PRINCIPLES OF GOVERNANCE

Are all members of the Board familiar with the general principles of governance under which School Boards operate?

Reflect and discuss:

Consider these principles below and reflect on how they are lived in the work of your Board

The National Catholic Education Commission (NCEC) publication Catholic School Governance (2002) states the following ‘general and binding principles for the governance of Catholic schools’:

- **The Love of Christ**, which is the fundamental recognition that Catholic education is animated by and based upon the love of Christ for all people.
- **The Role of Parents**, as the primary educators of their children, in whose place (“in loco parentis”) and with whose collaboration, Catholic schools fulfill their mission.
- **Faithfulness to the Mission of the Church**, which is the mission of the Christ, to preach the Good News, including fidelity to the teachings of the Church.
- **Church solidarity**, which is the obligation of members and agencies of the Church to support those other individuals and agencies of the Church in need, and to work for the good of the whole Church community.
- **Support for the common good**, which is the general obligation on members of the Church not only to support the Church, its agencies and members, but also to ensure that the work of the Church and its agencies contribute to the benefit of society as a whole.
- **Embracing the poor**, which is the obligation on the Church community to continually assess its actions and policies to ensure that they empower the most disadvantaged and marginalised.
- **Educational Quality**, which is the obligation upon all those involved in Catholic education to strive to provide the highest possible quality of education to those attending Catholic schools.
- **Participation**, which is the principle that powers and functions in any community are exercised, wherever possible, by the persons and bodies closest to and most accountable to those affected.
- **Inclusiveness**, which is the principle that Catholic education should be open to all those who wish to receive a Catholic education, and that all those engaged in Catholic education in whatever capacity will be welcomed and valued in the pursuit of the educational mission of the Church, to the extent that they support that mission.
- **Unity in Diversity**, which is the recognition that the Holy Spirit inspires different communities in different ways, bestowing upon them diverse charisms which provide inspiration for action, all for the same purpose of promoting the Kingdom.
- **Stewardship of resources**, which is the obligation of all agencies of the Church to use financial and other resources responsibly, particularly with a view to ensuring the wellbeing of future generations.
- **Rule of Canon Law**, whereby every agency of the Church is constituted and operates in accordance with Canon Law.’

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