

NCBE Message To Schools

In this time of national and personal anxiety; the National Catholic Board of Education on behalf of the Catholic Education Network; wishes to remind schools that they are called to be centres of hospitality, care, and peace – and to recognise the dignity of each person. The violence and discrimination against foreign nationals is not in line with our Catholic Ethos of being welcoming and loving to all people irrespective of their origin.

Pope Leo XIV challenges us:

“Human dignity does not depend on a person’s abilities, wealth or position in life, nor on the right or wrong choices made; instead, it is a gift that precedes and transcends each person, endowed by God as an expression of his unfailing love”
(*Magnifica Humanitas*, 50).



It is in our classrooms where we can teach the children to listen, to cooperate and to respect others who are perceived to be different from them. It is also in the classroom where mistrust, hatred and discrimination can occur. We call on our schools to cultivate a culture of encounter, active listening, cooperation, non-violent conflict management, and Interfaith and intercultural openness. (UNESCO)

In line with this year’s theme for the Catholic Education Network, ***‘Blessed are the Peacemakers’***, we implore schools to choose peace during this time of conflict and uncertainty. We commend to you the prayer with which the late Pope Francis concluded ***Fratelli Tuti***.

A Prayer to the Creator

Lord, Father of our human family,
you created all human beings equal in dignity:
pour forth into our hearts a fraternal spirit
and inspire in us a dream of renewed encounter,
dialogue, justice and peace.
Move us to create healthier societies
and a more dignified world,
a world without hunger, poverty, violence and war.

May our hearts be open
to all the peoples and nations of the earth.
May we recognize the goodness and beauty
that you have sown in each of us,
and thus forge bonds of unity, common projects,
and shared dreams. Amen.

Yours In Education

Fr Hugh O’Connor
NCBE Chairperson