



New NAES Pamphlet Series

The Idea of an Episcopal School

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Episcopalians, like all Christians, believe that our life is founded on the life of Jesus, and that as a Church we are called to offer the redeeming love of God in Christ to all people. Episcopal schools are a concrete expression of the Church's care for young people and their families, and of the belief that God calls us to love all God's children.

Despite a long-standing tradition of church schools in the Anglican Communion, the identity of such schools and the nature of their relationships with the Church continue to be re-examined and redefined. The variety of Episcopal schools—ranging from parish day schools that are a direct outgrowth of church mission, to independent boarding schools with only the loosest connections to a diocese—almost defies attempts to define them. The diverse religious backgrounds and cultures of their student and faculty populations raise constant questions of how closely tied they can and should be to the Church, and all Episcopal schools must struggle with the question of what it means to be “Episcopal.” Particular issues may range from qualifications for board