



*Archdiocese of Westminster*  
**Education Service**  
*Dedicated to Lifelong Growth of the Whole Person in Faith*  
**BULLETIN**

**May**  
**2005**  
**3/05**

**To: Head Teachers and Chairs of Governing Bodies**

*Items marked\* do not apply to independent schools*

**From the Director of Education - Towards a Future Service**

Thank you to all those who responded to my invitation in the last Bulletin for your suggestions. All your comments have been taken into account in formulating proposals. I have since spoken to both the primary and secondary head teachers conferences, where a number of useful points emerged in discussion, as well as some volunteers to join a small group of parish priests and head teachers to assist in the formulation of proposals. I have now met individually with every member of the Service, and a small group from the Education Commission has also helped to develop the proposals. The feedback on the principles to underpin the restructuring received largely positive comment, and, with minor modifications, have now been agreed by the Commission.

By the time you read this, the Education Commission will have met again to discuss the restructuring, and it is likely that the formal consultation on the resulting proposals will have begun. The agreed principles are now on the restructuring page of our web site ([www.rcdow.org.uk/education](http://www.rcdow.org.uk/education)) and the proposals will be put there as soon as the consultation has started, together with all other updates.

As always, your views are invited on the proposed new structure. As we go forward into the implementation stage, I will also need to start work on the mechanisms to improve communications and collaboration in the diocese as the new structures are implemented. Important ideas about these emerged at the heads' conferences, but further ideas, suggestions and input are always welcome to continue that dialogue.

Many thanks for all your suggestions, as well as your continued patience and co-operation. With your support I know that we will achieve an even better service to all schools as a result of the changes we are about to make.

Paul Barber  
Director

**Inspection Changes September 2005**

Since the last bulletin the Section 47 inspection (formerly Section 23) has gained Royal Assent, and become **Section 48**. An 'Inspection Schedule' has now been proposed nationally and we are currently reviewing the model and the accompanying self-evaluation documents. Please find enclosed the circular advertising the **inspection training**. As this is likely to attract large numbers we will repeat the training also in the Autumn.

*Contact Rita Price or Mike Pittendreigh on 0207 798 9006 (or [mikepittendreigh@rcdow.org.uk](mailto:mikepittendreigh@rcdow.org.uk))*

## **Catholic Certificate in Religious Studies**

The next CCRS Study Day is the module on the Church at 10am on Saturday 17th September 2005 at Vaughan House, 46 Francis St, London SW1. The first speaker is Fr John McDade SJ, the principal of Heythrop College. The cost is £15 for the module, £6.50 for the day only. Prior registration is encouraged though people are also welcome to register on the day. Current students are specially asked to register in advance. See the website for further details at [www.rcdow.org.uk/lilac](http://www.rcdow.org.uk/lilac)  
(Contact Moira Wilson on 020 8202 3611 or email to: [moirawilson@rcdow.org.uk](mailto:moirawilson@rcdow.org.uk))

## **Catechists Conference - teachers welcome**

The diocesan conference for catechists this year is from Friday evening 1st July to Sunday lunchtime 3rd July at All Saints Pastoral Centre, London Colney. It is being led by Fr Perry Gildea and the title is 'Catechesis and Liturgy'. Further details will be distributed shortly. Contact Maria at the Lifelong Learning and Catechesis office for an application form 020 8202 3611.

## **On the Way to Life**

The document produced by the Heythrop Institute on the analysis of and the challenges facing religious education and catechesis in today's culture has been published. It is available from the CES for £10.00. It is the successor to Our Faith Story by Fr Patrick Purnell SJ. In the foreword Archbishop Nichols recommends that all involved in catechesis and religious education read it and use it appropriately. A one-page summary from the Pastoral Affairs Office is included with this Bulletin.  
Contact Anthony Clark or Rita Price

## **Request for Examination Statistics**

Schools may recall that we did not collect national examination data for Religious Studies this year since we had meetings arranged with Edexcel and awarding bodies willing to help the Catholic sector collate and analyse trends. There is still work to be done to produce the information the Catholic sector requires, along with benchmark data. There is some risk that we could miss the 2004 figures and so a mailing is being sent out to all schools and colleges to request data from 2004 - both results and exam board changes. We can build these into the data analysis we have agreed. Apart from diocesan feedback of information, we will not make the names of the schools public.

All of this has an important place and there is much to celebrate, but we also know that there is much more involved in religious education beyond external examinations.

*Rita Price*

## **Teacher Recruitment**

Headteachers will find enclosed with this bulletin a list of potential recruits for our Catholic schools.  
(Contact Maureen Roe on 0207 798 9005 Or email [maureenroe@rcdow.org.uk](mailto:maureenroe@rcdow.org.uk))

## Admissions

### Eastern Catholic Children's Applications for places at Catholic Schools

In the diocesan '**Joint Guidance on Admissions**', published January 2003, clear guidance is given to governing bodies with regard to both Eastern Catholic and Eastern Orthodox Churches. There are currently twenty-one Eastern Catholic Churches in full communion with the See of Rome and members of these Churches have the full rights of any member of the Catholic Church. Care therefore must be taken, in admissions, not to treat them in any way less favourably on account of their different liturgical and sacramental traditions. Reference, in the guidance, is also made to the Eastern Catholics' counterparts amongst the Orthodox and other Eastern Christian Churches that are not in full communion with the See of Rome. The relevant section in the guidance is headed *Definition of 'Catholic' for the Purposes of Admission Criteria (A12–A20 pages 10-11)*. The guidance is on the diocesan website [www.rcdow.org.uk/education](http://www.rcdow.org.uk/education).

Enclosed with this bulletin please find further guidance which schools and governors may find helpful: *Proof of Membership of the Catholic Church – Guidance for Schools; Obtaining Proof of Baptism – Guidance for Parents* and a *List of all Catholic Churches*.

Reference to Ethnic Communities and Eastern Catholic Churches can also be found on pages 36 –38 in the Westminster Year Book.

Please contact Maureen Roe or Paul Barber 0207 798 9005. Email [maureenroe@rcdow.org.uk](mailto:maureenroe@rcdow.org.uk) or [paulbarber@rcdow.org.uk](mailto:paulbarber@rcdow.org.uk)

### Secondary Co-ordinated Admission Arrangements

In the general feedback on these new arrangements - from schools, parents across the diocese and officers attending Admission Forums in all the LEAs that the diocese serves - there are some common threads and areas of concern. Amongst them is the problem of parents not completing both the **Common Application Form** and the **School's Supplementary Information Form**. This has caused particular issue with the transfer of information between the school and the LEA, especially when the school has vacancies at the end of the process and there is a lack of clarity about the operating of waiting lists and the filling of these vacancies. Nervousness on the part of some of our schools in this the first year of the scheme has caused some of them to try and operate both within the scheme and outside it. This has been less than helpful to both the LEA and parents. Unfortunately, software problems prevented some LEAs from participating in planned cross-borough arrangements. This has damaged attempts to build confidence in the scheme.

**The biggest issue for parents** was the operating of the **First Preference Model**. Co-ordinated admission schemes based on parental preference cannot work if schools give a higher priority to those who give their own school as first choice. Amongst Catholic schools, this is also incompatible with the aim to allocate Catholic places efficiently between Catholic pupils because it forces parents to 'gamble' on one Catholic school as against another, rather than manifest their genuine preferences. It does, though, remain acceptable to give a higher priority to those who express a preference for Catholic schools above those who place a higher priority on non-Catholic education. It is unacceptable to give priority to those who have applied to no other school.

In this first year of the scheme it is important that we have detailed feedback from both Primary and Secondary schools so that we are in a strong position to support our schools and to challenge both the DfES and LEAs, should this be appropriate. Please find enclosed with the bulletin a questionnaire to provide us with detailed feedback, one for Primary and one for Secondary (so that we can view the experience from both angles). Completion of these would be much appreciated.

Contact Maureen Roe 0207 798 9005 Or email [maureenroe@rcdow.org.uk](mailto:maureenroe@rcdow.org.uk)

## Good News Slot

**Congratulations to St Joseph's Junior School in Hendon** who have recently been awarded **Investors in People**.

**Well done to St John Evangelist Primary School, Islington**, who are the first school in the LEA to be awarded the **Basic Skills Agency's 'Quality Mark'**.

A brand new kind of **congratulations to Salvatorian College, Harrow**, who have won **two prizes** in the **London Open House Awards**. Junior Open House was established to provide access for schools to many distinguished buildings in and around London. **One prize** was for **the creative use of Architectural Visits** within the curriculum. The Design and Technology Department used visits to the Sir John Soames Museum and Beavis Marks Synagogue during their annual architectural walk in the City of London as key research and product features in the design of pop up displays and advertising cards. **The other prize** was the award of the **Open House Key** (the original of their logo) – a key with the shape of prominent London architectural profiles in the negative in the key levers. This is the **first time** it has been awarded. Open House say that the award is not a competition; it is in recognition of **outstanding, innovative work** which does not just open doors, but **opens eyes and minds** as well.

**Well done** to the staff and students involved.

**Please keep the good news rolling in to Liz Duffy.**

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