



6th July 2016

Dear friends,

For many years, the Catholic Church in England and Wales has celebrated Education Sunday. This September for the first time, we are fortunate enough to celebrate Education Sunday at the start of the academic year. We pray for the work of our Catholic schools in the coming year, that they may continue to nurture a love of learning and of Christ in their students.

This year, our theme for Education Sunday is 'All are welcome'. In this Jubilee Year of Mercy, Pope Francis desires that our lives "be steeped in mercy, so that we can go out to every man and woman, bringing the goodness and tenderness of God" to our parishes, our schools and our local communities. This mercy starts in our personal relationships, between students and teachers, between friends and family members. Our schools therefore play a crucial role in building a loving, merciful community, where each student is invited to develop their own God-given talents to proclaim the good news of Jesus Christ and to serve the world in all they do. On this day, it is important to give thanks for our teachers, support staff and volunteers, who work hard every day to ensure our schools are inclusive welcoming centres of learning.

Although they are not in schools every day, behind the scenes school governors provide invaluable support to our schools, so that they may continue to offer the academic, spiritual, moral and religious education to all. These parishioners volunteer their time as governors to promote and protect the Catholic ethos of our schools. They provide a further active link between our schools and the parishes they serve, and we are all grateful for all that they do. If you have any interest in becoming a school governor yourself, please make yourself known to your parish priest.

I hope and pray that in the coming year, our Catholic schools continue in their faithfulness to the Gospel, enriching the lives of all the students they serve and drawing our schools and parishes ever closer together.

+ Malcolm McMahon OP

Most Reverend Malcolm McMahan OP
Archbishop of Liverpool
Chairman of the Catholic Education Service