



what is 'called to love'?

'Called to Love' is the working title for a joint project that will see the Scottish Catholic Education Service (SCES) and Healthy Respect working in partnership.

Funded by the Scottish Executive through the departments of Health and Education, the project aims to produce a package of new teaching and support materials that will empower all Catholic secondary schools in the delivery of an appropriate and coherent programme of Relationships and Moral Education (RME) set within a context of love, respect, responsibility and moral reasoning.

The contents of the materials produced by the project will be fully supportive of Church teaching and the published guidelines on Relationships and Moral Education issued by the Catholic Education Commission will be at the core of the new materials.

Working together with a range of partner agencies, the project will also provide a number of training opportunities and support materials for teachers, parents and other professionals who will have some involvement in the planning, development and delivery of school programmes.

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why 'called to love'?

"God is love and in Himself He lives a mystery of loving communion. Creating the human race in His own image and continually keeping it in being, God inscribed in the humanity of man and woman the vocation and thus the capacity of love and communion. Love is therefore the fundamental and innate vocation of every human being."

*Pope John Paul II
Familiaris Consortio*

In his Apostolic Exhortation on the role of the Christian family in the modern world Pope John Paul II taught us that love goes to the very essence of our being in our human condition, created in the image and likeness of God. This places a very great responsibility on us for how we live in relationship with others.

In his foreword to the recent Scottish Executive document 'Respect and Responsibility: a Strategy and Action Plan for Improving Sexual Health' (2005) the Minister for Health and Community Care, Mr Andy Kerr, states: "Respect for each other and strong, trusting relationships based on sound values, are at the heart of our national, community and personal well-being."

As Catholics, we believe that this goes to the very heart of our existence: "The harmonious development of the human person progressively reveals in each of us the image of a child of God" (The Sacred Congregation for Catholic Education).

To love and be loved as God loves is key to our ultimate fulfilment as human beings. It is for this very same purpose that we are created; God calls us to follow his example. Therefore, in this way, we are each of us 'Called to Love.'

working in partnership

Healthy Respect is a Scottish Executive funded National Demonstration Project which is hosted by NHS Lothian. One of four projects outlined in the Government's White Paper 'Towards a Healthier Scotland' (1999), Healthy Respect was set up to look at ways of supporting young people in making positive choices about relationships, sexual health and well-being.

Its vision is to demonstrate how working with young people from specific areas of Lothian, using a multi-faceted approach, can enable them to form and develop a healthy respect and a positive attitude to their own sexuality and that of others.

By working with professionals, parents, carers and young people, Healthy Respect has a very clear values base. These values can be summarised as: respect, responsibility, inclusiveness and partnership.



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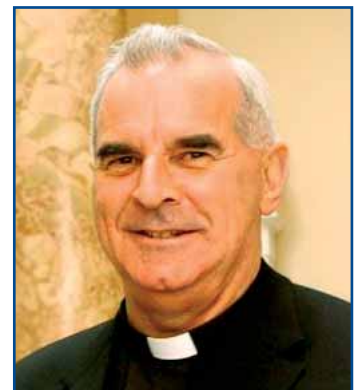
The Scottish Catholic Education Service (SCES) was established by the Catholic Education Commission (CEC) on behalf of the Bishops' Conference of Scotland, and is the operational arm of the CEC which sets national policy on all educational matters on behalf of the Scottish Roman Catholic Bishops. The core business of SCES is the promotion and support of Catholic schools and education throughout Scotland.

The Director of SCES, Michael McGrath, is the chief officer of the CEC, providing the Commission with administrative support, assisting in the formulation of policy, implementing its decisions and supporting its work in all its aspects.

The CEC, with the agreement of the Bishops, participated in discussions with Healthy Respect, looking at ways in which to address the distinctive needs of Catholic pupils attending Catholic secondary schools throughout Lothian, and as a result of these negotiations, the 'Called to Love' project, a partnership between SCES and Healthy Respect, came into being.

The creation of this new partnership project is warmly welcomed by the spiritual leader of Catholics in Scotland, Cardinal Keith Patrick O'Brien:

"I am very pleased that the Scottish Executive has recognised that Catholic schools wish to offer young people opportunities to be fully informed and to set relationships education in a faith context. The Church is mindful of the distinctive ethos of Catholic schools, the primacy of parents as the first educators of their children and the need to ensure that resources used in Catholic schools conform to the teachings of the Church. Our shared aim is that young people will be fully informed in mind and conscience when they are faced with important choices in their lives."



In August 2005 Sam McFadden was appointed to the seconded post of Project Development Officer for a period of up to 23 months, and he will be responsible for the co-ordination of the project.

Working under the direction of a Project Management Board and taking into account existing good practice in schools, he will work with teachers, parents and other partners in the production of a package of resources for use primarily in Catholic secondary schools across Scotland.

Based in the SCES Offices in Glasgow, Sam will work closely with Healthy Respect to ensure that the distinctive needs of Catholic secondary schools in terms of Relationships and Moral Education are addressed.

Sam McFadden is Principal Teacher of Religious Education at St Andrew's Academy in Paisley.



cec guidelines

The Catholic Education Commission (CEC) advises the Catholic Bishops of Scotland on matters relating to education. The CEC anticipated guidance by the Scottish Executive regarding the conduct of relationships and sex education in schools, and in 2002 produced its own Guidelines for the teaching of RME in Catholic schools. These were based on the particular values that are the hallmark of a Catholic school.

The CEC also produced Guidance Notes, offering advice to teachers on the Church's teaching on various relevant issues. These include references to key Church documents, including the Catechism of the Catholic Church and numerous Vatican documents.

The Guidelines produced by the CEC will determine the structure and content of the materials produced under the 'Called to Love' project, thereby ensuring that all materials used in Catholic secondary schools are fully supportive of Church teaching.

The protocols that schools should observe when involving other partners in the delivery of the RME programme are also outlined in the Guidelines, as is the requirement for support agencies and other professionals to respect the key principles which underpin the Catholic school's approach to RME so that no views will be promoted which are at odds with the moral teaching of the Church.

project aims

The Scottish Executive gives guidance for the conduct of sex and relationships education in Scottish schools in Circular 2/2001, where it places a high priority on the provision of good quality resources, sensitively based on good practice. It also recognises that Catholic schools are very much an integral part of the public education system, underlining the right in law for the Church authorities to provide guidance for Catholic schools. The aim of the 'Called to Love' project is, therefore, to produce a range of appropriate materials, support and training opportunities that will satisfy the distinctive needs of Catholic schools as indicated in the CEC Guidelines.

An audit of existing good practice will identify specific local needs, and this information will form the basis for the production of new materials for a pilot study in the summer term of 2006.

During the pilot a number of training opportunities will have been devised and delivered to staff, and over the course of the project this will be extended to parents and other professionals involved in the project.

The pilot study and the project will be subject to an evaluation process as part of the Healthy Respect demonstration project and it is intended that the materials produced will subsequently be published and made available to all schools in Scotland through Learning and Teaching Scotland.

pilot study

Initially it was intended that the 'Called to Love' project was piloted in schools within the Lothian area, since this geographical area coincides with the scope of the Healthy Respect project which encompasses the City of Edinburgh, Midlothian, East and West Lothian. As the plans for the project began to take shape, however, the possibility of including another local authority within the pilot study arose, and as a result Inverclyde Council is now included.

A total of seven schools will be directly involved in the pilot study, although some other schools may be invited to become involved as the project progresses.

pilot schools

City of Edinburgh Council

St Augustine's High School
St Thomas of Aquin's High School
Holy Rood High School

Midlothian Council

St David's High School

Inverclyde Council

Notre Dame High School, Greenock
St Columba's High School, Gourock
St Stephen's High School, Port Glasgow.

project co-ordination

Project Management Board

Michael McGrath (*Director, SCES*)
 Dona Milne (*Manager, Healthy Respect*)
 Nominee (*Learning and Teaching Scotland*)
 Sam McFadden (*Project Development Officer*)

Project Development Officer

School Partners

Nominated Staff,
 e.g. Principal
 Teachers of
 Religious Education,
 Guidance, Senior
 Management

Local Steering Group

Diocesan Representative
 Council Representative
 School Representative
 Parent Representative

Other Partners

Parents
 Fertility Care Scotland
 Scottish Marriage Care
 School Nurse
 Learning & Teaching Scotland

contact details

for further information contact:

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"The purpose of sex education is to provide knowledge and understanding of the nature of sexuality and the process of human reproduction within the context of relationships based on love and respect."

*Circular 2/2001
 Scottish Executive*



'Called to Love' is a partnership project between
 Healthy Respect and the Scottish Catholic Education Service

