



Catholic Association of Teachers, Schools and Colleges

Handbook 2023 - 2024



"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."

John Nish
President 2023 - 2024

Foreward

Dear colleagues,

Welcome to the CATSC Handbook 2023-2024. I hope that you find it of use in gaining further information about the Association.

“Teaching is a beautiful job as it allows you to see the growth of people entrusted to your care. It is like being parents, at least spiritually. It is a great responsibility.” – Pope Francis.

As teachers of Catholic education, we hear God’s calling to help build His kingdom here on earth. Our mission is to prepare the students and families that we encounter for the Lord’s coming by sharing our own faith with others and forming their minds and hearts in both mercy and the truth.

Therefore, I once again call upon your support in helping us as an Association to reach out to Catholic colleagues currently working in community schools and colleges, and other community education settings. We are most keen to include within our CATSC family, colleagues who may be 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.

As an association, we are here to support and enhance the work you do in schools and colleges. Catholic schools have a unique role in the evangelizing and educational mission of the Church. Therefore, CATSC currently works to provide: conferences for all sectors, participating in Religious Education Curriculum formation at a National level, representation at the World Union of Catholic Teachers (UMEC – WUCT), representation at National level of the Lay Associations, grants for research

projects and through online platforms. The Networking Journal is substantially supported financially by CATSC. The editors of Networking, the CATSC website, Twitter and Facebook value receiving articles and photographs of news and events that reflect Catholic education in 2023/24. Please pick up your pen, or media device and send in your valued contributions.

Following the tremendous success of last year's conference held at St Mary's University, Twickenham, I warmly invite you to the 2023 conference which again is a joint venture with the NfRCE. The conference will be held on 19-20 October 2023 at the Mary Immaculate College, University of Limerick, Ireland. The theme of the conference is: 'Fluidly Faithful? Catholic Education and the Institutional Church.' Our conference will invite participants to ponder the nature of the relationship between Catholic education and the wider Catholic Church. Special consideration will be given to what is and what ought to be the relationship between the Church and Catholic universities and researchers. There will also be opportunities to tease out the ways in which Catholic schools and places of education embody and remain faithful in these times of fluidity and flux. Confirmed keynote speakers include: Professor Gladys Caniel, Queen's University Belfast, Professor John Sullivan, Liverpool Hope University, Dr Aiveen Mullally, Marino Institute of Education, Bishop Brendan Leahy, Bishop of Limerick, and Associate Professor Patricia Kieran.

Finally, may the academic year 2023/2024 be blessed and successful as we walk with Christ to make Him known to all we encounter in our Catholic schools and colleges. May His grace and peace reign in our hearts.

Yours in Christ,

John Nish

National President

➔ 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.

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 co-ordinate 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
- organising an annual Senior Leaders conference for senior staff in High Schools and Further Education Colleges
- organising other conferences and courses of a national, regional, Diocesan or local nature, either residential or non-residential
- issuing to all members a termly newsletter containing news reports, articles and information of future events
- 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
- 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
- representing such views to the relevant authorities
- being represented on Catholic Education Service Advisory Committees
- 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
- encouraging European awareness through links with known organisations by identifying opportunities for study tours & exchanges

Aims of the Association

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
- providing opportunities to celebrate what is already being achieved in Catholic schools and colleges
- providing a programme of distinctive in-service training
- providing a network for consultation

To safeguard the interests of Catholic education for the benefit of pupils, students, teachers, governors & parents: by

- monitoring proposed legislation and provision
- campaigning on behalf of Catholic education whenever necessary
- 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
- 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
- publicising the Association locally and nationally
- promoting membership at every Association event
- publicising the Association through parishes and dioceses

Website, Twitter & Facebook

As well as the website 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.

www.catsc.org



twitter.com/CATSCEW search CATSC on:



Networking

Networking (CET) Ltd

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:

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Email: editor@networkingcet.co.uk | **Phone:** 01636 525 503

Schools or individuals who wish to receive additional copies may order them using the above details.

Membership & ➤ 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'
- Preferential rates to our Conference for:
 - Primary Headteachers
 - Secondary Leaders
 - All Staff members

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

Email: catsctres@hotmail.co.uk

➔ Representations

Interests Represented:

Multi Academy Trusts

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

Diocesan

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 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.

WUCT seeks to work with other nongovernmental organisations to achieve common goals based on Catholic Social Teaching. WUCT invites local, national and international groups and organisations of Catholic Teachers and Educators, committed to these objectives, to become members in order to work for the advancement of Human Dignity AND Rights, the Church's Social Teaching, and the fulfilment of the role of Catholic Professional Educators. Several significant developments have taken place in the past two years. There has been an increased level of cooperation with and participation in UNESCO events. WUCT was represented at the UNESCO NGOs Conference in December 2018 by the President and the Treasurer. The theme of the 2018 International Conference of NGOs held at UNESCO Headquarters bi-annually was 'Enhancing and promoting the commitment and contribution of UNESCO's NGO partners'. Over 250 NGOs contributed to debate with over 20 renowned panellists from the academic and business worlds, on the challenges of the digital revolution.

In December 2019 Prof. John Lydon, CATSC Treasurer, participated acted as moderator for the Forum International Lay Catholic-inspired Organisations, held in Rome. The theme of the Forum 2019 was Towards a More Inclusive Society. The objective of the Forum was to consider how the international Thematic Experts network can contribute to strengthening the Catholic voice and faith in the political-economic debates with the aim of leaving no one behind and an emphasising a commitment to the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals for achievement by 2030. The responsibility the Catholic Church and its NGOs to strengthen its voice in terms of creating a more inclusive society and maintaining its distinctive identity has become increasingly significant. In the words of the Forum secretariat WUCT, is regarded as a "very much invited and desired" presence on this global stage. The Vatican Secretariat was represented by Cardinal Parolin. The Forum closed with a private audience for all forum delegates with his Holiness Pope Francis in the Apostolic Palace.

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↘ 2023 / 2024

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 2023 / 2024

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Calendar

2023 / 24

Term 1

25 November 2023

Event

Executive Council Meeting

Venue

St Mary's Catholic Voluntary Primary Academy, Marple Bridge Stockport

Term 2

9th March 2024

Event

Executive Council Meeting

Venue

Hallmark Hotel Birmingham

Term 3

8th June 2024

Event

AGM & Executive Council Meeting

Venue

St Mary's University Twickenham

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.**