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partners across
session 2016/17

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SCES News



SCES is established to promote and support Catholic education throughout Scotland.

September 2017



Catholic Schools Good For Scotland



Pupils and staff from Holy Cross High School , Hamilton,
celebrate the success of their pupils in gaining
the Pope Benedict XVI Caritas award on the 8th June 2017

The Catholic School: Serving the Common Good



Developing In Faith

Schools across the country have now integrated “Developing In Faith” into their self evaluation and school improvement plans. Each school was asked to share a summary report of their professional reflection and dialogue with SCES to help inform practice. These reports will be collated and offered as a resource for schools as they dialogue, evaluate and plan. This will help us to learn from each other and evidence the ways in which schools are being faithful to the mission of Catholic Education, as expressed in the Charter for Catholic Schools. Below is a taste of some of the reports that we have received from schools:

Honouring Jesus Christ as the Way, the Truth and the Life

Through the examination of tracking data and in discussion with pupils it is clear that almost all staff and pupils recognise key aspects of learners' successes and achievements and are committed to the holistic education of all pupils. This will be further developed in the coming session by strengthening links within our school and Parish community.

Our whole school community are continually involved in shaping our vision for the curriculum which is built on our values of faith, hope and love. This is particularly true of our Religious Education Programme which is based on the National Syllabus, 'This is our faith'. This will be developed further in the coming session, strengthening opportunities for all pupils and the school community to participate in structured opportunities for prayer and meditation.

All staff and school partners have developed well planned and structured opportunities for all pupils to raise awareness of the world of work. This will be further enhanced in the coming session by including our Parish Community to raise awareness of vocations to the Priesthood and religious life.

In examining our approaches to GIRFEC through available data and in discussion with our whole school community, we can say that we have a shared understanding of wellbeing and in the dignity and worth of every individual. We have very good approaches to meeting the needs of every child in our school in a holistic and nurturing way, ensuring that we acknowledge that we are made in the image and likeness of Christ. All pupils are involved in Self Evaluation process using the Wellbeing indicators. All staff follow the diocesan programme 'God's Loving Plan'.

We will continue to develop our practices in the coming session and ensure that all parents and pupils are active participants in this process.

Developing as a community of faith and learning

“At the beginning of our school session we reviewed the Charter for Catholic Schools in Scotland and reflected on the school's vision, values and aims. Our Vision, Values and Aims were reviewed with the whole school community and parents just over 2 years ago and new members of staff were given the opportunity to familiarise themselves with the school's vision.

Our focus was specifically to engage with Parents as the first teachers of their child's faith. We reviewed our Yearly Overview with staff to produce a calendar of opportunities for parents to participate in Liturgies, Mass and Parent Meetings. All Parents were invited to Meet the Teacher in Term 1 and staff took the opportunity to highlight This is Our Faith and God's Loving Plan. Throughout the year Parents have been invited to Mass in school with a particular focus during Lent with Mass being said in school twice a week. This was well attended and brought the school community together with staff, children and parents attending and praying as a community. Primary 1 parents attended the Primary 1 Nativity play. In June parents of our Primary 4 and 7 are always invited to a Mass of Thanksgiving for First Communion and the P7 Leavers. During the Month of May parents were also been invited to join a Rosary Group with the children and staff with a particular focus this year on the messages given by Our Lady of Fatima. Parents were also asked to support class visits to our local parish, 40 hours in Nazareth House and visits to the Cathedral.”





Promoting Gospel Values

We have achieved the following in the 2016-17 session:

- Improved links with our local parish and regularly attending school masses. School masses are lively and liturgically appropriate, whilst engaging for children at most stages, although we will continue to develop this in the next session.
- Staff are better supported to lead class Masses as a result of supports put into place.
- Staff are clearer as to CLPL opportunities available due to appointment of RE Coordinators in the diocese.
- Thirty seven children are participating in the Pope Francis Faith Award, due to complete this in 2017-18.
- A developed partnership with neighbouring Catholic Primary that can be continued

into the next session and beyond.

- An increased ecumenical presence that will be developed next session, via partnerships with local non denominational schools and our local parish. Upper school classes supported a number of ecumenical 'Churches Together' events, notably to celebrate John Duns Scotus and St Mungo.
- The school choir raised funds for a variety of charities by carolling at numerous venues during Advent. They also supported the local elderly population by performing at a local retirement home.
- Maintained links with our other local parish.
- Improved links with the local interfaith community.

Celebrating and worshipping

"In preparation for leading our School, the Head teacher devised the school vision.

- **Our School is committed to the principles of Catholic Education. We are a community which welcomes all cultures and beliefs.**
- **Through this commitment we challenge and support our pupils to reach their potential in all aspects of their learning.**
- **We work closely in partnership with parents, parish and the wider community to ensure a valued place within that community.**

During In set day 5th May 2016 the staff team revisited our school values. The staff felt that, although the values still reflected those which are important to our school, there were too many of them and they were too wordy. This has made it difficult for children and staff to really engage with them and so it was felt that there should be fewer and we should only have the values and no wordy explanation. The values - **HONESTY, EQUALITY, AMBITION, LOVE** – were chosen. It was felt fitting that the pnemonic HEAL was used to support children's identification with the school values. In August 2016 the children participated in an art competition to devise cartoon characters for each value. These values are regularly referenced in class lessons and in school Assemblies.”

Serving the common good

We reviewed the aims of Catholic Social Teaching and considered how they were reflected in our school life.

Life and Dignity of the Human person—Our school is very good at incorporating this theme into all areas of school life. It can be seen in our RSHP programme, our charity work with the local hospice and our anti bullying work.

Call to Family, community and participation— This is an area that will be added to our improvement plan. While we include parents in many aspects of school life we feel we could do more to support families to participate in learning.

Rights and Responsibilities—We have used the Education Scotland materials on the Rights of the Child and can see a positive impact on the way in which relationships are established and nurtured in the school.

Option for the poor and vulnerable—Our Equity Fund is being used to assist pupils from the most vulnerable homes to ensure that they have the right opportunities and experiences to succeed. We know this is an ongoing priority and aim to work with external agencies to ensure positive impact.

The Dignity of workers and of work– The Pastoral care team successfully assist 97% of pupils in gaining positive destinations from school.

Solidarity—Our pupil council chose SCIAF as their main charity for LENT and are able to share with others how their work improves the lives of others.

Care for God's Creation-We are good at looking after our school and local environment and communicating why we have a responsibility to do this. Our pupils and families have taken this area to heart and we have established an eco group.



**Breaking
News**

Catholic Schools—Good For Scotland

Celebrating 100 years of partnership



In 2018 we will reach the centenary of the 1918 Education (Scotland) Act. This was the Act that saw Catholic schools transfer from Diocesan control to State governance. The Catholic Education Commission plan to use this occasion to celebrate the positive impact that this significant partnership between Church and State has had for Scotland.

2018 serves as an opportunity to rejoice in the academic, cultural, civic and social achievements of pupils who have attended Catholic schools in the last one hundred years. It is a chance to publicly mark the ways in which Catholic schools are not just good for Catholics, but good for Scotland.

The positive contribution of Catholic schools to Scottish society is well documented and the continuing support of Scottish Government, and all of the main political parties, is encouraging for the future of denominational schools. This is a time to reflect and thank God for one hundred years of serving our local communities. What better way to mark the centenary than by celebrating the distinctive nature of our schools and telling the story of the people and communities who have benefited from Catholic education in Scotland!

A planning group has started to plan and co-ordinate events and they invite all parishes, families, schools and communities to begin to consider the ways that they can add to this story.

There will be a page dedicated to the centenary on the SCES website to keep schools and parishes up to date with activities across the country. In the meantime, SCES would welcome any archive material that you have regarding the history of your local schools, or any interesting stories and photographs from parishioners. If you plan to host an event, please let SCES know so that we can support it and adding it to the calendar of events for your Diocese. Some of the plans are outlined in the next few paragraphs:

Icon of Jesus the Teacher

An Icon of Jesus the teacher has been written to prayerfully mark the centenary of the Education Act. The Iconographer has used the story of the Catholics of Scotland to express the impact that access to education has had for the Catholic community. Jesus is the central focus of the Icon and the focus of our prayers, reflection and thanksgiving for our events in 2018. Surrounding Jesus we see images that will also be used to pray and celebrate the heritage of Scots Catholics and the legacy of Catholic schools for our nation today.



The icon will tour the country from Catholic Education Week (28th January 2018), visiting each diocese for 4-6 weeks. A Novena will be used as one of the ways to prepare for the Icon visiting schools and parishes. While the Icon is in each Diocese there will be local events to mark the centenary.

Learning activities are being created to help pupils unpack the story within the Icon and to guide them as they pray using the image.

Copies of the Icon will be available for schools and parishes to buy, so that, even after the Icon has visited each Diocese, local communities can continue their prayers for the ongoing successful contribution of Catholic schools to Scottish society.

Pilgrimage and Leadership

In 2018 there will be new initiatives to promote the vocation of the teacher in the Catholic school. These complement the strategy for Career Long Professional Learning and will offer opportunities to explore four of the CLPL areas from "Companions on the journey": Catholic school Leadership; the Vocation of the teacher; Personal Spiritual Development and Catholic School Mission and Identity.

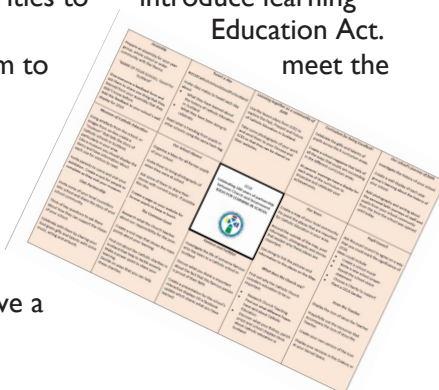
From October 15th to 19th 2018, Archbishop Philip Tartaglia will accompany a pilgrimage for those connected to Catholic Education to Rome. The pilgrimage will include opportunities to pray together, to visit the Holy sites and to explore the philosophy that underpins Catholic Education in a global context. The cost of the pilgrimage will be £850 and includes flights (from Glasgow), accommodation, half board and coach transfers. The pilgrimage is limited to 50 places. For more information and to book contact SCES.

While 2018 marks a particular anniversary for Catholic education in Scotland, allowing us to reflect on our past, it also gives the opportunity to look forward and consider how to support teachers in Catholic schools in the future. One of the ways we will do this is to launch an academy to promote the role of the leader in a Catholic school. This academy will focus on the distinctive nature of the role of the teacher in a Catholic school, in particular the responsibility to be a witness and leader of a faith community.

Resources for Schools

School resources are being produced to help schools celebrate 2018 as a community of faith and learning. A series of placemats have been created and distributed to schools. These placemats offer a number of suggestions for schools, clusters, parishes and local authorities to introduce learning experiences that centre on the celebration of the centenary of the Education Act. Schools can use these to plan learning across the year and adapt them to meet the context of their school.

SCES have commissioned a documentary that will explore the 'past, present and future' of Catholic schools in Scotland. This film will be created using the stories of schools and parishes across the country. Sancta Familia media are the creative minds behind the film and they are currently looking for schools to visit and film. If you have a story to tell from your school please contact SCES with your details.



Lesson plans will be hosted on the SCES website that will help pupils to explore the impact of Catholic schools on Scotland and the wider world. The lessons will start by considering the historical setting of the 1918 Education (Scotland) Act and allow pupils to understand the situation of the Catholic community in Scotland. They will then move through the decades, looking at their own school family tree and the history of their community to the present day. Pupils will also consider the ways in which their school contributes to their local community and serves the common good. Finally the lesson will look forward and the positive future of Catholic Education.

Schools' Mass

A national Mass is being organised to mark the centenary of the Education Act. This will be a joy-filled way for all our schools from across the country to celebrate the positive contribution of Catholic schools to their local and national communities because of the partnership between the Church and Government.

The provisional date for the Mass is Thursday 14th June 2018. Details will be sent to head teachers as soon as they are confirmed.



Parent Involvement Working Group

In the last year the Parent Involvement Working Group from SCES has developed new ways to bring families together to share their work. They used the cluster model for schools and, through the parent councils, invited families to attend. Jo Soares, the Chair of the working group shares he experience:

“Two ‘cluster’ parent councils meetings took place in Fife during the summer term. The first was at St Andrew’s RC High School in Kirkcaldy to which all of its associated primary school parent councils were invited and the second at St Columba’s RC High School in Dunfermline, again with representation from its associated primaries. Thus all Catholic schools in Fife were invited to one of the two events. The meetings were convened by George Haggarty, the Church’s representative on Fife Council with the objective of promoting parental involvement in local Catholic schools. To initiate discussion, speakers were invited including Barbara Coupar (Director, Scottish Catholic Education Service), Julie Makein and Jo Soares (Parent Involvement Working Group), Patrick Callaghan (Headteacher at St Andrew’s RC High School), Patricia Carroll and Margaret Murray (Archdiocese of St Andrew’s and Edinburgh RE advisors). Informative presentations led attendees through the support networks which are available to parent councils to enable them to support the Catholic mission of their schools. Following the presentations there was opportunity for wide-ranging discussion. Particularly those attending shared how their parent councils were already contributing to the promotion of the Catholic ethos of their schools and the challenges they faced; especially in trying to encourage greater involvement from families. All those who attended agreed that the evening was worthwhile and informative. Further cluster parent council meetings are planned, ideally at least one in each academic session, and these will focus in on particular issues most commonly felt in the local area. The model is effective in reaching out to families with children attending Catholic schools with potential to reach all families if attending representatives cascade information within their school and community and we hope that other clusters across the country will consider hosting such an event.”

For further information on holding a parent council cluster meeting in your area contact parents@sces.uk.com



MORE INFO - WWW.NETSCOTLAND.ORG
EMAIL - INFO@NETSCOTLAND.ORG
CALL - 0141 844 0783

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NET Scotland encourages young Catholics to love Jesus and embrace the life of the Church. Every year, young people apply to serve for nine months, receiving training before going on to travel across Scotland to share their faith.

Do Something Amazing with NET!

- Apply to go on a Mission year
- Invite NET to visit your Parish or School
- Consider hosting NET missionaries

APPLY NOW



BOOK A RETREAT



HOST A MISSIONARY

Net Ministries have been working in schools and parishes across Scotland in the past few years. Their programme of retreats, workshops and missions are carefully planned to help young people encounter Jesus in their lives.

Linking their work with This Is Our Faith, Net Ministries offer learning experiences that help pupils to pray, reflect and respond to God’s invitation to faith.

Net Ministries are delighted to welcome a new team to serve in Scotland for the next school year. The group will come from across the United States and form a community, witnessing to their faith by how they live and work.

If you would like to know more about Net, or invite them into your school, please contact them at info@netscotland.org



CARITAS 2017

We celebrated the 6th Caritas Awards on 8th June 2017. The 1000+ pupils were joined by their friends, families, parishes and distinguished guests. The crowd were welcomed by Archbishop Philip Tartaglia, President of the Catholic Education Commission, and introduced to Mr. Ken Macintosh, the Presiding Officer of the Scottish Parliament.

Caritas co-ordinators are already planning for next year and met on the 21st August at SCES.



**Save the date....Caritas Award Ceremony,
Thursday 7th June 2018, 2pm, Clyde Auditorium, Glasgow**

SCES Update

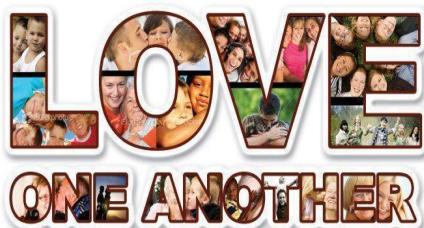
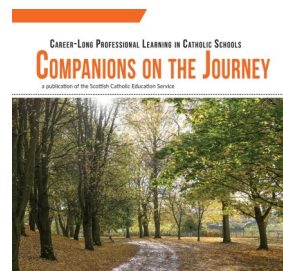


SENIOR PHASE WORKING GROUP

In the past year the Senior Phase Working Group has continued to develop lessons and resources to assist secondary schools in their implementation of the Senior Phase of This Is Our Faith. The group, which consists of classroom practitioners and Religious Education advisers, has now developed 12 units of work for S4 to S6. These units are hosted on the SCES website and are available for schools to use during session 2017/18. Some of the new units include materials on Prayer, The Holy Spirit and Christian Living.

CAREER LONG PROFESSIONAL LEARNING- Companions on the journey

A dedicated team from CHAS, CHAPS, the University of Glasgow, SCES and the R.E. advisers have been working on resources that will underpin the Professional Review and Development and Career Long Professional Learning of staff in Catholic schools. The team have produced helpful questions to prepare for PRD meetings and gathered case studies from colleagues at various points of their career to help teachers reflect on their own professional leadership journeys. In addition the group has been exploring ways to offer CLPL to teachers who cannot easily access courses. The work of this group will feature as one on the programme of the forthcoming CHAPS conference in September.



LOVE one another, As I have LOVED you.
John 13:34

ANTI BULLYING STRATEGIES

A key feature of the work of SCES in the last year has been to work in partnership with schools to tackle bullying. A successful conference day was hosted in May for Pastoral Care teachers from secondary schools across the country. During this day staff had the opportunity to find out about current equalities laws, explore their current practice, share examples of initiatives that have helped them overcome challenges within their school and hear from external agencies that support schools in developing anti bullying. The day was set in the context of Church teaching and rooted in the Christian belief that all children are made in the image and likeness of God and deserving of respect and dignity. The conference will be repeated in session 2017/18 and will be open to staff from primary and secondary schools.

News from the Parliamentary Office

Anthony Horan, Director of the Parliamentary Office has been working in close partnership with SCES since taking up his post. He shares his reflections on his first year in post:

"It's been one year since I was lucky enough to be given the opportunity to take up post as Director of the Catholic Parliamentary Office in Scotland. To say it has been a whirlwind is not overstating it. Yet it has easily been the most exciting and most rewarding twelve months of my working life.

I have engaged with political figures in both the Scottish and UK Parliaments, met with Government officials to discuss important issues such as abortion, education, and poverty, and I have given evidence to a Parliamentary Committee on behalf of the Church. Perhaps more importantly I have had the chance to meet the eight Bishops of Scotland and to work closely with other agencies in the Church such as the Scottish Catholic Media Office and Justice and Peace.

I have been impressed by the passion and desire among those who work for the Church, ever willing to defend Church teaching and to bring the light of Christ to those they encounter.

I have also had the pleasure of working with the Scottish Catholic Education Service, ensuring that the voice of Catholic education is heard in political circles and promoting the significant and positive impact Catholic education has in Scottish society. This impact is perhaps never more evident than in the Caritas awards ceremony which takes place annually and celebrates the achievements of young people who have served their local community with acts of love. Over six years Caritas pupils have contributed to an amazing 260,000 hours of loving service. It is a real testament to the work of our Catholic Education Service, Headteachers, teachers and pupils across the Catholic school community.

