



BRIEFING NOTE

Headteacher/Deputy Headteacher Appointments: 'Practising Catholic'

General Background

The Instrument of Government for a Catholic school states:

"The school was founded by and is part of the Catholic Church. The school is to be conducted as a Catholic School in accordance with the canon law and teachings of the Roman Catholic Church and in accordance with the Trust Deed of the Diocese of Hexham and Newcastle and in particular:

- a. religious education is to be in accordance with the teachings, doctrines, disciplines and general and particular norms of the Catholic Church;*
- b. religious worship is to be in accordance with the rites, practices, disciplines and liturgical norms of the Catholic Church;*

and at all times the school is to serve as a witness to the Catholic faith in Our Lord Jesus Christ".

Appointment of Headteacher/Deputy Headteacher

In relation to the appointment of Headteacher/Deputy Headteacher the Bishops' Conference have laid down explicit guidance.

'The post of Headteacher, Deputy Headteacher or co-ordinator of Religious Education shall be reserved for practising Catholics.

Advertisements for these posts should make clear from the outset that applications are invited in accordance with these requirements'.

Memorandum of Bishops' Conference of England and Wales on the appointment of Teachers to Catholic Schools

On behalf of the Bishops' Conference Archbishop Vincent Nichols stated:

Selecting Leaders for Catholic Schools

'The posts of Headteacher, Deputy Headteacher and head or co-ordinator of Religious Education are to be filled by baptised and practising Catholics'.

Guidance for Governors on the Appointment of Teachers to Catholic Schools

+ Vincent Nichols 11 July 2003