

EXETER EPISCOPAL SCHOOLS TRUST

HISTORY OF TRUST

During the reign of Queen Anne, Bishop Offspring Blackall (acting Bishop between 1708-1716) founded four charitable schools in the city of Exeter through the Episcopal Charity Trust. These schools were founded in 1709 and funded by voluntary subscription and collections made at the Cathedral and churches of Exeter. The four schools were quickly divided into two schools, one for boys and one for girls. Unfortunately Bishop Blackall died from injuries after falling off a horse and was involved with the Charity for just seven years. However his good work continued and over the years donations were made to the schools by wealthy citizens of Exeter.

In 1934 Bishop Blackall School for Girls was named after Bishop Blackall in his honour but the school was damaged in the bombing during the Second World War. The Local Education Authority took over control in 1946 and by the end of the 1950s there were 530 girls enrolled on the register. A fire swept through the school in 1979 and the fire service battled for twelve hours to put out the flames. Four years later the school merged with Hele's Grammar School and subsequently went on to become St Peter's Church of England High School.

On 15 April 1993 a Scheme was approved by the Charity Commission forming the Exeter Episcopal Schools Trust. Today, in addition to promoting religious education in accordance with the doctrines of the Church of England in any maintained school in the area of benefit, the trustees can apply charitable income to promote the education of children and young persons under the age of 25 who attend or have attended St Peter's Church of England High School at Exeter and to provide benefit of any kind for which provision is not normally made out of public funds. Applicants who apply to the trust must meet the required criteria and an application form can be downloaded from