

Fr Edward Seah:

# UPDATE FROM ACCS



Key Areas for Improvement	Issues Raised during CEC 2013	What has been done
Directory of Catholic Educators	The proportion of Catholic teachers in a school is small and their numbers insufficient to witness to the faith and to conduct 'Catholic' activities.	<p>ACCS commenced compiling the names of Catholic educators since the last conference.</p> <p>Presently we have 255 names of Catholic educators in Catholic Schools and 116 names of Catholic educators in non-Catholic schools.</p> <p>ACCS continues to update its directory.</p>
Chaplaincy Teams - clergy, religious, and laity	<p>The physical presence of clergy and religious has diminished considerably over the years in our schools.</p> <p>A chaplaincy team consisting of clergy, religious and lay persons would sustain the Catholic character of the school.</p>	<p>There are many priests and religious already active in schools.</p> <p>ACCS has compiled list of chaplains from the schools. 14 schools have priests as chaplains.</p> <p>ACCS has also been encouraging schools to consider forming a chaplaincy team.</p> <p>15 schools have a religious Brother or Sister.</p> <p>112 teachers and 25 parent volunteers</p> <p>31 schools have Chaplaincy Team while 4 have none.</p>
Parish-School partnerships	<p>Catholic schools are part of the Church, and thus come within the ambit of the parish pastoral ministry.</p> <p>The present level of interaction between school and parish is low.</p>	<p>There are schools and parishes working together in different ways.</p> <p>ACCS helped in recruiting adult advisors from the parishes to support Catholic organisations in schools.</p> <p>ACCS encourages newly appointed principals to meet the parish priests and consider possible collaborations.</p>
Greater laity involvement	Parents and school alumni can contribute to sustaining the Catholic ethos and school spirit and to the successful functioning of the schools.	<p>Many schools have parent volunteers and parent support groups.</p> <p>A good number of laity are also involved in School Chaplaincy Teams.</p>

Key Areas for Improvement	Issues Raised during CEC 2013	What has been done
Formation and Induction programmes	<p>The Catholic school must have a distinctive character and ethos to distinguish it from secular schools.</p> <p>All persons working in Catholic schools must understand the mission and goals of Catholic schools.</p> <p>All persons involved need to be inducted into the Catholic schools system.</p>	<p>Induction/Reflective Review Newly appointed Principals: 50% Newly appointed Vice-Principals: 40%</p> <p>Regular meetings and sessions were held for the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Commissioners, Supervisors and Major Superiors</li> <li>• Principals</li> <li>• Coordinators of Religious Education</li> <li>• School SMCs</li> </ul>
Catholic Ethos self-assessment framework implementation	<p>There is weak understanding of what makes a school Catholic.</p> <p>Schools have to consciously examine all aspects of the educational experience they provide, to appraise the extent to which they meet the explicit standards set out in the document, Catholic Identity and Ethos of Catholic Schools.</p>	<p>A 21-member Catholic Ethos Working Group was formed to look into the issues related to Catholic Ethos.</p> <p>The theme "Character of Catholic Schools" was eventually chosen for this 2015 Catholic Education Conference.</p>
Implementation of CME and RE programmes in Catholic Schools	<p>An integral part of Catholic education is the moral and spiritual formation of young persons. The CME and RE programmes are thus essential components of the educational experience.</p> <p>The implementation of CME and RE varies considerably across the schools.</p>	<p>Clear framework has been provided by ACCS for CMECS and for RE.</p> <p>Resources are uploaded to our website and sent to all schools.</p> <p>RE material and CMECS material are all available without charge.</p> <p>RE has been delivered in a few schools in different ways.</p> <p>Training is also provided together with any resources given.</p> <p>In the Primary Schools, the "Walking with Jesus" Bible series is still implemented and training is regularly provided.</p> <p>Resources are made available on the ACCS website.</p> <p>Pre- School</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Catholic Preschool Principals were attached to Brisbane Catholic Schools for an immersion programme.</li> <li>• Character Education Workshop Conducted by Dr Carter and Marilyn (ACCS) in 2014</li> <li>• Religious Education Access Program (REAP)</li> <li>• ACCS works with parishes of Serangoon District to offer Scholarship for pre-school teachers.</li> </ul>