

# Catholic Education Service



The One Hundred and Sixty-Seventh Annual Report of the Catholic Education  
Service

31 December 2014

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## Foreword

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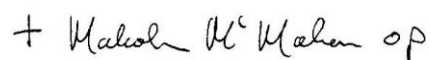
I am delighted to introduce the Catholic Education Service's annual report for 2014. In the important run up to an election year in 2015, this report outlines in detail the work that the CES has undertaken this year and highlights the importance of the CES in working to promote the views of the Bishops to the government and other national agencies, and supporting Catholic education in England and Wales, working closely with the dioceses that provide and oversee Catholic schools.

2014 has seen no let-up in the constant policy initiatives and other challenges to which we have to respond, and this report illustrates some of the work in which we have been engaged, from education policy through to public affairs and legal support.

My own personal thanks, as always, goes to all those who support this work of the CES. I express my gratitude for your hard work and dedication in helping to ensure that Catholic education remains at the forefront of the Church's mission in the service of the common good.

This report follows the new format established in our 2013 report as a consequence of the trusteeship of the CES being transferred to the Catholic Trust for England and Wales (CaTEW) alongside the trusteeship of the Bishops' Conference. The 2013 report having been for only nine months, this report is once again for the full twelve months, reverting to the calendar year reporting period that we left in 1990. As a separate ecclesiastical entity, we continue to produce our own annual report in order to remain transparent and accountable to the dioceses and our supporters for our use of resources.

We hope that you find this report useful and hope you will continue to support our work and spread the good news about the success of Catholic education in our country.



Archbishop Malcolm McMahon OP  
Chairman of the Catholic Education Service

## About the CES

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The Catholic Education Service (CES) is an agency of the Catholic Bishops' Conference of England and Wales. It works closely with the Bishops' Conference Department for Education and Formation and represents the Bishops' national education policy in relation to the 2300 Catholic schools, colleges and universities for which the Church is responsible across England and Wales.

The Catholic Education Service was founded by the Vicars-Apostolic of England and Wales in 1847 as the Catholic Poor-School Committee. It is an agency of the Bishops' Conference and also a public juridic person in canon law governed in accordance with its Statutes, which are ultimately approved by the Bishops' Conference. Governance of the CES under the Statutes rests with the CES Management Committee, which consists of an episcopal Chairman, appointed by the Bishops of England and Wales, the episcopal members of the Bishops' Conference Department for Catholic Education and Formation, and up to three additional members appointed by the Chairman.

For the period of this report the membership of the Management Committee was:

The Most Reverend Malcolm McMahon OP, Archbishop of Liverpool (Chairman)  
The Right Reverend Peter Doyle, Bishop of Northampton  
The Right Reverend Terence Drainey, Bishop of Middlesbrough  
The Right Reverend John Sherrington, Bishop of *Hilta* (until May 2014)  
The Right Reverend David McGough, Bishop of *Chunavia* (from May 2014)  
The Right Reverend Alan Williams SM, Bishop of Brentwood (from May 2014)  
The Very Reverend John Canon Weatherill  
Mrs Kate Griffin

The Director, Mr Paul Barber, the Deputy Director, Mr Gregory Pope, the RE Adviser, Mr Philip Robinson, and the General Secretary of the Bishops' Conference, The Right Reverend Mgr Marcus Stock (until 13<sup>th</sup> November 2014) and The Reverend Fr Christopher Thomas (from 13<sup>th</sup> November 2014) also attended meetings of the Management Committee.

The Trustees of the CES are the Catholic Trust for England and Wales (CaTEW), who are also Trustees of the Bishops' Conference. The assets of the CES are held as a restricted fund within CaTEW for educational purposes. Until March 2013, there was a separate charitable trust holding the assets of the CES: these functions have been transferred to CaTEW, with the CES continuing as a separate unincorporated association in English law, reflecting its separate legal personality in canon law. The CES operates under its own Statutes, which were amended by the Bishops' Conference in 2013 to take account of these changes.

The CES negotiates with the Westminster and Welsh Governments and other national bodies in order to safeguard and promote Catholic education. It also offers a Catholic contribution to the English and Welsh educational landscapes, seeking to ensure that the principles of Catholic Teaching are reflected in all aspects of national education policy.

## Catholic Schools & Colleges

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The Catholic community works in close partnership with Central Government in England and in Wales, and with Local Authorities in its provision of education. This partnership is enshrined in a variety of administrative and financial arrangements. Catholic schools, funded jointly by the State and the Church, make up 10% of the total maintained sector of England and Wales. Most are owned by Diocesan Trustees who appoint the majority of governors. The governing bodies employ all staff and have responsibility for admissions and the curriculum. The Church now has:

- 1,806 Primary Schools
- 374 Secondary Schools
- 51 All-age Schools
- 845,762 Pupils
- 49,605 Teachers
- 15 Sixth Form Colleges
- 4 Universities
- 16 University Colleges and Higher Education Institutions

Catholic schools are an integral part of the voluntary sector. This sector, which includes Anglican, Methodist and Jewish Schools as well as a few others, represents about one-third of state funded provision in England and Wales. In the 22 dioceses, there are teams of officers who offer support to schools on legal, administrative and educational matters while the Catholic Education Service works at a national level to promote and safeguard the interests of Catholic education and those working in Catholic schools and Colleges.

## Education Policy

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### Academies

As some dioceses created new Multi-Academy Trusts the number of Catholic academies rose during 2014. As of 1 December 2014 there are 352 Catholic academies in England out of a total of 2156 Catholic schools.

### Standards

The CES continues to give tackling underperformance a high priority. The CES School Standards Group meets regularly and comprises CES staff and diocesan colleagues. Talks took place with the Department for Education regarding the establishment of a Catholic Education Alliance, aimed at being a service to schools in support of standards.

### School governance

The CES has established a Governance Working Group made up of CES representatives and diocesan colleagues. The following documents have been finalised: Essential Information for Foundation Governors; Nomination Form; Notes to Candidates (to assist in completing the Nomination Form); Expectations of Foundation Governors; Flow Chart – appointment process; Guidance for Parish Priests in respect of nomination; Guidance for Dioceses in respect of nomination and appointment.

The focus now is primarily on drafting national guidance, including Self Evaluation Forms (SEF) for Governors/Guidance on the SEF Form/Governors' Handbook. Work is also underway in preparing a précis of what should be included in a Governors' Training/Induction Pack.

We are also in discussion with the Catholic Safeguarding Advisory Service in relation to Disclosing and Barring Service (DBS) checks for safeguarding children and vulnerable adults, with the aim to develop a system whereby DBS checks for foundation governors may be carried out centrally and controlled by each Diocese.

In the areas of recruitment, appointment and deployment of governors, we are focussing on simplifying the recruitment process itself and looking at the mandatory and desirable qualities and skills foundation governors should possess, training, performance management of the governing body. We are seeking to formulate a recruitment campaign for governors and also to create IT programmes which governors and dioceses can use with respect to the skills audits of governors.

### Leadership

A Leadership Policy has been published and a Teaching Schools and Licensed Providers Working Group established.

## Legal support

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The CES updated the model application forms, contracts for schools and academies and workplace policies for schools and academies in England and Wales in 2014 and these are all available on the CES website. We have completed the work on the new electronic contract generator for use by schools and academies, which has been uploaded and is in use.

We organised 8 regional training sessions on the model employment documentation, the aim of which is to educate school staff, governors and school HR advisers about the types of CES model documents available and the reasons why schools and academies must use them.

We also produce a new monthly newsletter providing updates on employment law, education law and any other relevant guidance, information or news which may be relevant to Catholic schools, academies, FE institutions and dioceses.

We answer queries from diocesan colleagues about employment and education law matters and liaise with schools, academies and HR/legal advisers in that respect where authorised to do so by dioceses.

## Public Affairs

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### Free Schools and the 50% cap on admission

A new school, if it has a religious character, which opened as a free school or new academy would only be able to give priority based on faith in its admission criteria for up to 50% of its places. This could lead to the unacceptable situation whereby a Catholic free school or new academy might have to refuse a place to a child even though the child is a Catholic. Although it is still possible to open a new VA school (as the Richmond example shows) in practice it is difficult to do so as Government policy is predicated on the assumption that local authorities will, in the first instance, consider creating either free schools or new academies, and central government funding is directed accordingly.

The 50% cap on admissions comes from an interpretation of the Coalition Agreement: *Our Programme for Government 2010*. It is a priority for the CES to try and ensure that the policy does not last beyond this Parliament. The CES has produced several briefings on this topic. MPs have raised this issue in correspondence with Ministers on our behalf.

### Wales

The Further and Higher Education (Governance and Information) (Wales) Act and the Education (Wales) Act have both received Royal Assent.

CES is continuing to lobby the Welsh Government over the proportion of state funding for the 21st Century Schools Building Programme.

### Relationship with Parliament

The CES was represented this year at all party conferences. The overall outcome was a success as the CES developed new and stronger links with Catholic MPs and organisations with an interest in education. The Conferences also provided reputation benefit for the CES as it increased the public profile of the CES in the eyes of decision makers.

The CES organised a dinner in Parliament for supporters of Catholic education. Pat Glass MP hosted the dinner which provided an opportunity for informal discussion between the CES and MPs to raise issues of concern. Topics discussed were the cap on faith-based admissions, Religious Education, British values, Diocesan Inspections and home-to-school transport.

The CES responded to the Education Select Committee call for evidence on PSHE and SRE. Following our submission of written evidence, the RE Adviser gave oral evidence to the committee. The main issue is whether SRE should be statutory.

The CES, in partnership with the Catholic Bishops' Conference, is undertaking a series of meetings with Catholic MPs who are less familiar with the work of the Church. We also continue our ongoing working relationship with the Directors of Conservative Christian Fellowship, Christians on the Left, Liberal Democrat Christian Forum and the Catholic Legislators' Network.

### 2015 Election

CES submitted evidence to the Labour Party's consultation on education policy and met with Shadow Secretary of State for Education, Tristram Hunt MP.



In advance of the General Election in May 2015 the CES has supported the Bishops' Conference work on an election resource for Catholics. The CES will also be producing educational election resources for schools focusing on understanding the political process and the importance of being 'active citizens'. To compliment this work the CES has more broadly supported the 'Show Up Campaign', organised by Christian in Politics.

The CES has also responded to Party Manifesto consultation to the three main political parties. These written briefings were followed up with meetings with senior education figures in the Liberal Democrat and Labour party.

### [New Website](#)

The CES website has been rebuilt with a more modern design and improved navigation, enabling visitors to reach any page with no more than two or three mouse clicks. The website can be viewed on any device, including tablets and smart phones. It has been re-housed on the same web host as the CBCEW website, in part because the previous host had proved unreliable, with an unacceptable amount of downtime.

### [CES Census](#)

The 2014 CES Census for the first time had a return rate of 100% as every Catholic school and college in England and Wales participated. The digests were publishes in English and Welsh and an English Key Facts card was also produced.

## Religious Education

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### GCSE/A Level Reform

The new criteria for GCSE RE were published on 7 November 2014, the very last possible moment to allow for a launch in September 2016. The criteria require the teaching of two religions but we have given it our public support as we were instrumental in forming it into a shape which we believe will deliver a GCSE which has greater rigour overall and is, perhaps for the first time, a thorough study of Catholic theology. The consultation closed on the 29 December and the DfE are committed to working with us further in responding to the consultation. We produced a toolkit for dioceses and schools to help them to respond to the consultation and encouraged as many people as possible to make a response.

The A Level criteria document was also published on 7 November. The shape and content of the criteria was informed to a very large extent by the representatives of the Catholic HEIs. This included representation from Heythrop, St Mary's, Liverpool Hope, Newman College, The Margaret Beaufort Institute at Cambridge, Blackfriars in Oxford and the Durham Centre for Catholic Studies. The new criteria is much more balanced than previous A Levels in Religious Studies which had become in many schools a study of Philosophy and Ethics without any theological content. Peter and Charlotte Vardy have contacted many of our schools to encourage them to oppose the current criteria but we are advising dioceses to ignore these appeals as they seem to be calling for the retention of an entirely Philosophy and Ethics approach which is not representative of the breadth of the subject.

### RSE and PSHE

The CES responded to the Education Select Committee call for evidence on PSHE and SRE. Following our submission of written evidence, the RE Adviser gave oral evidence to the committee on 19<sup>th</sup> November. The main issue is whether SRE should be statutory which we opposed but said we would want RSE to be taught in all of our schools and taught outstandingly well. We also insisted on the full involvement of parents in its planning, delivery and evaluation and made clear that we expect the right of parental withdrawal to remain. Finally, we also recommended that the SRE be known as RSE to place the emphasis on relationships education before sex education.

The work of the Sherrington-Hollins project and the DRE group working on redrafting a guidance document continues and advances.

### S5 and S48/Canonical inspection

The September 2014 Ofsted guidance stepped even further in its intrusion into those areas which are rightly the jurisdiction of Diocesan inspectors. The guidance stated that S5 inspectors may inspect the teaching of RE in schools with a religious character. This was a misreading of the law. We met Sir Michael Wilshaw and senior colleagues on 16 December to discuss this, and other matters, with Ofsted. The meeting was successful, and subsequent discussions have resulted in revision of the guidance so it now accurately reflects the law. We also raised with him the misrepresentation of some of our schools in their summary reports of schools who were given no notice inspections in September.

The DfE has now produced a financial agreement which makes it very clear when they will make contributions towards the cost of s.48 inspections and the inspection of diocesan Academies.

Sixth Form Colleges are inspected under a different framework to other kinds of school and in the past every inspection team which visited a sixth form college would contain one trained Ofsted inspector who was also nominated by the bishop of the diocese in which the college is situated. This does not affect the canonical right of bishops to inspect Catholic sixth form colleges independently of this process.

## Higher Education

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A CES Higher Education Adviser was appointed on 1 September 2014 working on a 0.2 full time equivalent basis.

He has represented the CES at: the Cathedrals Group of Universities Executive meeting and AGM; the Joint Advisory Committee on Church Universities and Colleges (JACCUC), a Standing Committee of the Higher Education Funding Council (HEFCE) which is chaired by Bishop Peter Doyle; along with Bishop Peter he participated in the HEFCE two day Strategy Conference at Warwick University. JACCUC's future will be under review by HEFCE in 2015 and the Cathedrals Group has circulated a draft document on The Case for JACCUC for comment before its submission to the next JACCUC meeting in March 2015.

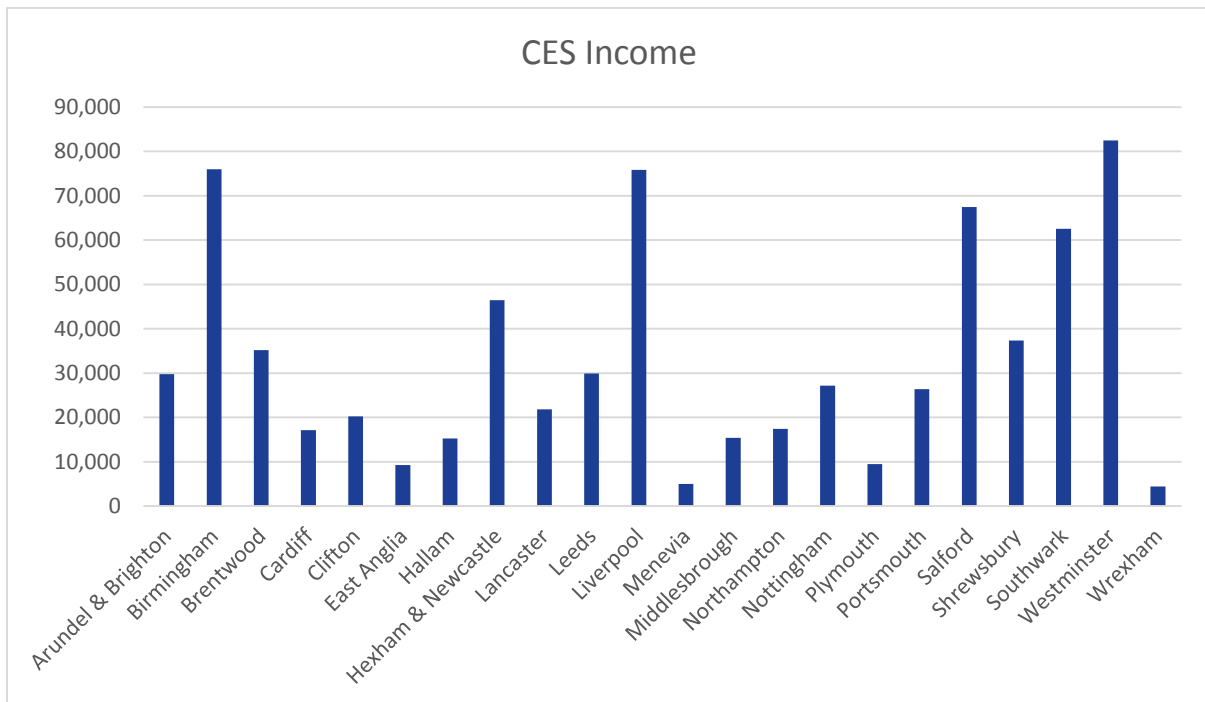
## Finance

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The CES is funded by a diocesan levy approved by the Bishops' Conference. The levy is based on the number of pupils in Catholic schools in the diocese, and is currently set at 87p per pupil: this is reflected in the chart below. The money collected from dioceses every year to fund the CES is supported by the CES annual collection which is taken throughout the country on Education Sunday: this collection was first established by the Bishops in 1848, and still results in some individual donations directly to the CES. Since 1849, a plenary indulgence has been available to all subscribers to the CES who fulfilled the usual conditions within the Octaves of the Feasts of the Sacred Heart, of St George, or St Edward the Confessor.

Although full statutory accounts for the CES now form part of the consolidated accounts of CaTEW, the CES is committed to the highest levels of financial accountability and transparency, hence the publication of this separate summary of income and expenditure.

### CES Income 1st January 2014 - 31st December 2014



### CES Expenditure 1st January 2014 - 31st December 2014

