



SACRED HEART EDUCATION

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HERITAGE & HORIZON





*ONE HEART
AND ONE
MIND*

Our Mission

Sacred Heart Schools aim to provide the environment for our pupils to develop in every sphere, spiritual, physical, emotional, social, intellectual, artistic and moral. This whole person philosophy develops confidence, self-knowledge, energy, purpose and conviction. Sacred Heart Education seeks to educate the whole person as a responsible member of Society.

We encourage our educators to walk with our pupils, helping them to acquire not only the knowledge and skills but also the staying power and unselfishness that over a lifetime turns dreams into reality, however great, however modest.

In a world badly in need of wisdom, a global vision, and a capacity to rise beyond individualism, we must seek to give young people real confidence: a sense of their inherent dignity as children of God, the fundamental stability of knowing that they are personally loved by Christ.

Our founder, St. Madeleine Sophie Barat sought to make sure that qualities of heart and intellect developed in harmony. This aspiration is captured in our motto **One Heart and One Mind**.

The Sacred Heart school is a community and the context is always one of relationships. Relationship has always been key, and remains central to our educational philosophy in these modern times. We believe we have a special relationship with parents and guardians of our pupils and we ask you all, who discharge this sacred function, to join with us in our critical educational mission.

'We wish to promote an educational style that furthers the search for justice, peace and the integrity of creation, in all our relationships and commitments. We need to find a new vocabulary to continue to walk with young people in their search for God and the meaning and value of life.'

Society of the Sacred Heart Chapter, 2008

The Society of the Sacred Heart

The Society was founded in 1800 by St. Madeleine Sophie Barat. She opened the first school in Amiens in France in 1801. Since then, Sacred Heart Schools have spread to the five continents and to more than forty countries. Now, truly a global organisation, the Society is active all over the world.

The Society is divided worldwide into Provinces. The Irish-Scottish Province is proud to belong to this modern force for education as we strive to bring the best education to the pupils in Ireland, Scotland and Malta.

Source: <http://www.rscjinternational.org>



Parents, Guardians and Sacred Heart Education

A most important feature of Sacred Heart Education is the active involvement of parents and guardians in the school community. This involvement is highly valued as we recognise that parents and guardians are the primary and most important educators of their children.

Many parents and guardians are also members of Parent Councils, Boards of Governors and Boards of Management making a direct and valuable contribution to the administration and management of the schools.

In addition, parents and guardians provide valuable support in promoting the values of Sacred Heart Education.

This support is welcome and can manifest itself in many ways such as:

- Nurturing and promoting a sense of respect for these values, both in the school environment and at home.
- Having direct involvement with the school community.
- Helping children understand what the school is trying to achieve.
- Supporting children in various activities such as fundraising and voluntary work in the local community.
- Nurturing a sense of compassion and responsibility by encouraging children to participate in voluntary work.
- Making a contribution as motivational speakers at school events, assemblies etc.

In addition, those parents and guardians who are involved in professional caring activities could be instrumental in setting up work experience or workshops for pupils to experience the values of giving, compassion, sharing and obtaining a clear knowledge of social issues in their community.

Commitment of Management and Staff

The management and staff of Sacred Heart Schools are committed to understanding the values and aspirations of our young people.

In carrying out our mission we strive to:

- Actively support the Sacred Heart ethos as outlined in our Five Goals
- Promote Christian values in an increasingly secular society
- Understand the aspirations and anxieties of our young people
- Meet the particular needs of all our pupils
- Monitor the local, national and international socio-economic environment and be aware of its impact on the prospects of pupils
- Understand and engage with the wider influences brought to bear on young people during their years of formal education.

Introduction to Our Goals

THE ORIGINS

The strong link between Sacred Heart Schools finds its primary expression through our **Network of Sacred Heart Schools**. The links between our schools come, not only from history and our common origins, but from the shared experience of a living tradition.

Over time it was recognised that the common vision shared by all Sacred Heart Schools needed to be reformulated for modern times. Successive Provincial Councils of the Irish-Scottish Province have guided and supported a continuous process of review and renewal for schools in the tradition of the Society of the Sacred Heart. The five Goals of faith, character, intellect, community and social awareness are given expression through our document **Heritage & Horizon**, which was relaunched in March 2010 in the presence of Mary McAleese, President of Ireland. The work of our schools in observing and propagating the ethos of Sacred Heart Education with our pupils and in our school communities is directed by the office of the **Network of Sacred Heart Schools**.

ENDURING VALUES

We see these characteristics as representing and giving life to a set of enduring values which link us back to Sophie's time and bring us forward confidently into the future. Our **Network of Sacred Heart Schools** actively promotes the transmission of shared values through workshops for staff and senior management teams, regular meetings of heads of schools and through the publication of **Heritage and Horizon**.

OUR GOALS

This current edition of **Heritage and Horizon** expresses our basic values in terms of five Goals;

- A Living Faith
- Personal Growth
- Intellectual Values
- Building Community
- Active Social Awareness

These Goals represent values which Sacred Heart Schools wish to promote and live by. They guide our behaviour and identify us as belonging to a common family. They are the public expression of what we are and what we stand for. In effect, they express our corporate identity. The active pursuit of these Goals will bring us safely into the future because the values they represent transcend time.

Our students may experience times of economic and social turmoil. It is our hope that Sacred Heart Education will equip them with the faith and the fortitude to cope with the challenges they will face. Our Goals will assist us in this endeavour.

The Goals

FAITH

THE GOAL OF FAITH IS ABOUT PROMOTING AN UNDERSTANDING OF OUR PERSONAL RELATIONSHIP WITH CHRIST IN A WAY THAT MAKES SENSE OF LIFE. ITS FOCUS IS TO SUPPORT THE UNIQUENESS OF THE INDIVIDUAL'S RELATIONSHIP WITH A LOVING GOD THROUGH CLEARLY STRUCTURED PROGRAMMES OF RELIGIOUS FORMATION.

OUR CHALLENGE IS TO ENSURE THAT:

- The religious dimension, in the tradition of the Society of the Sacred Heart, is central to the life of the school and that a faith vision permeates the life of the school.
- Our work on the Goal of Faith encourages our pupils to practise gospel values which include an informed respect for people of other religious traditions.

CHARACTER

THE GOAL OF CHARACTER FOCUSES ON AFFIRMING THE UNIQUENESS AND WORTH OF EACH INDIVIDUAL MEMBER OF THE SCHOOL COMMUNITY. IT AIMS TO PROVIDE OPPORTUNITIES FOR SELF DEVELOPMENT, PERSONAL FORMATION AND SELF KNOWLEDGE AND TO ENCOURAGE THE SHARING OF GIFTS AND TALENTS.

OUR CHALLENGE IS TO ENSURE THAT:

- Every member of the school community feels valued and respected in a welcoming, secure environment.
- Our work on the Goal of Character has helped our pupils on the journey towards becoming integrated and autonomous human beings. It has encouraged a spirit of service to others and fostered leadership potential.

INTELLECT

THE GOAL OF INTELLECT IS ABOUT THE WHOLE PROCESS OF LEARNING. ITS MAIN FOCUS IS THE FORMING OF MINDS AND HEARTS OF OUR PUPILS THROUGH THE PROVISION AND PURSUIT OF EDUCATIONAL EXCELLENCE. IT HIGHLIGHTS THE NEED FOR A PUPIL-CENTRED APPROACH AND FOR THE RECOGNITION THAT THERE ARE MANY DIFFERENT TYPES OF INTELLECT AND WAYS OF LEARNING.

OUR CHALLENGE IS TO ENSURE THAT:

- Our schools create a stimulating learning environment where academic study and intellectual pursuits are cherished and valued.
- Our work on the Goal of Intellect has recognised and developed the potential of each individual pupil. It has enabled them to become questioning, reflective young people who can appropriately use their knowledge to understand, interpret and interact with today's world.

The Goals continued...

COMMUNITY

THE GOAL OF COMMUNITY IS ABOUT THE FOSTERING OF RELATIONSHIPS IN AN ATMOSPHERE OF MUTUAL INTERACTION, WHERE THOSE INVOLVED BOTH GIVE AND RECEIVE. ANOTHER WAY OF PUTTING IT IS THAT THE GOAL OF COMMUNITY IS ATTEMPTING TO LIVE THE MOTTO 'COR UNUM' ('ONE HEART').

'We can never unite ourselves to Jesus without uniting with one another' Sophie

OUR CHALLENGE IS TO ENSURE THAT:

- No pupil or staff member should finish the school year with a sense of marginalisation or feeling undervalued.
- Our work on the Goal of Community has helped prepare our pupils to become, in the future, agents of change and responsible citizens who can contribute meaningfully to society.

SOCIAL AWARENESS

THE GOAL OF SOCIAL AWARENESS CAN BE SEEN AS THE PRACTICAL OUTWORKING OF THE WORK ON THE OTHER FOUR GOALS. THE GOAL OF SOCIAL AWARENESS GIVES OUR YOUNG PEOPLE THE OPPORTUNITY TO TRANSLATE THE KNOWLEDGE, SKILLS AND VALUES ACQUIRED THROUGH OUR WORK ON THE GOALS OF FAITH, INTELLECT, CHARACTER AND COMMUNITY INTO EFFECTIVE ACTION FOR SOCIAL CHANGE.

OUR CHALLENGE IS TO ENSURE THAT:

- Our work on the Goal of Social Awareness has given our pupils the appropriate knowledge, values, skills and opportunities to enable them to effectively address injustice, conflict-resolution and environmental issues and thus become 'agents of transformation'.

The Irish- Scottish Province Network of Sacred Heart Schools

The **Network of Sacred Heart Schools** was set up by the Provincial Council of the Irish-Scottish Province in 1997. The office is based in Mount Anville House at Mount Anville, in Dublin.

The Network Office provides services and support to Sacred Heart Schools as they work to implement the core values of Sacred Heart Education. The office provides in-service training and induction for staff of the various schools, organises annual conferences for Heads and Deputies, termly meetings for school co-ordinators and facilitates inter-school contact, visits and shared curricular projects. Our schools are located in: Armagh, Dublin, Roscrea, Malta and Scotland.

Each school in the Network works on the implementation of the same Goal in the same school year. This is done in a spirit of co-operation and sharing which is underpinned by a common vision and a commitment to the philosophy of Sacred Heart Education. Creative and innovative ideas on how to make the implementation of the various Goals a reality are freely shared.

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