

TRUSTEES' RESOLUTION (*WHITEHAVEN*)

We, the Bishop and Trustees of the Diocese of Lancaster, resolve to:

- 1.** Clearly seek to re-present here, and going forward, our Vision for Catholic Education across the Diocese of Lancaster – including for the Whitehaven area. Consequently we strongly re-commit the Diocese of Lancaster to Catholic Education for secondary school-age children and young people in the Whitehaven area. We acknowledge, too, that the shape of this presence and contribution to the local community is required to continue to evolve and adapt to new needs and circumstances but always in fidelity with the Gospel mandate “Go teach all nations”;
- 2.** Continue, provided the money already pledged remains available, to give our whole-hearted support, in principle, to the *Whitehaven Education Campus Project* – that is: to bring together on one site, a 3-19 Special School (Mayfield) with our 11- 18 VA Catholic High school (St Benedict’s), to serve our young people within a reasonable and realistic timescale. In doing so, we highlight that the St Benedict’s Catholic High School building and site is owned by the Lancaster Diocesan Trustees. We are delighted that the children and young people of our schools will benefit from this investment and the promise of a ‘state of the art’ learning centre in West Cumbria;
- 3.** Safeguard our Trustee responsibilities to protect *and* develop the Catholic identity of St Benedict’s Catholic High School in every respect going forward; Also to protect our legal rights over all areas of the (new) one site as appropriate; both exclusive and shared use areas - in order to avoid the risk of St Benedict’s school (as the largest entity) suffering reduced access/facilities at some point in the future; Also; to ensure that appropriate legal agreements and contracts are used that are compatible with our Diocesan Trust and that all health and safety and safeguarding issues are carried forward appropriately in all planning;
- 4.** Ensure that the size (roll), design and scope of St Benedict’s Catholic High School on the new campus is truly proportionate to the needs of Catholic Education in Whitehaven. These projected numbers will need to be agreed with us, as soon as possible, as Trustees responsible in law for the provision of Catholic Education.
- 5.** Mandate all our (Diocesan) officers and advisers/consultants to work collaboratively with our partners according to this expressed vision of the Trustees in taking forward practically the project.
- 6.** Require that we as Lancaster Diocesan Trustees be recognized - alongside our partners - as a member of the *Strategic Partners’ Group*;
- 7.** Agree to the formation of the *Whitehaven Education Campus Project Board* on the *proviso* that there be a:
 - Lancaster Diocesan Trustees’ representative on the *Project Board* (*Our Lancaster Diocesan Trustee Representative is appointed by the Bishop of Lancaster*)
 - Local Deanery Representative on the *Project Board*: (*A local priest to be confirmed by the Bishop of Lancaster*)
- 8.** Require that this *Project Board* will oversee the necessary work and make recommendations to us (the Trustees) and the other Executive bodies of our partners in accord with our resolution expressed here and are presented to us (even in principle) *first* as Diocesan Trustees and the other equivalent Trustee (Executive) bodies and *then only after our review, agreement or amendment* to the School Governing Bodies themselves;
- 9.** Require that official Communications/Press Releases concerning this project should be shared and agreed beforehand with Fr Robert Billing (*Diocesan Communications Officer*) on behalf of the Diocese of Lancaster;
- 10.** Require that the proposed Terms of Reference for the the *Whitehaven Education Campus Project Board* be reviewed by us, as soon as possible, and then ratified by the Bishop of Lancaster (*on behalf of the Lancaster Diocesan Trustees*).

19 January 2016