

**BOARD OF EDUCATION
OF THE
GENERAL SYNOD OF THE CHURCH OF IRELAND
REPORT 2002**

SYNOD EXAMINATION

The prize winners of the 2000-2001 examination were as follows:

Year 1		
1 st	Nicole Pomeroy	The King's Hospital
2 nd	Sally Herbert	Alexandra College
3 rd	Nicola Peoples	The King's Hospital
	Caroline Crehan	Alexandra College
Year 2		
1 st	Jenni Tweed	Alexandra College
2 nd	Sarah Mullen	St Andrew's College
3 rd	David Davis	St Andrew's College
	Elizabeth Allen	Sligo Grammar
Year 3		
1 st	Sandra Martin	Monaghan Collegiate
2 nd	Liv O'Donoghue	East Glendalough
3 rd	Nicola Dickson	Monaghan Collegiate
Year 4		
1 st	Ruth Hodgins	Sligo Grammar
2 nd	Martin Everett	Bandon Grammar
3 rd	Sarah Hilliard	Bandon Grammar
	Tara Jacob	Royal and Prior
Year 5/6		
1 st	Lara Pender	Rathdown School
2 nd	Jennifer Gibson	Sligo Grammar
3 rd	Ruth Frizzelle	Royal and Prior

Junior Division Prizes

Sarah Gamble	St Aidan's Comprehensive
Yvonne Turner	St Aidan's Comprehensive
Robert Ellis	Newpark School
Sarah Parker	Ashton School
Caroline Armstrong	Cavan Royal
Sarah Hunter	Royal and Prior
Kate McGann	Alexandra College
Caitlyn Valiulus	Alexandra College
Zoe Hodgins	King's Hospital
Sarah Mawhinney	St Andrews School
Jonathan Burnsides	Monaghan Collegiate
Kate Motley	Bandon Grammar
Rachel Smyth	East Glendalough
Rachel Bourke	Sligo Grammar
Lesley Trenier	St Bricin's Vocational School
Marlene Clarke	St Bricin's Vocational School

The Board would like to thank those schools who have participated in the Synod Examination and to express its sincere appreciation to the APCK for funding the prizes.

BOARD STRUCTURES

The Executive Committee and the Boards of Education (NI) (RI) have discussed possible changes to the structures of the General Synod Board. This may lead to a proposal being brought to General Synod in 2003.

BOARD OF EDUCATION (NORTHERN IRELAND)

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Board continues to work in three distinct areas:

- A. Education in Schools, Colleges and Universities
- B. Safeguarding Trust and
- C. Parish Development

CHANGE OF PERSONNEL

The preferment of Very Rev Houston McKelvey as Dean of Belfast marked the end of a very significant era for the Board. Dr McKelvey had served as education organiser and secretary to the Board of Education for nineteen years. His expertise and knowledge of the educational scene was invaluable to the Board and to the development of education in the Province. It was a mark of Houston's drive and commitment that he achieved a hard won respect and status for the work of the Board and of the Transferor Representatives' Council, of which he also served secretary, among Government Departments, Trades Unions and Education and Library Boards. Among the many developments initiated by the former secretary the *Safeguarding Trust* Programme provided a vision and methodology for the whole church. The members of the Board paid tribute to Dr McKelvey and to Mrs McKelvey at a special meeting of the Board.

Rev Ian W Ellis was appointed as Secretary to The Board of Education with effect from February 2002. Mr Ellis brings his experience as a teacher and his involvement as a governor together with a wide knowledge of education to the post.

A. EDUCATION IN SCHOOLS AND UNIVERSITIES

TRANSFEROR REPRESENTATIVES' COUNCIL

The Board continued to work in close co-operation with the Boards of Education of the Presbyterian Church in Ireland and the Methodist Church in Ireland. The business of the Board via the TRC included:

The Post Primary Review

The Post Primary Review (The Burns Report) has been the major public issue in Education in Northern Ireland over the past year. Representatives of the TRC met with the Review Group, the Northern Ireland Assembly Education Committee and the Monitoring Group, which shadowed the Burns working party.

At the time of preparation of this report to Synod, the Board and the TRC are evaluating this document whose recommendations are far-reaching and which would radically change the entire shape, focus and process of secondary education.

Whilst the Board has no doubt that the 11 plus selection process was flawed and uneven in application province-wide, the Board also recognises that abolishing this process does not remove the problem that some schools will remain the goal of parental expectations. How places in secondary schools are allocated when demand outstrips availability is the key issue on which centres a range of secondary issues including:

- parental choice
- human rights
- equality of access and opportunity
- the need to meet the varying capabilities and educational requirements of all children.

The Post Primary Review Document and comments made by various interests groups are available on the Internet web site <http://www.educationreviewni.gov.uk/>

The Board having a province-wide responsibility has concerns for children in every income group and locality. There would appear to be no single answer, policy or structure, which can meet the variety of needs in a sensitive, professionally sound manner.

The Board can identify with the concern that if the Burns report was to be implemented the entire educational system would be taken through a very radical development without any customary educational pilot programmes. The Board remains to be convinced that all the children of the community should be treated in such a manner without any of the benefits or the possible adverse impacts being assessed in a competent, professionally-monitored study. The vision of the Burns group may be admirable but the process of attaining the vision is not outlined nor evaluated in a manner, which at present could elicit the Board's unequivocal support.

The Board remains concerned that any insensitive imposition of the recommendations could further divide Northern Ireland society through the creation of a much larger private sector in education with future opportunities created solely on the basis of parental income.

Several schools with excellent academic, cultural and sporting track records will close or be severely impacted under the Burns Committee's recommendations. The challenge of raising standards in under-achieving schools will continue. The conclusion that this can be achieved by unproven theories and systems lies at the heart of the dilemma and the debate.

The process recommended in Burns that secondary schools should not have sight of the academic profiles of the students they will receive, merely will postpone an internal process of selection via streaming or setting for the first year of the pupil's secondary schooling. It seems inevitable that schools willing to improve the academic capabilities of their pupils will select. The Primary Principal should be relieved of any responsibility for the transfer selection. The Board notes that in all submissions on this area, the teaching unions have stated that their members do not wish to be involved in such parental pressure-inducing situations.

RE Core Curriculum

Representatives of the four main churches continued to meet during the year to discuss the best way forward to review the RE Core Curriculum. These discussions had to address the complex issue of world faiths in the core curriculum and the implications of recent human rights legislation.

Negotiations with the Minister and the Department of Education are continuing at the time of drafting this report. The Board continues to be represented by Very Rev Dr RSJH McKelvey in this area. He will hand over to his successor when this stage in the negotiations is completed.

“TACOTE” Working Group

The Department of Education Working Group on “*towards a culture of tolerance in education*” continues to meet. It is exploring the contribution that all schools, and not just the integrated sector, can make towards the defeat of sectarianism by creating a culture of tolerance in all schools.

B. SAFEGUARDING TRUST

Induction courses were held for new parish panel members, the recently ordained and clergy new to the six northern dioceses served by the Board. The programme of triennial visits to parishes by members of the diocesan teams continued. The valuable insights and feedback obtained were assessed and where appropriate included in newsletters to panel members.

The Board records its appreciation of the outstanding contribution made by the members of the diocesan support teams, all of whom are volunteers and most of whom have a professional insight in this area. Their approach is a major, significant influence in the acceptance by parishes of the code of good practice. A one-day consultation was held for team members.

C. PARISH DEVELOPMENT

Due to the change in secretary most developments in this area had to be placed on hold. The following work continued in children’s ministry.

- (i) Three representatives participated in a major conference held in Durham in September 2001.
- (ii) The response to “The Archbishop’s Challenge” continues in several parishes. The reprint of Young Members’ Challenge record books was necessary.
- (iii) The handbooks for clergy, leaders and parents were revised and combined in a new publication. The Challenge is available to any parish, school or individual young member in Ireland. Further details of the Challenge Scheme are available from the Church of Ireland Education Centre, 1-3 Cadogan Park, Belfast BT9 6HG. Telephone: (028) 9068 2946; Fax: (028) 9068 7283.
- (iv) A training morning was held for the Diocese of Down and Dromore and the Diocese of Connor.

- (v) The Board is pleased to report that it assisted with the hosting of two important forums in children's ministry. The CTBI Consultative Group on Children's Ministry met in Belfast from 12th-14th March 2002. The first Anglican Communion Children's Ministry Network met at Belfast Cathedral from 14th-17th March 2002. The full-time children's ministry officers from five of our sister churches were amongst the participants.

PERSONALIA

Canon J Wilson retired during the past year. The Board records the appreciation of his service on the NEELB. Canon Wilson continues to serve as joint Honorary Secretary of the Down and Dromore and Connor Board of Education.

Canon R Twaddell also retired. He continues to serve as one of our Church's representatives on the Southern Education and Library Board.

Education was always close to the heart of Bishop Brian Hannon of Clogher. He served on the Western ELB and for a period was chairman of that body. His contribution to the management of schools on both sides of the border was informed and insightful.

The Board also thanked Bishop James Moore and Bishop James Mehaffey for their concern and contribution to education. The Board welcomes Rt Rev Dr Michael Jackson Bishop of Clogher and Rt Rev AET Harper Bishop of Connor to the Board.

BOARD OF EDUCATION (REPUBLIC OF IRELAND)

PERSONALIA

Mrs Dorothy Burns who had served on the Board from 1989 retired from membership at the end of the triennium. Mrs Burns had brought a keen interest to the work of the Board and in particular assisted the work with her expertise on rural schools and school transport.

The Board congratulated Dean McKelvey on his appointment as Dean of Belfast. In his role as Secretary to the Board of Education (NI) he has given much to the development of education in particular through the creation of the *Safeguarding Trust* Programme which is of such inestimable value to the whole Church. The Board welcomes Rev Ian Ellis to his new role.

PRIMARY SCHOOLS' BOARDS OF MANAGEMENT

New Boards of Management were appointed during the year. Training events have been held in a number of dioceses with the focus on the impact of educational legislation and on the maintaining of school accounts. Training is facilitated both by the Partners in Education for all primary schools and by patrons and diocesan boards of education for schools under Church of Ireland management.

The Board of Education continues to provide an advisory service to schools with the provision of briefing papers and the publication of Education Newsbrief. Individual issues and queries from chairpersons, principals and parents are also part of the Board's workload.

TEACHER SUPPLY

The issue of teacher supply continues to be a cause of concern for all involved in education at primary and second level. A survey of primary schools indicated that principals had great difficulty in filling substitute and temporary teaching posts. The filling of permanent positions particularly in rural schools was also often difficult. Factors such as early retirements, career breaks and secondments are all impacting adversely on teacher supply. The Church of Ireland College of Education is operating at its present maximum capacity but the number of graduates is currently insufficient to balance demand. This matter is under discussion with a number of groups.

SUBMISSIONS

The Board responded to a range of proposals from the Department of Education & Science including student councils in second-level schools, the appeal structure under section 29 of the Education Act, 1998, the structure of redeployment panels for primary teachers and the procedures for the appointment of principals. A submission was made and a subsequent meeting held with the Facilitator concerning the development of the NCCA (National Council for Curriculum and Assessment) Structures.

The Secretary also attended meetings with the Department of Education and Science and other partners on a range of issues. The Department is to be commended both on the willingness to consult and on the commitment of its staff to developing a fine education system for our country. However the Board, like other bodies in education, is also well aware that the work of the Department is greatly hindered by understaffing. This is particularly noticeable at present in the planning and building section. Anything that will hinder the development of schools is to be regretted and the Board trusts that the Government will look carefully at this particular issue.

COMPREHENSIVE SCHOOLS

The Board noted that the Archbishop of Dublin, the Bishop of Cork and the Donegal Board of Education as Patrons/Religious Nominating Authorities had approved proposals to expand boards of management of the comprehensive schools by the inclusion of parents and teachers. These proposals also had the support of the existing boards of management and are seen as continuing to enshrine the Protestant ethos of the schools. The proposal is now with the Department of Education & Science.

SECOND-LEVEL SCHOOLS

The continuing developments by schools to create management structures in accordance with the Education Act and the formulation of ethos and other policies is ongoing. The determination of Boards of Governors to maintain the Protestant ethos and tradition of these schools is to be applauded.

MEETINGS

The Secretary, on behalf of the Board, held meetings with a number of groups including the National Parents Council Primary, the Irish Primary Principals Network and the Secretary to the Islamic Board of Education.

LEGISLATION

The Board continues to be concerned about the potential demands on school administration at both levels proposed by the Education (Welfare) Act 2000. Schools are already under extreme pressure in complying with the Education Act, 1998 and related legislation particularly in the equality area. The Teachers Council Act is also now in place but the Minister has yet to commence the creation of the Council itself.

This Board has issued a number of documents to assist schools in responding to these areas and has also circulated, with his permission, some papers that had been prepared by the Bishop of Cork for his own diocese.

PRIMARY SCHOOL FUNDING

Primary schools are now in receipt of considerable increased funding. Increases in such areas of insurance costs have reduced the benefits of the increases to the capitation grant. The number of individual targeted grants poses an accounting challenge to treasurers who are like all board members volunteers. The demands on such voluntary commitment is increasing and a greater level of professionalism is required from such honorary officers. Schools are urged to ensure that grants are promptly disbursed under the correct headings.

FOLLOW-ME THE PRIMARY RELIGIOUS EDUCATION PROGRAMME

The infant materials for the programme have received a ready welcome with 90% of schools under Protestant patronage using the materials. The schools were supportive and appreciative of the in-service days provided by the Board when introducing the programme. *Stepping Out* has been prepared. It comprises a lively and well illustrated textbook and teacher's book which includes worksheets. This is the third module for junior classes and in a single class situation would be used for first class or P3. It is however like the other modules in the series also suitable for use in multi-grade classes.

Mrs Wilkinson the Editor is now drafting *Moving On* which will complete the material for the junior classes. The formatting of the material has been undertaken by Jennifer Byrne and the project is supported by the *Follow Me* Website which has been created by Michelle Carter. Long term planning for the structure of the programme from third to sixth classes (P5/P7 is also taking place).

The Board is extremely grateful to the Religious Education Curriculum Committee under the chairmanship of the Most Rev Dr RL Clarke and to the Advisory Committee of Teachers. Support for the programme from the Church of Ireland Priorities Fund, the Methodist and Presbyterian Boards of Education and Diocesan Boards of Education has been invaluable. The generosity of the Roman Catholic Episcopal Commission on Catechetics and the openness of the Publishers, Veritas, to allow copyright materials to be used cannot be over-estimated and is the most wonderful symbol of ecumenical development. Some 50% of the artwork for *Stepping Out* has been created specially for *Follow Me* and the skill of the artist Jeanette Dunne is rightly gaining plaudits from teachers and pupils.

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION CONFERENCE

The Board hosted a religious education conference for second level schools in the Church of Ireland Theological College. This proved to be a valuable exercise as teachers explored the new religious education module for the Leaving Certificate Applied, shared experiences with the new Junior Certificate Programme and learnt of other developments including the Logos Website which supports the junior certificate programme – www.logos.ie. Dr Refaüssé introduced the attendees to the Representative Church Body Library and indicated the wealth of resources available to teachers.

JUNIOR CERTIFICATE RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

Ms Susanne Harris, Rev Robert Whiteside and the Secretary received a detailed briefing on the development of the religious education programme from the Co-Ordinator of the support service Miss Noirin Hynes. A great deal of valuable resources have been created by teachers in the pilot schools to support the development of the programme. The Board plans to make available material introducing the Church of Ireland as a community of faith for the schools.

SAFEGUARDING TRUST

Courses for leaders of organisations involving youth and for replacement panel members continue to be provided. The need to upgrade some parish facilities in line with health and safety requirements has become apparent in discussion at some seminars. This has been drawn to the attention of Chief Officer of the Representative Church Body who, in turn, has alerted diocesan secretaries to the issue.

The Girls' Friendly Society also arranged for the Secretary to address officers at several meetings and has incorporated much useful information in the literature for officers.

The Sex Offenders Act 2001 requires the registration of offenders and the Minister for Justice indicated that a pre-employment check system would be developed. A briefing was issued to clergy for panel members on this and other issues.

TRANSPORT SCHEME D (PRIMARY SCHOOLS)

Following the reduction of the qualifying distance from three to two miles on 1 January 2001 there was a huge increase in the number of applications for Scheme D Grants received by this Board which administers the scheme. Approximately 160 applications were received of which 90 new families were sanctioned for grants. A total of 252 families are now receiving grants that for the school year 2000/2001 amounted to IR£91,168. The scheme is funded and regulated by the Department of Education and Science.

NOMINATIONS

The Board nominated Mr Peter McCrodden to the School Management Development Programme Advisory Committee, Ms Susanne Harris to the Educational Disadvantage Committee, Mr Trevor Garrett to the Logos Web site Advisory Group and Mr Simon Thompson to be the holder of an Arion Scholarship. The Board is grateful to all the individuals who so willingly serve on committees, represent the Board at meetings, or provide advice on particular issues.

SUNDAY SCHOOL SOCIETY OF IRELAND

TRAINING

The Society has made increasing use of e-mail to keep in contact with clergy and leaders advising details of training and other developments. The Society endeavours to provide targeted training in response to specific requests for help. A difficulty is that many Sunday School leaders have difficulty in coming to central locations. Each parish could organise its own training in conjunction with the Society. The Society's training events continue to have a good attendance and teachers take the message and the handouts back to their parishes.

We have continued to strengthen our links with CPAS and together ran a successful training day generously hosted by Crinken Parish.

We have also held two training evenings on the seasonal themes of Easter and Christmas and are grateful to Mrs Jacqui Wilkinson, to Rev Anne Taylor and to Mrs Heather Wilkinson for their expertise and enthusiastic approach. A large number of parishes were represented on these evenings.

PARENTS

In future it is hoped to also involve parents in training events thus supporting and encouraging them in the Christian nurture of their children.

Hopefully by doing this, we can become even more clued in to the big issues in the lives of parents, children and leaders and be able to do our bit to help.

SUPPORT

The support of clergy for Sunday School work is greatly appreciated by leaders. As lifestyles continue to change, the idea of a mid-week club (as suggested last year by the Rev Ted Woods in the *Gazette*) is still something to be considered by individual parishes. This could overcome the difficulties posed by irregular Sunday attendance.

NEW APPOINTMENTS

Mr Des Kinsella retired as treasurer but continues to make his expertise available to the Society. Mr Douglas Bailey and Rev Anne Taylor were appointed honorary treasurer and honorary secretary respectively. Mrs Bedlow was welcomed as a member of the committee having retired as administrator.

APPOINTMENT OF NEW ADMINISTRATOR

Mrs Bedlow's successor is Mrs Olive Rhodes. She came to the Society having served as a Member of the Board of the National Rehabilitation Board and is also Honorary Secretary of RUKBA, Ireland. Olive has a lifetime experience of Sunday School. With Muriel Bryan and Olive there is a great team in the Resource Centre.

NEW OPENING HOURS

The Resource Centre is open Tuesday to Friday 10am to 4pm. (No closure at lunch time). Please note that we are closed for the month of July. The centre has a new email address: sssresourcecentre@eircom.net

BRAINARAMA

The very successful annual quiz took place in St Andrews College by kind permission having been postponed due to the foot and mouth crisis. This continues to be a very popular event bringing children from a good range of parishes together.

CGMC (CONSULTATIVE GROUP ON MINISTRY AMONG CHILDREN)

The Society is affiliated to CGMC and our representative to this group is the Rev Anne Taylor. It is a valuable way of keeping in touch with children's ministry in the UK and Europe generally.

APPENDIX A

The following are the members of the Board and its committees as on 31 March 2002.

BOARD OF EDUCATION***Ex-officio members***

THE ARCHBISHOPS AND BISHOPS

THE HONORARY SECRETARIES OF THE GENERAL SYNOD

Very Rev H Cassidy, Dean of Armagh	Rev Canon RD Harman
Mr SR Harper	Lady Sheil

Elected members

Armagh	Rev Canon FD Swann Mr RF Palmer
Clogher	Rev RT Gillian Mrs M Glenn
Derry	Ven MS Harte Mr W Arnold
Down	Rev Canon SMJ Dickson Mr I Davidson
Connor	Rev Canon JR Wilson Dr AR Acheson
Kilmore	Rev J Merrick Mrs DM Burns
Tuam	Rev DTS Clements Mrs A Wills
Dublin	Ven EJ Swann Ms HF Empey
Meath	Rev Canon JDM Clarke Mrs JM Bruton
Cashel and Ossory	Rev Canon NT Ruddock Mr RP Codd
Cork	Ven REB White Mr JVP Bond
Limerick and Killaloe	Rev SM Neill Mr TS Hardy

Co-opted members

Rev BJG O'Rourke	Ms E Jackson
Ms S Wallace	Mr T Wheatley
Mr I Bolton	Mr A Godsil
Ms I Reed	Mr A Oughton
Mr JE Bunting	Very Rev DR Chillingworth
Mrs P Wallace	Rev Canon RJEFB Black
Ms C Revington	Ms S Mew
Rev G Wharton	Rev T Close

Secretary

Rev Canon JE McCullagh, Church of Ireland House, Church Avenue, Rathmines, Dublin 6

**EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE
(FOR YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2002)**

The Archbishop of Armagh, Most Rev RHA Eames (Chairman)	
The Archbishop of Dublin, Most Rev WNF Empey	
Lady Sheil	Mr RF Palmer
Very Rev DR Chillingworth	Miss SG Mew
Rev Canon RD Harman	Rev J Merrick
Mr JE Bunting	Ms E Jackson

BOARD OF EDUCATION (NORTHERN IRELAND)

Ex-officio members

Archbishop of Armagh, Most Rev RHA Eames
 Bishop of Clogher, Rt Rev MGStA Jackson
 Bishop of Derry (Vacant)
 Bishop of Down and Dromore, Rt Rev HC Miller
 Bishop of Connor, Rt Rev AET Harper
 Bishop of Kilmore, Rt Rev KH Clarke
 Very Rev H Cassidy
 Lady Sheil

Elected members

Down	Rev Canon S M J Dickson Mr I Davidson
Connor	Rev Canon J R Wilson Dr AR Acheson
Armagh	Rev Canon FD Swann Mr RF Palmer

Derry Ven MS Harte
 Mr W Arnold

Clogher Rev RT Gillian
 Mrs M Glenn

Co-opted members

Mr J E Bunting	Mrs M Crockett
Very Rev DR Chillingworth	Mrs R Forde
Mr RM McKinney	Mrs H McClenaghan
Mrs A McNee	Mrs MP Wallace

Honorary Secretaries, Board of Education (Northern Ireland)

Mr JE Bunting and Mrs M Crockett

Honorary Treasurer, Board of Education (Northern Ireland)

Mr RM McKinney

Secretary, Board of Education (Northern Ireland)

Rev IW Ellis, The Church of Ireland Education Centre, 1-3 Cadogan Park, Belfast BT9 6HG
 Tel: (028) 9068 2946 Fax: (028) 9068 7283

BOARD OF EDUCATION (REPUBLIC OF IRELAND)

The Archbishop of Dublin, Most Rev WNF Empey (Chairman)

Ven EJ Swan (Vice-Chairman)	Rev J Merrick
Bishop of Cashel	Rev T Close
Bishop of Kilmore	Ms S Wallace
Canon RD Harman	Rev B O'Rourke
Ms E Jackson	Mrs I Reed
Mr S Harper	Ms S Mew
Mrs A Wills	