

Developing in Faith - Questions for Parents

In 2015 SCES and the Catholic Head-teachers' associations launched a new resource to assist schools in their self evaluation process. Using the "Charter for Catholic Schools" each school community explores what makes their Catholic school distinctive and then shares their experience of how they are 'developing in faith'.

The questions below have been developed to assist parents as they work alongside the head teacher and staff of their child's school to consider the 5 themes from "Developing In Faith". You may find them helpful to use at a parent council or during a parents' evening. All of the questions have been developed to be answered from the perspective of a parent. Therefore, where the term 'we' is used it refers to 'we as parents'

1. HONOURING JESUS CHRISTAS THE WAY, THE TRUTH AND THE LIFE

Our school shows a commitment to the search for wisdom in life and to the pursuit of excellence, through the development of each person's unique God-given talents.

- Do we, as parents, seek Jesus, the source of wisdom, as a guide to our decision making?
- Do we present ourselves as role models in our school and community?
- Do we provide a nurturing environment where all parents and carers are made to feel welcome and which seeks to remove barriers to participation?
- Do we offer our skills and talents to enrich the life of the school?
- Do we provide opportunities for family faith formation?

Our school shows a commitment to uphold the moral teaching, faith tradition and sacramental life of the Catholic Church.

- Do we assist the school in informing our parents about the Church's national religious education programme, "This Is Our Faith" *e.g.* by distributing the SCES parent group leaflet.
- Do we begin our meetings and other events in prayer?
- Do we provide a link between the school and local parishes?

2. DEVELOPING AS A COMMUNITY OF FAITH AND LEARNING

Our school shows a commitment to the integrated education and formation of the whole person, in close partnership with parents, as the first educators of their children.

- Do we, as parents, accept the responsibility as the first educators of our children and do we feel this responsibility is accepted and prioritised by the school?

Our school shows an inclusive ethos which aims to honour the life, dignity and voice of each person, made in the image of God.

- Can we, as parents, identify inclusive Christian values through school policies and procedures *e.g.* anti-bullying, equal opportunities and how do we promote these values within the wider school/ parish community?

- Do we contribute to Catholic Education Week activities?
- Do we play our part in keeping the 'story' of our school; our parish; the Catholic Church in Scotland and Catholic education globally alive?

3. PROMOTING GOSPEL VALUES

Our school provides religious education programmes which will enable young people to develop their understanding of Gospel values and of how to apply them to life.

- Do we, as parents, play our part in supporting Religious Education in the school and at home?
- Do we help our children understand how the Gospel values promoted in school, relate to all aspects of their life?

Our school shows a commitment to ecumenical action and the unity of Christians.

- Do we actively participate in the ecumenical work that our school is involved in?

Our school promotes respect for different beliefs and cultures and for inter-faith dialogue.

- How do we encourage a school environment that shows respect for people of different beliefs?

4. CELEBRATING AND WORSHIPPING

Our school shows a commitment to the spiritual formation of the school community, through the shared experience of prayer and liturgy, and in partnership with local parishes.

- Do we use the prayers that our children are learning in the classroom at home?
- How do we support the prayer and liturgical life of our children in the school, home and parish?
- Do we support events in the school for parents to pray with the school community?

5. SERVING THE COMMON GOOD

Our school shows a commitment to communicate Catholic social teaching and thereby to promote social justice and opportunity for all.

- Do we provide support for school groups *e.g.* Pro-life, Justice and Peace, St Vincent de Paul, Aid to the Church in Need, Fair Trade, Eco and help them make in impact in the parish and local community?
- Do we support pupils involved in the Caritas or Pope Francis Award and help them to understand the Gospel-based inspiration for their activities?
- Is there an active link with a community or communities within the developing world and does the link refer directly to our Christian vocation to "love your neighbour"?