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**Secondary Advisers Meeting: Tuesday 29 June 2021 Feast of St Peter and St Paul from 10.00**

**Those Present:**

John Adams – Brentwood

Kate Bailey – Middlesbrough

Andrew Barron – Hexham and Newcastle

Julia Cunningham - Shrewsbury

Stephen D’Arcy – Lancaster

Patrick Harrison – Southwark

Claire Franke – Arundel &Brighton

Trish Hedley - Westminster

Susan Kambalu – CAFOD

Paul Mc Hugh – Northampton

Paul Mannings – Liverpool - Chair

Maria Neal – Jesuit Institute

Anna Nutall – Salford

Claire O’Neill - Westminster

Philip Robinson - CES

Des Seddon – Liverpool

Bernard Sixtus - Cardiff

Jeremy Skelton – Plymouth

Richard Smith -Birmingham

David Walford – Portsmouth

Peter Ward – Cardiff

Louise White - Clifton

**Apologies**

Deirdre Cleary – Hallam

David Quinn – Nottingham

Tom Reilly – East Anglia

**Welcome and Opening Prayer: Paul Mannings**

Focus Time: Prayer and Personal Reflection – led by Fr Eamonn Mulcahy CssP

**National Working Party on RE Teacher Recruitment and Retention** – Matthew Dell, St Mary’s University reported on the background and establishment of a national working party. He shared the powerpoint that provided the structure for the first meeting. There are a further four meetings planned while developing a policy report scheduled for June 2022. CES have commissioned some research from St Mary’s University to support the work and Westminster Diocese has already been approached for support. In all 410 schools in England and Wales will be part of the survey.

Colleagues emphasised the following areas:

* Retention of Religious Education teachers – is there any data on why teachers leave
* Retraining Catholic staff teaching other subjects: possible opportunity for CCRS
* Supporting non-specialist Religious Education teachers in their teaching.

MD welcomed these and other suggestions and invited colleagues to contact him with ideas or examples of good practice either through PM or directly.

MD also drew attention to the ATCRE conference in the Autumn

**CAFOD Update**

SK briefed the meeting on Cafod’s plans for the rest of 2021 including

* ‘Eyes of the World’ focus ahead of COP26
* Harvest campaign
* Fratelli Tutti resources

SK welcomed feedback on the on-line assemblies that had been produced; provision is being reviewed from September 2021.

SK also reported that

* CPD support would be in-person on line in 2021/22
* British Council contract was coming to an end – some individual projects continued
* Chaplains’ ‘coffee catch-ups’ were continuing, probably half termly

SK thanked advisers for their support for Cafod; PM voiced advisers appreciation of the work of Cafod.

**News from this term**

A general exchange of experiences and concerns noted

1. Teachers are really very exhausted
2. Various forms of collaboration organised by dioceses, and across diocesan boundaries, was appreciated by teachers. Grouping by exam boards assisted teachers quality assuring their Teacher Assessed Grades.
3. Differential level of support from exam boards was widely commented upon.
4. Some concern about exam boards requesting scripts as evidence but experience to date seemed satisfactory.
5. Widespread concern at prospect of significant numbers of appeals on results day: 10 August 2021.
6. Lack of teaching over past 18 months in Y7-10 raises concerns about foundational understanding of Catholic Christianity being less than in previous years, quite possibly in unidentified ways.
7. Positively, nature and level of teacher collaboration could lead to improved exam board marking by teachers in future years.
8. Given all the work that teachers have done, exam fees need to be reduced.

**Catholic Schools Inspectorate**

PR provided an up-date

* CSI training commences 30 June 2021, with priority given to diocesan officers and those few inspectors who will undertake pilot inspections in 2021/22.
* CSI training is itself a pilot, with evaluation feedback welcome
* Recruitment of inspectors for the new CSI has begun I many dioceses
* CSI Handbook [on recruitment and training] should be with dioceses this week
* CSI Quality Assurance handbook should be circulated to dioceses before the summer for comment.
* CSI 2021/22 pilot inspections will start in January 2022
  + Dioceses are submitting names of possible schools
  + CSI will select schools to provide good representative evidential base

Currently denominational inspections are ‘paused’. Resumption awaits formal lifting of the ‘disapplication’. It is anticipated that there may be an initial 8 year window in which to complete a complete cycle of inspections with DfE wanting priority given for schools due to have been inspected in 2019/20.

**RECD**

PR provided a brief update, noting that many at the meeting were involved in different ways with the work.

Primary and Secondary working parties meet weekly with periodic plenary meetings.

Aim is for a Draft early next academic year: to Department meeting in October.

This will constitute part 2 of the RECD which it is envisaged will be published as a Department document.

Part 1 of the RECD will contain Church teaching and context for the content in Part 2.

PR will draw on (synthesise) two contributions to produce a Draft Part 1 that will be presented to the Bishops in September for discussion and development.

Aim is to publish the complete RECD, parts 1 and 2, in summer 2022.

PR thanked the members of NBRIA for their support in developing the RECD.

PM recorded that NBRIA appreciated the collaborative approach of the CES.

**Religious Education Council: RE Policy Unit**

PW described two principal areas of activity:

Teacher recruitment and retention

Parliamentary Questions – which were beginning to elicit more informative responses,

and perhaps greater engagement, from Ministers on Religious Education

**Religious Education Council Board**

PR reported that the emphasis was on promoting the ‘worldviews’ approach of the Commission on Religious Education and remarked that the worldviews paradigm had echoes of Newman’s attention to ‘what people believe and why they believe it’. He noted that the CES had been invited to contribute to a resource project on this topic..

**AoB**

1 PW reported that the DfE had published an unexpected document entitled **Delivering World-class Teacher Development** on 7 June 2021. It contains some areas of concern that had been considered at a recent meeting of the APPG for the Teaching Profession. A related 6-week DfE consultation on related matters is expected to be published about 12 July 2021.

**Dates of next meetings:**

* Thursday 23 September – Online from 10.00
* Tuesday 18 January 2022 – London Venue from 11.00 *or* on-line from 1000
* Summer Conference – possible dates for Hinsley Hall were
  1. Tue/Wed 10/11 May 2022
  2. Wed/Thur 11/12 May
  3. Tue/Wed 17/18 May

*Subsequent to the meeting the most likely date was 10/11 May 2022.*

The meeting closed with a Blessing from Fr Des