



EAST ANGLIA DIOCESE SCHOOLS' NEWS JULY 2017



Editor's Note

Dear colleagues,

We are writing to you at the end of what has been another very busy term and indeed year. The landscape in which we are all currently operating is full of uncertainty. It is difficult to remember a time which is so characterised by such significant challenges both in the political and social arena. The contextual challenges will certainly continue into the foreseeable future, as the uncertainty filters through from international to national and regional challenges. Uncertainty around clarity of vision, policy and funding has implications for much of what we do "on the ground". What we can say though, is that our schools continue to provide the best all round education that they can. An education that puts Christ and the teachings of the Catholic Church at the centre of all that we do.

In total there are 2142 Catholic schools in England. Catholic schools make up 10% of the national total of state funded schools. The Catholic Church is the largest provider of secondary education and the second largest provider of primary education.

There are around 820,000 pupils currently attending Catholic schools in England. These pupils are educated in a culture of inclusion, tolerance and mutual respect, providing pupils with a set of values that enable them to play a full part in British society in service of the common good.

Catholic schools serve diverse and disadvantaged communities that reflect the multicultural nature of the English and Welsh population. 18.8% of pupils at Catholic primary schools are located in the most deprived areas of England, compared with 13.5% nationally. 16.5% of pupils at Catholic secondary schools are situated in the most deprived areas of the country compared with 11.3% nationally. Catholic schools at KS2 and GCSE outperform the National Average results by 6% points.¹

The values that we espouse of inclusion, respect and tolerance are as fundamentally important today as they have ever been. The significance of our work is further reflected in the Bishops' statement following their Symposium on Catholic education in March this year, which can be found within this newsletter.

We would like to take this opportunity to express our sincere thanks to everyone across the Diocese. We do appreciate the huge amount of work you do. The way in which you have faced new challenges with enthusiasm and vigour, ensures we will continue to be strong and successful together.

We hope that you will have the opportunity to enjoy a well-earned break at some point during the Summer break and we look forward to continuing to work closely with you all in the future.

¹CES Census 2016

I place my faith
Amy Brazil, Age 11

I place my faith in those around me,
Those whom I know.
I place my faith in those I trust,
Who never seem to go.

I place my faith in the clock,
Whose time slowly slips by.
I place my faith in others' wisdom,
And trust them not to lie.

I place my faith in evolution,
The chance to always grow.
I place my faith in others' teachings,
For they always seem to know.

I place my faith in my god,
Who watches over me.
I place my faith in my god,
Who never fails to see.

I place my faith in the plants,
That never fail to grow.
I place my faith in the smile,
That stops me from feeling low.

I place my faith in all that I know,
For it never leaves me alone.
But most of all I place my faith,
In me, and me alone.

Bishops' statement

On the 22nd March 2017 an Education Symposium was held in London. The event was organised by CES and was fully supported by all of the Diocese across England and Wales. It was an opportunity to gather together all of the Bishops of England and Wales, Diocesan Schools' Commissioners, Financial Secretaries and the Catholic Education Service, to reflect on the importance of the work we all do and also the changing nature and challenges of that work in the future.

Below is the full statement agreed by the Bishops.

"Parents are the primary and principal educators of their children. The Church too, alongside parents, has the duty of educating: she is *'bound as a mother to give her children an education by which their whole life can be imbued with the spirit of Christ.'*² We acknowledge the particularly important role that Catholic schools play in offering

Catholic education to the children in our country, for “*to put Christ and the teachings of the Catholic Church at the centre of the educational enterprise is the key purpose of Catholic schools. In a Catholic school, the Church seeks to build the foundation of our spiritual development, our learning and teaching, the formation of culture and our society in Christ. The fullness of life is to be found when Christ is at the centre of our lives.*”³

Since the mid-nineteenth century our aim has been to provide a place in a Catholic school for every Catholic child. We reaffirm this commitment and strive to ensure a place for children of parents who seek a Catholic education for their child. To do this, we welcome the opportunity to work with the UK Government and Welsh Assembly Government in opening new schools in areas where Catholic children are unable to secure places in Catholic schools.

The teaching of the Catholic Church concerning its mission in education provides a coherent vision that articulates how Catholic schools are distinctive in a profoundly human and Christian way. “*Jesus Christ is the Way, the Truth and the Life. Those who profess this faith believe that in Christ the truth about Almighty God and the truth about the human person is revealed. The unfolding of this truth constitutes the Church’s teaching. The acceptance of this truth brings true freedom and the fullness of life. Proclaiming this truth, this Gospel (Good News), by making Christ known to all peoples, constitutes the mission of the Church.*”⁴ This vision is crucial to the ongoing success of our mission in education. This is why it is important that we speak with one voice, and we reaffirm our support for and development of our positive partnerships that exist with the Department for Education in London and the Department for Education and Skills in Cardiff.

As both society and the education landscape undergo significant changes, the roles of Catholic school leaders and Diocesan Schools’ Commissions have never been more critical. We will ensure that the Catholic Education Service, working with Diocesan Schools’ Commissions, will strive to protect and improve Catholic education in England and Wales so that it is fit for the mission of the Church.

Catholic school leaders and governors play a central role in the spiritual and academic life of their schools. The formation of Catholic school leaders and the exercise of good governance are strategic priorities for Catholic education. We ask the Catholic Education Service to develop strategies for leadership and governance that will provide Diocesan Schools’ Commissions with innovative options for responding to this challenge.

We recognise that Diocesan Schools’ Commissions have never been more crucial to the success of Catholic schools. As agents of the Diocesan Bishop, working with and in his name in the local Church, their professionalism in supporting their schools, leaders and governors is vitally important. We ask the Catholic Education Service to review and report on the various approaches taken by dioceses in supporting their schools. As Bishops, we recognise the great value of our Catholic schools. We see

the deliberate and vital role that they play in the life of the Church and in society, and

for these good reasons, we commit to continue to provide and invest in Catholic education in England and Wales.”

Agreed at the Spring Plenary Assembly 30th April 2017

2 Second Vatican Ecumenical Council, Gravissimum Educationis, Declaration on Christian Education, 3 (1965)

3 Stock, Mgr Marcus, Christ at the Centre: Why the Church provides Catholic Schools, CTS, 2012, A1.1

4 ibid.

Below you will find some reminders and other items of useful information. Remember, we want to share your news, so please tell us about special things happening in your school or anything we can celebrate or acknowledge together.

Please remember to forward these Newsletters and those sent by the CES to your governors. Send your news to ssc@rcdea.org.uk.

Retirements

We would like to pass on our very best thoughts to the following people who are retiring after many years of committed service. We wish them all a long and happy retirement.

Adrian La Chappelle, Headteacher, St Augustine's, Costessey

Clare Robinson, Headteacher, St Felix, Haverhill

Andy Watts, Deputy Head, St Benedict's, Bury St Edmunds

Claire Sullivan, Deputy Head, St Alban's High, Ipswich

Schools Celebration

Wednesday 20th September, St John the Baptist Cathedral, Norwich. Please make sure you have completed and returned the reply form to Jane Austin at ssc@rcdea.org.uk

Lobbying of local MPs about the removal of the faith cap

Bishop Alan has sent a letter to all Conservative MPs in the Diocese asking them to contact the Secretary of State for Education, to express their support for the party's manifesto pledge to remove the cap on faith admissions to faith schools. The Diocese is also encouraging everyone who supports Catholic schools to contact their local MP asking for the cap to be removed. More information and a sample letter can be found at the Diocesan website using the following link: <https://www.rcdea.org.uk/bishop-says-write-to-your-mp-over-lifting-schools-faith-cap/> Please can you publicise this to parents if you have not already done so.

Annual visit by Helen Bates, Assistant Director (Schools' Service)

Just to let you know that Jane will be in contact to arrange Helen's annual visit with you during the Autumn Term (academies and non-academies). During this visit Helen will want to meet with the Headteacher and where appropriate, the Site Manager, to discuss capital funding and expenditure, capital priorities, land and buildings issues, place planning (inc free schools) and anything else you want to bring up with her (within reason!) Anything Helen can't help with she can take back to the Diocese. Helen would also like to take this opportunity to have a look around the school buildings and site. In total the meetings should take between 1-2 hours depending on

the issues to be discussed, but the Headteacher's presence would not be required for all of that time.

Conference Dates:

- Headteachers' Conference– Tuesday 10th October 2017, Conference Centre, Poringland
- Deputy Headteachers' Conference– Friday 3rd November 2017, Conference Centre, Poringland
- Primary RE Day – Friday 20th October 2017 – Conference Centre, Poringland
- Primary RE Day – Friday 16th March 2018 – Conference Centre, Poringland
- Westminster Province Day - Thursday 21st September 2017 - Celebrating Catholic Education - (If you have mislaid the details and would like to book, please contact Jane for the details, as soon as possible): ssc@rcdea.org.uk

Admission Policies

The Diocese has received model admission policies from CES. We are now in the process of adjusting these policies to meet the requirements of our Diocese. These model policies together with accompanying guidance, will be considered by the Schools' Commission at its next meeting on 22nd September 2017. If approved, the policies will be sent to all schools across the Diocese requiring them to consult on them as admissions authorities, for a six week period between 1st October 2017 and 31st January 2018. Please note that the final admissions policies will apply to the 2019/20 admissions round. Further information on the policies, guidance and consultation process will be provided as part of this process.

Model contracts and policies

A reminder for you to note that the Catholic Education Service produces model contracts of employment for the various roles within both Catholic schools and academies in order to ensure that the Bishops' objective that Catholic schools fulfil their responsibilities to preserve and develop the Catholic character of the school is met. Please ensure that you use these documents in conjunction with the Diocese.

The Diocese is also looking at CES model staffing policies relating to disciplinary, capability, appraisal, grievance and sickness procedures, which it will need schools or Trusts as employers to consult with staff and local unions upon. There will be further information about this once Schools' Commission has agreed the locally adjusted model policies.

Congratulations

We are delighted to announce that Notre Dame has been successful in its bid to become a Research School for the Norwich Opportunity Area. The bid was developed by staff from Notre Dame and St John the Baptist MAT, with support from the University of East Anglia's School of Education and Lifelong Learning.

Research School status will enable Notre Dame to provide a Research Lead from within its staff to work with schools both within the St John the Baptist MAT and locally within Norwich, to develop practice based upon proven research. Notre Dame

is one of a select group in gaining this status. Only two Catholic schools in the country have Research School designation.

In addition, Notre Dame was successful with its Teaching School bid (announced in June 2017). This will mean that Notre Dame can support teaching practice and development within the region.

Congratulations to all involved on these very exciting opportunities.