

Catholic Education in England and Wales: Roles, Responsibilities and Decision Making Remits

DSC Virtual Conference 19th October 2020



Different Bodies

- ▶ Diocesan Bishops
- ▶ Bishops' Conference
- ▶ Catholic Education Service
- ▶ *Formatio*
- ▶ National Associations of Bishops' Officers
 - DSCs' Conference
 - NBRIA
 - Diocesan Financial Secretaries
- ▶ Other Associations in Catholic Education



Diocesan Bishops

- ▶ Successor of the Apostles
- ▶ Vicar and Legate of Christ (LG 27)
- ▶ All ordinary, proper and immediate power (c.381)
 - Exceptions:
 - Law provides otherwise
 - Consensually agreed collective actions
- ▶ Diocesan Curia
 - Includes Diocesan Education Service

Bishops' Conference



- ▶ **Art.14** The Bishops' Conference can make *general decrees* (Canons 29–33) only in the following cases:
 - 1 Where the universal law has so prescribed;
 - 2 Where there is a special mandate of the Holy See, either on its own initiative or at the request of the Conference (Canon 455§1).
- ▶ Such decisions require two thirds of the votes of those who belong to the Conference with a deliberative vote. They do not oblige until they have been reviewed by the Holy See and lawfully promulgated (Canon 455§2).
- ▶ **Art.15** Apart from the two cases mentioned in article 14, the competence of each diocesan bishop remains intact (Canon 455§4). A *general decision* of the Conference beyond those limits requires the consent of each and every bishop.
- ▶ **Art.17** Proposals approved by an absolute majority of those present with a deliberative vote at the Plenary Assembly become *official Conference resolutions*. Although lacking juridical binding force, those resolutions will normally be observed by all members in the spirit of collegial unity. Such observance will be presumed, unless on occasion individual bishops indicate otherwise, either during the Plenary Assembly or later by informing the President.

Catholic Education Service



- ▶ Education Agency of the Conference
- ▶ Founded 1847 as the collective voice of the Hierarchy on education policy
- ▶ Statutes (made by Bishops' Conference)
- ▶ Management Committee



Formatio

- ▶ Bishops' Conference Mandate 2017
- ▶ CES National Strategy on Formation of teachers, leaders and governors
- ▶ Implementation of Strategy a collaborative of dioceses, universities and teaching schools
- ▶ *Formatio* established as a charity 2019
- ▶ Steering Group (Governing Body)
 - Four Regional Hubs



National Associations of Bishops' Officers

- ▶ National Associations of Bishops' Officers
 - Diocesan Schools' Commissioners' Conference
 - National Board of Religious Inspectors and Advisers (NBRIA)
 - National Conference of Diocesan Financial Secretaries
- ▶ Exist for mutual support, information sharing and professional development
- ▶ Do not *of themselves* have a national policy remit



Other National Associations in Catholic Education

- ▶ Association of Religious Orders in Education (ROE)
- ▶ Association Catholic Sixth Form Colleges (ACVIC)
- ▶ Catholic Independent Schools' Conference (CISC)
- ▶ Catholic Universities (also Cathedrals Group)
- ▶ *Catholic Association of Teachers, Schools and Colleges (CATSC)*
- ▶ *Association of Teachers of Catholic Religious Education (ATCRE)*
- ▶ *Association of Catholic Chaplains in Education (ACCE)*