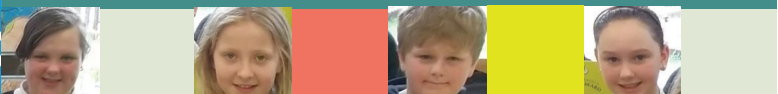


# CATHOLIC SCHOOL PARENTS

GETTING INVOLVED



“The school is a place of encounter. And today we need this culture of encounter in order to get to know one another, to love one another, to journey together. And this is fundamental precisely in the years of growth and development, as a complement to the family. The relationship with one’s father and mother and with one’s brothers and sisters . . . always accompanies us in life. But at school we “socialize”: we meet people who are different from us . . . are complementary, and therefore it is important that they co-operate in mutual respect.”

*Pope Francis speaking to pupils from schools across Italy Saturday, 10 May 2014*



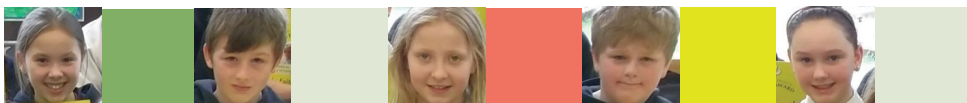
## Catholic Schools

Catholic schools are places of faith. It is what makes them different from other schools. We should be able to see, hear and feel the difference that faith makes to the learning experiences provided in a Catholic school.

The challenge for every Catholic school is to be a place of encounter with Jesus Christ, where young people learn about Jesus, come to understand his teaching and appreciate its relevance for their lives. The school must make sure that faith in Jesus Christ is realised through action – action in prayer, action in building peace, action in helping pupils to be friends and disciples of Jesus, action in living out justice, action in helping the poor and those in need, action in the local community, action to value each other and serve each other. The most powerful form of action is love. Catholic schools should be centres of faith in action, communities of hope and places where love is tangible.

Schools are, of course, principally communities of learning. Pope Francis reminds us that our faith helps us to learn those things in life that are true about who we are and what we believe in. So Catholic schools are expected to be communities of faith and learning.





## Role of Parents

Parents have a vital role, as partners, in helping a Catholic school to provide these solid foundations in faith and learning. We send our children to Catholic schools because we know that our children will be taught about how to live their lives formed in faith as well as acquiring the knowledge and skills they need to live fulfilling lives.

We parents can reinforce this faith by how we live our own lives. We can provide encouragement to teachers to give witness to faith and we can work with the parish to build communities of faith.

## Parental Involvement Working Group

To support Catholic school parents, the Catholic Education Commission formed a group to encourage parents to play their full part and to work in partnership with schools and parishes to develop Catholic schools which provide the highest quality of Catholic education.

The working group has already produced some resources for parents which can be found at [www.sces.uk.com/parental-involvement.html](http://www.sces.uk.com/parental-involvement.html)

- Introduction to the Parental Involvement Working Group
- prayer resources
- question and answers about Catholic schools
- Shining the Light of Faith: how parents can help





# THINGS YOU CAN DO TO GET INVOLVED IN YOUR CATHOLIC SCHOOL

Everyone with a child at school is a member of the school's Parent Forum which is designed to provide parents with opportunities to have their say.

Every school has a Parent Council which has the role of representing the views of parents about the service which the school is providing for pupils.

Use these structures to get involved personally by:

- taking an active interest in what your children are learning
- asking about the religious education programme – what is taught? how frequently?
- asking about how the school works with the parish
- encouraging parish members to contribute to the life of the school
- praying for those who teach in Catholic schools that they will be faith witnesses for your children
- discussing with other parents your aspirations about how your child will be helped to put faith into action
- supporting the school to offer the highest quality of learning and teaching.



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