



## BOARD OF MANAGEMENT

### Introduction

In Ireland, Catholic schools are a living expression of a long and varied tradition of education inspired by the life of Christ. Such is the rich contribution of Catholic schools to Irish society that the very selfless nature of their mission can be seen in the service of persons serving on voluntary boards of management. Currently, it is estimated that twenty-five thousand people serve on voluntary boards of management in Catholic primary and post-primary schools. Each member serving on the boards of management in Catholic schools is entrusted with the responsibility of ensuring that the emphasis of the educational enterprise is always placed on the dignity of the human person as a child of God who is called to work with other persons in creating an inclusive community in service of the common good.

By exercising their function as boards of management in Catholic schools, members of the board of management, in partnership with the rest of the school community, ensure that Catholic schools are communities where knowledge is sought and respected, while faith is nurtured and challenged. In this way, members of boards of management enable their local Catholic school communities to nurture their diversity, inclusivity and intercultural nature. Such efforts enable students to move beyond mere tolerance into deeper relationship with people of other faiths and worldviews. In this way, Catholic schools,

under the management of their voluntary boards of management, contribute in a practical and meaningful way to a genuinely pluralist society where unity in diversity is not merely an aspiration but a lived reality. With this to the forefront of our minds, Catholic Schools Week 2019 provides Catholic school communities with the opportunity to celebrate the important work and contribution that our local Catholic schools are making to the building up of both our local communities and wider Irish society.

### For Reflection

- Are there any ways in which the board of management could do more to promote the inclusive and diverse nature of your Catholic school community?
- In what way can the board of management find support and encouragement from spiritual treasures of their Christian faith when faced with difficult and challenging times?
- Can you identify any way in which the board of management could better celebrate the tradition of your Catholic school?
- Are there any ways in which the board of management could better accompany the members of the school community in living and understanding the Catholic ethos of the school?





# Catholic Schools Week 2019

Catholic Schools: Celebrating the Work of Our Local Catholic Schools

## PRAYER

### A PRAYER FOR CATHOLIC EDUCATION

Father, Thank you for all those men and women who have given their talents to educating our young people. Through the challenges they encounter each day, lead them to an ever-deeper appreciation of the sacred duty to which you have called them. We give thanks for the invaluable work of all those who contribute to the efficient running of our schools; support staff, kitchen staff, maintenance staff, governors and chaplains. We thank them for their hard work and dedication and we pray that they may continue to work in support of our schools. Thank you for all those who lead our Catholic schools. May they be people of integrity so that they can be witnesses as well as teachers. We pray that the schools they lead will become places where our young people can experience your love in their lives. Thank you for our Catholic schools. Help us to pray without ceasing, to work without wavering and to give without grudging in order to ensure the future of Catholic education for all of our children. We make this prayer through your Son, Jesus Christ, our teacher and our Lord. Amen.

(Prayer taken from the Catholic Education Service of England and Wales website)  
[www.catholiceducation.org.uk/images/prayer%20card.pdf](http://www.catholiceducation.org.uk/images/prayer%20card.pdf)

#### Watch

- Catholic Schools Partnership video on continuing the ministry of Christ in Catholic Post-Primary Schools (5min 27sec)  
[https://youtu.be/dE8\\_FezjbQ0](https://youtu.be/dE8_FezjbQ0)
- Catholic Schools Partnership video on Catholic voluntary secondary schools (4min 15sec)  
<https://youtu.be/Jclo3d2SBPE>

#### Read

- Catholic Schools Partnership, Catholic Education at Second-Level in the Republic of Ireland: Looking to the Future (Veritas: Dublin, 2015), 20-30  
<https://www.catholicschools.ie/download/looking-to-the-future/?wpdmdl=601&masterkey=5701968162434>
- Congregation for Catholic Education, The Catholic School (1977), 33-37.  
[http://www.vatican.va/roman\\_curia/congregations/ccatheduc/documents/rc\\_con\\_ccatheduc\\_doc\\_19770319\\_catholic-school\\_en.html](http://www.vatican.va/roman_curia/congregations/ccatheduc/documents/rc_con_ccatheduc_doc_19770319_catholic-school_en.html)
- Congregation for Catholic Education, Educating to Intercultural Dialogue in Catholic schools Living in Harmony for a Civilization of Love (2013)  
[http://www.vatican.va/roman\\_curia/congregations/ccatheduc/documents/rc\\_con\\_ccatheduc\\_doc\\_20131028\\_dialogo-interculturale\\_en.html](http://www.vatican.va/roman_curia/congregations/ccatheduc/documents/rc_con_ccatheduc_doc_20131028_dialogo-interculturale_en.html)

