

## SCHOOL COMMISSION – DIOCESE OF MENEVIA

### CONSTITUTION

1. There shall be established for the Diocese of Menevia an Education Commission having functions and members as provided for in this Constitution.
2. The function of the Commission shall be as follows:
  - (1) To consider educational issues affecting the Diocese and to offer advice to the Bishop, his relevant officers and educational bodies, as appropriate.
  - (2) To afford opportunities for appropriate consultation and discussion of educational issues affecting the Diocese of Menevia and the Catholic Church in Wales.
3. The number of members of the Commission shall be 10 or less.
4. Members are appointed for their particular expertise in one or more aspects of education and will serve for a period of four academic years.
5. Representatives will include Vicar General, Trustees, Diocesan Director of Education, Religious Education Advisor, Governors, Head Teachers, Local Authority officers and others as deemed appropriate.
6. There shall be a quorum for a meeting of 50% of its membership.
7. Special guests may be invited to address the Commission on particular areas of interest and expertise.
8. The Commission shall have the power to set up sub-committees as the Commission deems necessary from time to time and with such members, including invited members, as seems appropriate.

9. The Commission shall meet 3 times a year and on such other occasions as the Commission or its Chairman deem necessary.

10. The Constitution will be reviewed on a 4 year cycle, together with membership of the Commission.

### SCHOOLS COMMISSION; MISSION, AIMS AND OBJECTIVE

The work of the Schools Commission stems from the role of the Bishop as Teacher and Trustee. The Commission's work services three distinct kinds of need; legal, spiritual and educational.

The 1944 Education Act provided the Church with the opportunity to develop its own system of education alongside, and in partnership with Local Authorities. The Voluntary Aided Schools which emerged needed to recognise their distinctiveness in terms of both legal requirements and educational purposes.

In the light of recent Welsh Government legislation, and in particular 21<sup>st</sup> century schools, we are called upon to justify the distinctive nature of our Schools, whilst working in close partnership with Local Authorities. This necessitates clear statements of principle about our Catholic life.

The formation of the Schools Commission is to support and develop Catholic Education within our Aided Schools throughout the Diocese, in order that all our young people may be provided with an education within the Catholic context.

The Commission will appoint/elect a Chair of the Commission on an annual basis.

The Commission will appoint/elect a Secretary to the commission.

## AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

To achieve its aims, the Commission will require a series of long and short term objectives. The way these will be prioritised will depend upon a careful on-going analysis of needs. In many ways, the agenda for the Schools Commission is set from outside, yet there needs to be constant monitoring of local and Diocesan needs if we are to become supportive and proactive.

1. To foster and develop a “Diocesan Vision / Dimension” of Education in our Voluntary Aided Schools in line with the Mission of the Church.
2. To provide a service which responds to:
  - Policy Meetings
  - Forward planning
  - Catholic life of School
  - Current documents – both Church and Educational
  - Safeguarding

## OBJECTIVES

3. To continue to serve the needs of the Bishop when required to do so.
4. To support the Diocesan Director of Education within the changing climate of educational vision/purpose.
5. To discuss Church and Educational documents as deemed appropriate.
6. To support the Religious Education Advisor in responding to local needs / implementing change.
7. To continue to support and contribute towards Diocesan and Welsh Government initiatives and developments in co-operation with the Catholic Education Service and the Bishop’s Conference of England and Wales.
8. To foster and develop relationships with other Diocesan Commissions.

