



Office for Education and Schools

Issue 1

September 2008

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Schools of Discipleship

Following the Catholic Education Matters Conference and workshops held throughout the past academic year we have written a document called 'Schools of Discipleship' to provide clear guidance about leadership and governance in the Catholic Schools in the Diocese of Leeds. The document is the result of a series of consultations with Bishop Arthur, Clergy, Headteachers and Governors and will provide the focus for much of our training and development in the diocese this year.

It is being circulated to the Diocesan Trustee, the Diocesan Council for Education, all schools, governors, clergy and local authorities and it is our hope that it will strengthen and energise the distinctive nature of Catholic Schools in the Diocese of Leeds.

I would be grateful if you would circulate the enclosed documents to your leadership team and foundation governors. Further copies are available from Janine Garnett at the Office for Education and Schools.

One World Week

October 19th to October 26th

An opportunity to celebrate 'Community Cohesion' in schools. One world week will focus on bringing together people of many religions and cultures to grow together in mutual understanding of the shared values embodied in human rights relating to freedom from want.

www.oneworldweek.org

Admissions

The Secretary of State earlier this year asked the Chief Adjudicator to examine the admission arrangements of all schools and to prepare a report. The Adjudicator has now completed a report for each local authority area which has been sent to the local authority and the diocese. Where there are concerns about a school's admission arrangements the school will be contacted by the local authority and/or the diocese.

We have worked with local authorities and the Catholic Education Service to ensure that all the proposed changes are accurate and do not in any way compromise the Catholicity of the school. We would therefore ask for your co-operation in complying with the requests made and amending your admissions arrangements with immediate effect.

It is vital that admissions arrangements in all our schools are legal and transparent and the fact that only minor adjustments have been suggested by the Adjudicator for our diocese is a positive indication of the existing high standard of our admissions procedures. Keep up the good work!

Succession Planning

We are currently working with the National College for School Leadership on a succession planning initiative for schools in the Diocese of Leeds. This has three strands:



1. Working with Headteachers to retain and renew talented leaders and provide opportunities for the spiritual renewal and reinvigoration of headship.
2. Working with Deputy Headteachers on career progression and development, providing placement and shadowing opportunities and practical and relevant CPD opportunities for aspiring Headteachers.
3. The development of an Aspiring Leaders Programme which will encourage teachers not currently in leadership to think about developing aspects of leadership while remaining in the classroom.

For the first year this initiative will be open to secondary schools in all areas of the diocese and to primary schools in Kirklees and Wakefield. Further information will be available at Headteacher meetings in September and October.

The secret of
teaching is to appear
to have known all
your life what you
learned this
afternoon

New Headteachers in the Diocese

We welcome the following new Headteachers and wish them every blessing as they take up their leadership role in their new school.

Mrs M Bannister	St Anthony's Shipley
Mr L Bentley	Holy Family Keighley
Mrs J Burns	St Francis Morley
Mr J Cooper	Holy Spirit Heckmondwike
Mrs K Cox	St Matthew's Bradford
Mrs M Fletcher	St Joseph's Batley Carr
Mrs M Hodges	St Joseph's Brighouse
Mrs G Lindley	St Anthony's Clayton
Mr R Pritchard	Holy Family Carlton
Mrs P Sheard	St Catherine's Halifax
Mrs E Taylor	St Philip's Middleton
Mrs W Walsh	Corpus Christi Leeds



Continued Professional Development

We are currently producing a booklet of all training and development events to be delivered by the Office for Education and Schools this year. This will be in schools from the end of September and will include CPD opportunities for spirituality and ethos, curriculum RE, Section 48, governor training and succession planning.

Once again we will organise governor training on a regional basis and this year we will work with some local authorities. This joint diocese/local authority training will promote the distinctive nature of the Catholic School and concentrate on the roles and responsibilities of the governing body.



Office for Education and Schools Website

Our new website is currently under construction and will be available in its new format from November 1st 2008. We are updating all our policy documents and will post each one on the website as it is completed. Many thanks to Maureen Cairns, Mary Hodges and Kieron Flood for their assistance with this.

There will be a separate governors section and in this we will provide materials for governors to facilitate their work in our schools.

There will also be a section for recruitment—for advertising as well as a guide through the process of appointments.

Any suggestions as to what you would find helpful on the website gratefully received.

**'If we want to create a workplace that values idealism, human connection, and real, in depth learning, we will have to create it ourselves'.
Peter Block**

Contracts

It has come to my attention that not all employees in our schools have up to date Catholic Education Service contracts. A crucial dimension of the distinctive Catholic nature of the school is the fact that each staff member is employed by the governing body and not by the local authority. This Catholicity is further reinforced by the CES contract.

Could all schools check the status of contracts for staff please? Both Bradford and Leeds local authorities are offering packages which you can buy into if there is a lot of work to be done in this regard. Further details on this are available on request from the Office for Education and Schools.

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