





*"Grant that the work of the Catholic Association of Teachers, Schools and Colleges will bear fruit for the good of the children in our care, and for the benefit of its members."*

Archbishop's House  
Lowood  
Carnatic Road  
Liverpool



Dear friends,

The coming year is very likely to be a year of great change as our country progresses towards leaving the European Union. Our Catholic schools provide a place of safety and stability in these tumultuous times. The Catholic ethos is founded on a loving God who whilst unchanging in himself calls us to him by an all-embracing love which gives us strength and comfort as we change our lives so that we are no longer self-seeking but open and kind to others.

Many years ago a non-Christian teacher working in one of our schools said she preferred Catholic schools because they supported people in need, at home and abroad, even though our communities are amongst the poorest in the UK. Her remarks stayed with me because of their truth then and today. In the times ahead that spirit of generosity will be required of everyone; but we can be sure that our children will learn the meaning of love in our school communities.

I want to use this opportunity to thank all the members of CATSC for what you are doing as you face the challenges ahead.

Most Rev Malcolm McMahon OP  
Archbishop of Liverpool  
Chair of the Catholic Education Service

 Foreword

Dear Colleagues,

Welcome to the CATSC Handbook 2017-2018. I hope that you find it of use in gaining further information about the Association.

CATSC membership continues to grow and over 60% of schools in England and Wales are part of the Association. I remain hopeful that this figure will increase further this year. I ask you to spread the news of our work; especially on Twitter and Facebook. As President, I echo my predecessors in thanking all members who are faithful supporters of our Association.

May I call upon your further support in helping us as an Association to reach out to Catholic colleagues currently working in secular schools and colleges, and other secular education settings? We are most keen to include within our CATSC family, colleagues who maybe seeking to work (or return to work) within our Catholic schools and colleges. I believe that membership of CATSC represents an important route to support them in achieving this goal. CATSC is already an important partnership of co-learners, but will be enriched and further enlivened by the inclusion of Catholic colleagues from a wide range of educational settings, whom in turn will derive benefits from membership.

On your Council you have enthusiastic people who want to aid Catholic Schools and Teachers as much as possible therefore if you have any ideas to share or areas which you feel need developing please do not hesitate to contact any member of the Council.

The Council works to provide: conferences for all sectors, publishing the Vine, participating in Religious Education Curriculum formation at a National level, representation at the World Union of Catholic Teachers, representation at National level of the Lay Association, grants for research projects and the web-site, twitter and facebook accounts. The Networking Journal is supported financially by CATSC.

The editors of Networking, the Vine, the website, Twitter and Facebook all enjoy receiving interesting articles, ideas and photographs of news and events. Please pick up your pen, or reach for your laptop/phone/tablet, and send in your contributions... all will be welcome. May you have a Happy and Holy School Year for 2017-2018.

Yours in Christ,

*John Nish*

# ➤ Outline Information

The formation of CATSC in 1996 brought together the long traditions of three organisations - the Catholic Teachers Federation of England and Wales, the Association of Catholic Schools and Colleges and the Association of Religious in Education.

At the National Level, the Association works to support and safeguard the interests of Catholic Education and those working in it, as well as providing support for Catholic teachers working in other sectors. The Association enjoys good working relationships with the Bishops' Conference. The officers meet Bishop Sherrington, whose role is Episcopal Liaison to the Association. The officers also meet representatives of the Catholic Education Service.

Members of the National Executive Council represent the Association on working parties and ad hoc groups set up by the CES to deal with current issues in Catholic Education.

Through working relationships with various Catholic groups, the Association is pro-active in raising concerns of the membership on both an informal and formal basis when and where necessary.

CATSC is also active in responding on behalf of the membership to the vast number of initiatives and consultations presented by the DfE and the Welsh Government. The aim is to ensure that the distinctive voice of Catholic Schools and Colleges is heard in any national education debate.

The Association is also an active member of the World Union of Catholic Teachers (WUCT), where it speaks for its members, builds relationships with other Associations throughout the world, and encourages start-up groups in other countries.

Conferences and Study Weekends are arranged on both a regional and national level to explore, understand and discuss major issues affecting Catholic Education, our own faith development, and our roles in delivering education for our pupils and students. The uniqueness of the Association means that members from all the diverse regions meet and share ideas. The Annual Study Conference offers the opportunity to be part of the exchange of ideas and thoughts across different sectors.

Whilst the annual Senior Leaders' Conference for Secondary schools and Further Education Colleges affords many opportunities to promote and explore the rewards and challenges of leadership.

The Vine, Networking, the website and Twitter all circulate news of the Association. These media offer a chance to share national and international ideas and to be a part of thinking through and exploring the theological nature of the Catholic perspective. Occasional papers are produced on topics of important interest. The Research Committee works with prominent academics to coordinate and encourage the publication of studies which both celebrate and endorse the success of our distinctive Catholic Education sector.

# ↘ Aims of the Association

## **To create a network of support for all colleagues in Catholic education and for all other Catholic teachers**

- by organising an annual residential conference which is a major event in the Association calendar
- by organising an annual Senior Leaders conference for senior staff in High Schools and Further Education Colleges
- by organising other conferences and courses of a national, regional, Diocesan or local nature, either residential or non-residential
- by issuing to all members a termly newsletter containing news reports, articles and information of future events
- by offering guidance and advice on personal, spiritual, career or professional matters

## **To promote Catholic education by celebrating successes within our schools and colleges**

- by identifying and promoting good practice
- by exhibiting some of the excellent work achieved by pupils, students and teachers

## **To be prepared to act as a voice for Catholic teachers, schools and colleges**

- by using existing networks through which we can consult with Catholic teachers and others who work in Catholic schools and colleges, on matters of concern or interest
- by representing such views to the relevant authorities
- by being represented on Catholic Education Service Advisory Committees
- by representing an authentic voice of Catholic teachers, schools and colleges through the media

## **To maintain and develop links with international organisations serving Catholic education**

- by being a member of the World Union of Catholic Teachers
- by encouraging European awareness through links with known organisations by identifying opportunities for study tours and exchanges

### **To promote the recognition and development of our distinctive role in the life of the Church**

- by providing opportunities for professional development which meet the needs of Catholic schools and colleges
- by providing opportunities to celebrate what is already being achieved in Catholic schools and colleges
- by providing a programme of distinctive in-service training
- by providing a network for consultation

### **To safeguard the interests of Catholic education for the benefit of pupils, students, teachers, governors and parents**

- by monitoring proposed legislation and provision
- by campaigning on behalf of Catholic education whenever necessary
- by working with local and Diocesan bodies

### **To act in the best interests of all who work in Catholic schools and colleges in England and Wales**

- by identifying issues of concern to Catholic schools and colleges
- by representing the interests of those who work in Catholic schools and colleges
- by maintaining and extending links with other organisations

### **To encourage all who work in Catholic schools and colleges, and other Catholic teachers to become members of the association, either as individuals or as staff within their institutions**

- by promoting membership through termly mailings
- by publicising the Association locally and nationally
- by promoting membership at every Association event
- by publicising the Association through parishes and dioceses

# Website, Twitter and Facebook

The CATSC web-site will be updated on a regular basis throughout the year.

As well as the site providing useful information, there is also a facility for members to share good practice and for people to make contact with other teachers to ask for advice or to exchange ideas when experiencing new challenges, (for example teaching a different age group or teaching First Communion pupils or young people who are to be confirmed). Working with children and young people can be interesting and a test of one's own faith. The web-site is there as a self-help group for teachers of all age groups of pupils to offer each other a forum for ideas and assistance.

The Twitter and Facebook facilities are the areas for members to share ideas or to keep in touch with the latest views on our distinctive role in education.

[twitter.com/CATSCEW](https://twitter.com/CATSCEW)

Search for CATSC on:

The Twitter logo, consisting of the word "twitter" in a white, lowercase, sans-serif font next to a white bird icon on a blue background.The Facebook logo, consisting of the word "facebook" in a white, lowercase, sans-serif font on a dark blue background.

Website: [www.catsc.org](http://www.catsc.org)

## ↘ Helpline

The HELPLINE is a unique service for the Catholic Association of Teachers Schools and Colleges.

It was formed in 2000 to meet the growing needs of Catholic Teachers.

The Helpline is open for people who work in Catholic Schools or people who are Catholic Teachers.

There are many difficulties which face people in Education. If you feel that you need help, advice or guidance please do not hesitate to call the Helpline.

It may be a small problem, it may be a large problem but the Helpline is there to HELP.

The Service is Confidential and is offered on behalf of CATSC.

0845 601 3210

Networking (CET) Ltd, 9 Elston Hall, Elston, Notts, NG23 5NP.

Tel: 01636 525 503

E-mail: editor@networkingcet.co.uk

## Mission Statement

The mission of the Journal will be to provide a service in support of the distinctive mission of the Catholic Church in education and to young people. In particular

- to foster co-operation among Catholic schools, by sharing good practice
- to celebrate their successes
- to report and reflect on research and development issues related to Catholic Education
- to offer comment related to the Church's mission in education

As a part of institutional membership of CATSC, member schools will receive two copies of each issue of Networking, Catholic Education Today. This journal, in addition to giving detailed reports of CATSC activities, also reflects on the wide range of distinctive issues which concern all those involved in enterprise of Catholic Education.

As a way of celebrating success and sharing good practice, contributions are invited by way of accounts and photographs of events in school. Contributions are also invited by way of articles for publication, letters from readers and in particular news from schools.

**Please send all editorial material to the Editor John Clawson at:**

Editorial Office, Networking (CET) Ltd, 9 Elston Hall, Elston, Notts, NG23 5NP  
Tel: 01636 525 503 Email: editor@networkingcet.co.uk

**Schools or individuals who wish to receive additional copies may order them**

**from:** Networking (CET) Ltd, 9 Elston Hall, Elston, Notts, NG23 5NP  
Tel: 01636 525 503 Email: editor@networkingcet.co.uk

**Assistant Editor, News and Reviews: John Shoreland, KSG, KCHS**

Email: johnshoreland@yahoo.com

# Membership and Subscriptions

Our subscription cycle begins in September and concludes in August.

Annual school membership entitles you to:

- Access to the only national network of Catholic schools sharing good professional practice
- Two copies of three issues of the professional journal 'Networking Catholic Education Today'
- Five copies of our newsletter 'The Vine'
- Access to our Helpline
- Preferential rates to our Conferences for:
  - Primary Headteachers
  - Secondary Leaders
  - All Staff members – Annual Study Conference

If you require further information contact our Treasurer, John Lydon via:

Karen Tack:

Email: [tack@talktalk.net](mailto:tack@talktalk.net)

# Representations

The interests which are represented include:

Primary Schools

Secondary Schools

Independent Schools

Primary/  
Secondary RE

School Chaplain

Primary Head or  
Deputy Head

Secondary Head,  
Deputy Head or  
Assistant Head

Special Schools

Individual and  
Retired Members

Diocese

Support staff

CAFOD

Lay Associations

The National Executive Council is required by the Constitution and Standing Orders to ensure that representation of certain 'interest groups' is ensured. Therefore, in addition to the Officers, each Diocese in England and Wales is intended to be represented.

The Association encourages representation both on, and by, Council of other organisations whose membership is concerned with the Catholic Church, and/or Education.

National Council invites any organisations with an interest in Catholic Education to nominate a representative, who has observer status, and whose expenses are paid by the nomination body.

# World Union of Catholic Teachers

The World Union of Catholic Teachers (WUCT) is a Non-Governmental Organisation which is the only organisation recognised by the Holy See as the only international group to represent Catholic Teachers across the world. It therefore has the right to represent Catholic teachers at the United Nations and any of its agencies. WUCT is committed to achieving Free Universal Primary Education for all and other Human Rights for which it co-operates with other interested Groups particularly UNESCO through its Education for All (EFA) initiative.

Two significant developments have taken place in the past two years. There has been an increased level of cooperation with and participation in UNESCO events with members of the Executive and others attending Conferences in Paris, Sarajevo and London. The EFA initiative constitutes a core issue for all Catholic teachers in its focus on ensuring the dignity of all children through universal primary education. The working relationship between the Congregation for Catholic Education and WUCT has developed significant, characterised by the presence the Secretary Archbishop Zani at WUCT's annual Council of Presidents. The Executive WUCT is received at the Congregation's headquarters each time they meet and recently formed part of the consultation process for a recently published document.

The Association was founded in 1951 and has adopted a Catholic Teachers Charter for use by all member organisations. CATSC is an active member of the organisation and seeks to promote its aims across the world. A Congress and General Assembly are held every four years. Currently WUCT is very much involved in preparations for the World Congress on Catholic Education, *Educating Today and Tomorrow: A renewing Passion*, taking place in the Vatican and Castelgandolfo from Wednesday 18th to Saturday 21<sup>st</sup> November 2015. The CATSC and WUCT Treasurer, Dr John Lydon, will be presenting a paper at this Conference focusing on programmes of formation for Catholic leaders and teachers. It is hoped that this Congress will attract worldwide support including a significant presence from England and Wales. CATSC will be represented at the Congress. His Holiness pope Francis will deliver the concluding address. St Mary's University Twickenham, which has close links with CATSC will be contributing to the sponsorship of the World Congress.

# Executive Council Officers

## 2017 / 2018



### President 2017/2018

#### John Nish

Email [jpnccatscpresident@gmail.com](mailto:jpnccatscpresident@gmail.com)

### Immediate Past President

Networking  
Representative

#### Maria B. Rimmer

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Llanelidan  
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### Treasurer

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Council

#### Dr. John Lydon KCHS, SFHEA

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# Executive Council Members

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## 2017 / 2018



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# WUCT Contact Details

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Treasurer Dr John Lydon, England. Email [john.lydon@stmarys.ac.uk](mailto:john.lydon@stmarys.ac.uk)

Secretary Giovanni Perrone (Italy) .Email: [g.perrone1@alice.it](mailto:g.perrone1@alice.it)

# Networking Journal

## 2017 / 2018

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## CATSC Past Presidents

2015 - 2017

Maria Rimmer

2012 - 2015

Mary Sainsbury

2009 - 2012

Andrew Sowerby

2007 - 2009

Angela Whelan

2005 - 2007

Mary Mihovilovic

2003 - 2005

Eileen O'Reilly

2001 - 2003

Mark Philpot

1999 - 2001

Joseph Hughes

1997 - 1999

Edward Hayes

# Calendar 2017/2018

## Term 1

## Event

## Venue

16<sup>th</sup> September

Executive Council

Xaverian College, Manchester

## Term 2

## Event

## Venue

10<sup>th</sup> February

Executive Council

The Chester Catholic  
High School, Chester

2<sup>nd</sup> – 3<sup>rd</sup> March

Annual  
Conference

Crowne Plaza, Chester

## Term 3

## Event

## Venue

16<sup>th</sup> June

AGM &  
Executive Council

Painsley Catholic  
College, Station Road,  
Cheadle, Staffordshire,  
ST10 1LH.

## Publication of Vine

The proposed publication dates are given here to allow members to contribute articles in time to meet publishing deadlines.

October and December 2017.

February, May and June 2018.



# The Association Prayer

Come Holy Spirit, imbue us with  
your strength, that we may bring  
the light of faith,  
the hope of the Gospel,  
and the promise of your kingdom  
into our schools and colleges.  
Grant that the work of the Catholic  
Association of Teachers, Schools  
and Colleges will bear fruit for the  
good of the children in our care,  
and for the benefit of its members.  
Through Christ our Lord,  
Amen.