



# CLIFTON DIOCESE



## The South Clifton Catholic Federation



A Catholic Christian  
education from age  
4 to 18

September  
2011

**Our Lady of Lourdes Primary School**  
Kingswood

**St Benedict's Primary School**  
Midsomer Norton

**St Gregory's Catholic College**  
Bath

**St John's Primary School**  
Bath

**Ss Joseph and Teresa Primary School**  
Wells

**St Mary's Primary School**  
Bath

**St Mary's Primary School**  
Chippenham

**St Patrick's Primary School**  
Corsham

**St Paul's Primary School**  
Yate

# The Federation

Nine Catholic schools in the southern part of the Diocese of Clifton have worked together for many years with transfer to St. Gregory's Catholic College in Bath a central part of their work. In the last year, the schools decided to form a more formal partnership, or federation, to support each other and to help to provide an even better Catholic Christian education for young people in the area. With the news that St. Gregory's Catholic College has just received funding for a sixth form, the federation will now be able to offer a Catholic Christian education to young people from the age of 4 to 18. The South Clifton Catholic Federation is what is known as a 'soft' federation – in other words the schools all remain distinctive, with their own governing bodies, but they work together with a common aim, in our case the promotion of Catholic education.



## Shared Vision

We believe that we are part of the mission of the Church to bring all people to the peace and freedom of Jesus Christ. We further believe that the young people we teach have a divine origin and an eternal destiny. They are made in the image of their Creator and that is what inspires our education philosophy which is to teach the 'whole person' and provide a fully rounded education. Our pupils are not just 'learners' but children of God and we want them to flourish in an educational community in which they feel safe and valued and loved. It is more than education. It is formation.

In these times when the secular agenda is stronger than ever, we are mindful of the need to bring our young people to the knowledge of the Gospel and offer a way of life which is often sharply counter to the prevailing values of society. The nine Catholic schools which make up the South Clifton Catholic Federation share this vision and have worked together over many years to develop a common understanding of that vision. In the uncertain times ahead it is important that we continue to work together, to gain strength and confidence from each other. One of the main aims of the federation is to build on many years of fruitful partnership and to secure our future as Catholic schools.

With funding now approved by B&NES for a sixth form at St. Gregory's, we can begin to develop a vision for Catholic Christian education from 4-18. This will be a very attractive proposition to many of our parents and may persuade those whose children are currently lost to Catholic education after Year 6 to stay with us.



# Shared History

Over the years, the schools in our partnership have worked together through several phases of Government initiatives. First there was the Beacon schools project and then the Specialist Schools programme which funded secondary schools to work with partner primary schools. St. Gregory's was designated as a specialist college of the performing arts in 2002 and many of the joint projects in recent years have had an arts focus. We have also maintained a constant focus on areas of benefit to our pupils and staff, such as transition from Year 6 to Year 7, Religious Education and Catholic life, and leadership and management.



## Shared Future

We know that we are in a period of austerity with all schools having to manage cuts in funding. We know that there are significant lobbies in Government and beyond who argue for an end to faith schools. We know that the role of local authorities is changing radically, with much of the support we enjoyed over the years falling away. Many local authorities are having to make cuts and one of the victims of those cuts may well be subsidy for denominational transport. We also know that many Catholic schools are struggling to find committed Catholic headteachers and senior leaders.

And yet between our nine schools we have more than two thousand young people coming through our doors every day and we have superbly committed staff willing to teach them and lead them in their Christian formation. We have a key role to play in the future mission of the Church. We have a key role to play in supporting each other as more and more sources of support disappear. By taking our partnership to a stronger and more structured level we will help each other to deliver that mission and keep our standards high in challenging times. We will also work with parents to find solutions to problems such as transport. One of our priorities will be to help secure cost effective transport routes to our schools.

## Shared Priorities

In the coming year the chairs of governors and headteachers of the nine schools will be meeting to work on our shared priorities, which are:

- *to develop the Catholic life of our schools even further with a focus on prayer life, retreats, liturgies, Religious Education*
- *to encourage more children in Year 6 to continue their education in the Catholic sector by making the transition to St. Gregory's*
- *to help each other with the challenges of tighter budgets and difficulty in recruiting Catholic leaders*
- *to help parents with the challenges ahead such as cost effective transport routes to the schools*





# A People of Hope

In his pastoral programme, Called to be a People of Hope, Bishop Declan reminded us that the key question which we must apply to all our enterprises is, 'does what we do deepen prayer, enable communion and strengthen mission?' We are confident that our plans for the South Clifton Catholic Federation answers all these questions with a confident 'yes'. You can support Catholic education with your prayer, with your charitable donations, and by encouraging Catholic parents to apply for a place for their child in their nearest Catholic school.

## Contact us

For more details of the Catholic school nearest to you please contact the schools directly –

**Our Lady of Lourdes Primary School Kingswood**

T: 01454 867160

W: [www.gotoourschool.com/olol](http://www.gotoourschool.com/olol)

**St Benedict's Primary School Midsomer Norton**

T: 01761 418594

W: [www.stbenedicts.info](http://www.stbenedicts.info)

**St Gregory's Catholic College Bath**

T: 01225 832873

W: [www.st-gregorys.bathnes.sch.uk](http://www.st-gregorys.bathnes.sch.uk)

**St John's Primary School Bath**

T: 01225 303990

W: [www.stjohnscatholicprimary.org.uk](http://www.stjohnscatholicprimary.org.uk)

**Ss Joseph and Teresa Primary School Wells**

T: 01749 678791

W: [www.stjosephandstteresas.co.uk](http://www.stjosephandstteresas.co.uk)

**St Mary's Primary School Bath**

T: 01225 429030

W: [www.gotoourschool.com/stellam](http://www.gotoourschool.com/stellam)

**St Mary's Primary School Chippenham**

T: 01249 653469

W: [www.st-marys-pri.wilts.sch.uk](http://www.st-marys-pri.wilts.sch.uk)

**St Patrick's Primary School Corsham**

T: 01249 713125

W: [www.st-patricks.wilts.sch.uk](http://www.st-patricks.wilts.sch.uk)

**St Paul's Primary School Yate**

T: 01454 866790

W: [stpaulscatholicprimary.co.uk](http://stpaulscatholicprimary.co.uk)

