



Bishops' Conference of Scotland

Support Structures for Catholic Education



NATIONAL SUPPORT

A. SCOTTISH CATHOLIC EDUCATION SERVICE

A1. **The SCOTTISH CATHOLIC EDUCATION SERVICE (SCES)** is the agency of the Bishops' Conference of Scotland responsible for advising it on all matters relating to education and, on its behalf, for identifying and addressing the national strategic priorities for Catholic education in Scotland, and for communicating on relevant issues with Church bodies, Government agencies and other organisations.

A2. **The main functions of SCES are:**

- to advise the Bishops' Conference on a wide range of issues, including school estate provision, teacher recruitment and development, school curriculum and national qualifications, in particular relating to religious education
- to represent the interests of all those involved with Catholic schools - pupils, teachers, parents, clergy
- to liaise with the Scottish Government, Scottish Parliament, national agencies such as Education Scotland, SQA, GTCS and the Universities, in particular the University of Glasgow
- to respond to consultations issued by various bodies
- to advise individual Dioceses on issues relating to employment, Church Approval and aspects of legislation affecting education
- to provide information and advice to groups such as Diocesan R.E. Advisers, Church Reps on Education Committees, parent groups, chaplains and parishes
- to co-ordinate the development of curriculum resources and guidance to address national issues
- to speak as the 'education voice' of the Church when communicating with the media, with other Churches and with international Church groups.

A3. **The main groups with whom SCES will work in partnership are:**

- Diocesan R.E. Advisers
- Church representatives on Council Education Committees
- Diocesan staff who administer Approval procedures
- St Andrew's Foundation for Catholic Teacher Education
- Board of Catholic Education at the University of Glasgow
- the Catholic Head Teacher associations
- Catholic student and teacher associations
- national & international Catholic education groups.

- A4. The **SCES Executive Board**, in serving the needs of the Bishops' Conference, is responsible for developing appropriate strategic priorities and for ensuring that the necessary steps are taken to address these strategies. Members of the SCES Executive Board will normally serve for a maximum of four years.
- A5. The **SCES Director** is the Chief Executive Officer of the SCES Executive Board and is employed by the Bishops' Conference of Scotland. S(he) has the right and the duty to attend all meetings of the Executive Board. The SCES Director will be responsible for co-ordinating the support available in each Diocese for aspects of national strategy: e.g., resources for religious education and CLPL support for teachers.
- A6. **Members of the SCES Executive Board** will normally comprise 8-10 individuals who are invited by the Bishops' Conference to serve on the Board and to offer a range of experience and expertise of relevance to Catholic education. Each member is expected:
- to support the SCES Director in addressing national strategic priorities for Catholic education
 - to assist the SCES Director in working with national education agencies and other groups
 - to lead the activities of one or more SCES working groups and identify people who can contribute to the work of these groups
 - to assist in identifying sources of additional resources to support specific projects
 - to contribute to the organisation of meetings of the Catholic Education Commission.
- A7. The following **Office-holders** of the SCES Executive Board will be appointed by the Bishops' Conference:
- Bishop-President
 - SCES Director
 - SCES Director P.A. (Board Secretary)
 - Chairperson (layperson)
- A8. The SCES Executive Board will produce a **strategic plan** to cover the term of its office. This plan, which will specify priorities and identify appropriate resources, personnel and timescales, will be presented to the Bishops' Conference by the SCES Director. Reviews of the strategic plan will take place annually.
- A9. **Meetings** of the SCES Executive Board will take place at least 4 times per academic year.
- A10. **SCES will publish reports** of progress in specific areas of development via its website and in editions of *SCES News*.

B. CATHOLIC EDUCATION COMMISSION

- B1. The **Catholic Education Commission (CEC)** will function as a consultative body for SCES, involving a wide representation of the Catholic Education community, including teachers, parents, parish and Diocesan staff.
- B2. The **main functions of the CEC** will be to provide a forum for seeking views on issues of national significance for Catholic education so that these views can inform the strategy developed by SCES to address these issues.
- B3. **Meetings of the CEC** will take place twice per academic session, in a different Diocese on each occasion. SCES and the Dioceses will promote wide awareness of these meetings and encourage wide participation. It is expected that each Diocese will delegate representatives to attend these meetings.

DIOCESAN SUPPORT

C. DIOCESAN EDUCATION GROUP

- C1. Each Diocese will establish a **Diocesan Education group** to monitor and respond to local education issues, in the light of national strategies and advice developed by SCES, on behalf of the Bishops' Conference,. The main function of this group will be to ensure that the needs of the Diocese are being addressed appropriately, with particular regard to school provision, teacher recruitment and support.
- C2. Members of the **Diocesan Education group** will include the Bishop, Vicar Episcopal (Education), Diocesan R.E. Advisers, Church Reps on Education Committees, local Head Teacher representatives.C3. **Meetings** of the Diocesan Education group should be held at least 3 times per academic year.
- C4. The Diocesan Education group should appoint someone who will be responsible for liaising with SCES on relevant issues and for attending CEC meetings.
- C5. Each Diocese will collaborate and share resources to ensure coherent practice and best value when addressing aspects of national strategy, such as the development of resources for religious education, CLPL support for teachers and resources for parents. The co-ordination of this shared activity will be undertaken by the SCES Director.