in the new section, creating a single portal to the documentary heritage of the Church of England.

While many of these libraries and archives have run their own websites for some time, only now can users visit a central starting point, appropriately hosted on the Church's main website that currently handles an average of more than 20,000 requests for pages of information each day.

Information on how to access a diverse range of material - from medieval texts such as the 12th century Lambeth Bible, through to documents on church architecture, or the history of free education in England - can all be accessed via the new section.

"I hope that these pages will provide a gateway to the many and varied collections in the Church," said Declan Kelly, Director of Libraries, Archives and Information services. The new section is available at: <http://www.cofe.anglican.org/about/librariesandarchives/>

