

The Fitting of Solar Panels on Church Schools

Peterborough Diocese Board of Education

Although the Board of Education is keen to support responsible stewardship of God's created world, we do not yet have a policy regarding the installation of solar panels on Church schools. Our current practice is to treat each school interested in installing solar panels on an individual basis. For any school to receive permission to install solar panels the governing body must satisfy the relevant trustees (usually, but not always, the DBE) that all legal due diligence has been undertaken and that the issues below have been properly addressed, these include ensuring that:

- any necessary planning permissions are gained
- the roof itself is in good condition and able to accept and cope with any weight and strain associated with the installation of the solar panels
- proper precautions are taken for dealing with asbestos or other dangerous materials which may be disturbed during or after fitting has occurred
- appropriate insurance is in place, including damage from vandalism and theft
- provision is made for the cost of maintaining the panels and removing them if need be.

Please note, that in the case of the leasing of solar panels, it is the trustees, not the governors or headteachers, who have the legal responsibility to secure the best value for the school of any lease or grant of right to third parties.

Miranda Robinson
Diocesan Director of Education
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