

EDUCATION AND LIFELONG LEARNING COMMITTEE MEETING

17 JANUARY 2001

Presentation by Diocesan Directors of Education of the Church in Wales

1. Introduction

"We are in, and will remain in, education because that is where we belong. The pursuit of truth and the imparting of it are very much our business, as are the healthy enlargement of men's minds and personalities and the creation of truly human relationships and communities."
Bishop John Trillo 1968.

"It is Christian's concern for the wholeness of the human being, for the quality of the common life, for the direction in which man goes, that turns him towards education now and sets him inside it and will not let him disengage." World Council of Churches 1968.

2. Statement from the Bench of Bishops of the Church in Wales

The Bench of Bishops of the Church in Wales:

- Supports the continuing contribution of the Church in Wales to the dual system of education in England and Wales;
- Acknowledges the role of the National Society in enabling this support to be effective;
- Encourages the Church's Provincial and Diocesan Education Officers to develop their work in statutory education in co-operation with Local Education Authorities and the National Assembly;
- Welcomes the new opportunities presented to the Church in Wales by the School Standards and Framework Act 1998;
- Supports, subject to the decision of the Diocesan Trust, any Voluntary Controlled School

wishing to change its status to that of a Voluntary Aided School;

- Maintains that Church schools are central to the Church's mission to the nation;
- Invites the whole Church community at parochial, deanery, diocesan and provincial level to share in this vision and to promote teaching as a Christian vocation.

3. Ethos Statement used in Church in Wales Schools

Recognising its historical foundation, the school will preserve and develop its religious character in accordance with the principles of the Church in Wales and in partnership with the Church at parish and diocesan levels.

The school aims to serve the community by providing an education of the highest quality within the context of Christian belief and practice. It encourages an understanding of the meaning and significance of faith and promotes Christian values through the experience it offers to all its pupils.

4. The Purposes of the Church in Education

- "If the Church has a calling to participate in education, then it must be in a bold and decisive manner, not seeking to impose its faith but offering it as a gift to be experienced through the enjoyment of pupils have in working in a community where Christian principles are practised."
- "The offer of a Christian understanding of the World and the place of humanity in it will be reflected in worship. In particular, it will be reflected in the everyday life of the school, quietly respectful of the beliefs of others and of other faiths, but confident in its own faith. Church schools will not actively seek to convert children from the faith of their parents, but pupils will experience what it is to live in a community that celebrates the Christian faith; to work within a framework of discipline and yet to be confident of forgiveness; to begin to share the Christian's hope and the Christian experience that the greatest power in life and beyond it, is selfless love."
- "The Church's approach to education as a whole, while admitting of diversity of practice in the light of particular local circumstances, is thus one founded on a notion of inclusiveness rather than separation from the community. The composition of its school population, especially in primary schools where parents generally want their children educated close to home, will reflect the composition of the neighbourhood and must therefore be inclusive. The Church will seek to develop its provision as part of a wider

partnership with communities. Its school will seek to engage actively with all parents and to be distinctively welcoming to them."

- Church School Review Group
- Consultation Report
- December 2000

In pursuance of this mission the Diocesan Directors of Education of the Church in Wales will be pleased to discuss the following items with the Education and Lifelong Learning Committee:-

- The recruitment of Christian teachers and headteachers
- Teacher Training and NPQH
- Performance Management in Church Schools
- Foundation Governor Training
- The VA Capital Grant Programme
- The opportunity for VC schools to become VA
- Relationships with LEAs
- The Church Schools Review Group Consultation Report and the recommendation in increase Secondary School denominational provision
- Any other matters the Committee may wish to rise.