**North West Catholic Training Partnership**

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**The Catholic Leadership Programme 2017 – Formation for Mission**

The Catholic Leadership Programme exists to provide a coherent form of preparation for leadership in Catholic Schools. Our intention is to supplement, rather than replicate local or national provision. Underpinning every aspect of the ‘Catholic Leadership Programme’ is an exploration of personal and professional mission within the context of the Catholic education system. One of the strengths of the programme lies in the rich experience and expertise of the senior leaders in our diocesan schools and the variety of settings that would be available for visits. By the end of the programme participants should

be able to articulate their personal values and mission, and have a better understanding of the distinctive mission of Catholic schools.

**“The work of education is a mission that is key, key, key.” (Pope Francis)**

In **“Evangelii Gaudium”** Pope Francis cuts to the heart of the Gospel message to young people:

They *“….need to first know and love Christ……On the lips of the catechist (educator) the first proclamation must ring out over and over: “Jesus Christ loves you; he gave his life to save you; and now he is living at your side every day to enlighten, strengthen, and free you”.* (164). The Pope tells us that: “*The Church is an agent of evangelisation…. she is first and foremost a people advancing on its pilgrim way towards God”* (111). He concludes: *“Catholic schools must always strive to join their work of education with the explicit proclamation of the Gospel.”* (134)

 As a senior leader in a Catholic school therefore you need:

* A clear understanding of the mission of a Catholic school as part of the church’s overall pastoral and evangelising mission to society
* To be able, in the light of this mission, to secure the school’s distinctiveness as a Catholic school
* To be able to communicate and share this knowledge of the mission and the vision it inspires with staff, pupils, governors, parents and the parish community
* To be able, through translating the vision into action, to ensure that the school can contribute purposefully to social and community cohesion through promoting constructive and inclusive dialogue with the wider community

**The Catholic Leadership Programme in 2017 will consist of three main elements:**

1. **Individual work with a Coach/Mentor who will:**

* gain an overview of the specific needs of their mentee
* guide their mentee's progress throughout the programme
* facilitate experiential placements which are targeted to the needs of the mentee
* point their mentee towards other CPDF for the future

1. **Practical experience through school placements of:**

* different leadership styles
* schools with a contrasting intake – e.g. size, socio-economic
* schools/leaders with a particular expertise

1. **Presentations / Reflection & Development Groups\***

* presentation/speaker at each of four evening sessions (plus Launch and Celebration Masses)
* two residential conferences (spread over two academic years - February and November))
* two one-day conferences designed to consolidate and deepen learning (also spread over two academic years - June and September)

*\* Reflection & Development Groups are groups of 6 to 8 delegates. R &D workshops (which take place as part of conference days and during evening sessions) offer the opportunity for growth and development of ideas into practice.*

**The programme lasts for one full year January to January (three school terms**).

**Term 1** – focus on **SELF:**

***“Good leadership is truthful and trustworthy. Leaders can act more confidently if they have a strong sense of their own inner truths and are resolute in upholding positions that may be unpopular but congruent with the leader’s values.”***

***(“The Reflective Teacher” by Kevin Treston)***

**Delegates will reflect upon:**

* Their own faith experience/spirituality
* Their knowledge and understanding of their faith
* Their own values

**Term 2** – focus on **CONTEXT:**

***“Ethos is not something that is ancillary to the other aspects of school life, but it is their foundation stone: every aspect of school life must be rooted in its ethos, from the curriculum to the playground, from the staffing structure to school policies”***

***(The Most Reverend Malcolm McMahon, Archbishop of Liverpool)***

**Delegates will explore:**

* How their personal vision impacts on their present school
* How they would want their personal vision to impact on any future leadership role in a school
* The distinctive vision/mission of a Catholic school
* The Catholic nature of a school

**Term 3** – focus on **TASK:**

***Leaders in Catholic schools must ensure that “the instruction which is given them is at least as academically distinguished as that in the other schools of the area” (Canon 806 §2 of the Canon Law of the Catholic Church). However, “the requirement to improve the quality of educational provision and pupil achievement needs to be understood and interpreted within the setting of an ethos rooted in the Catholic Church and Gospel values”.***

***(Headteacher Handbook, Archdiocese of Birmingham)***

**Alongside the presentations and conferences delegates will be asked to:**

* **take part in school visits in order to clarify their ideas in relation to** **Catholic Leadership**
* **keep a ‘Reflective Journal’ to help deepen their learning from the programme**
* **undertake a Group Presentation (collaborative work undertaken in Reflection & Development groups based on a theme relevant to context – see suggested themes below)**

***“In today’s unfavourable culture, Catholic schools have to be absolutely certain of their mission, which is far wider than a focus on attainment and standards. We have to able to explain clearly what ethos means” (Sister Judith Russi)***

**CLP Concluding Reflections:**

**15 minute presentation (related to individual Reflective Journals and/or to work undertaken in Reflection & Development groups and delivered by each individual group)**

**With Christ as our cornerstone we will work to ensure that the Catholic educational communities within the Dioceses that form the Catholic Training Partnership may...**

 **“…have life, and have it to the full.”**

**Some themes to be developed in Presentations and Reflection & Development Groups:**

* Why do we have Catholic Schools? (History, politics and sociology)
* The radical Mission of a Catholic School. (Inc .preparing for a whole school mission review).
* Developing a Vision for leadership in a Catholic School and translating the Vision (‘Gospel Values’) into action.
* Leadership ‘Journeys’ and the day to day experience of being a Catholic Headteacher (the personal ‘testimony’ of serving heads).
* What would a ‘Catholic Curriculum’ look like?
* Catholic schools and inter-faith issues
* Leading a Catholic school in challenging times/ Catholic Schools in a secular society.
* Developing a spirituality of leadership
* What makes leadership of a Catholic school different? You may wish to be specific and examine one or more of the following: (Moral Purpose; Pastoral Leadership; Legal standing; Governance; Canon Law; The Common Good; The Preferential Option for the Poor; Building a Faith Community; Servant leadership; Looking outwards: Ministry).
* Taking the next step in terms of: your own personal ‘spiritual journey’/ professional preparation (gaps in CPDF or experience?)/ learning from participation in the CLP/ specific preparation for Headship (or the next step in Leadership)?

**“If our schools are not a space where another humanity is being created, where another wisdom is taking root, where another society is being created, where hope and transcendence has a place, then we are losing out on making a unique contribution to this historical moment”. (Pope Francis 2014)**

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