



The Rt Rev Paul Swarbrick
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A Statement from the Bishop's Office, Lancaster

24 June 2019

After fourteen years as Head of Service in the Diocese of Lancaster Education Service, Canon Luiz Ruscillo has requested that he steps down from the role at the end of this Summer Term which has allowed me an opportunity to look at the ways that I may strengthen the project of the New Evangelisation in the Diocese of Lancaster and support our schools in this mission.

To this end, and to assist me in this task, I have appointed Fr. Michael Docherty as Episcopal Vicar for Christian Formation and Education. The Episcopal Vicar has the responsibility, and acts with the authority of the Bishop, to oversee all aspects of Christian Formation and Education in the Diocese. This role is defined in Canon Law and carries with it a responsibility that exceeds that of the previous Head of Service role. As well as his duties towards education in the Diocese of Lancaster, the Episcopal Vicar will also seek to support parishes through further development of the Office for the New Evangelisation and in the future, will oversee our work with young people and students.

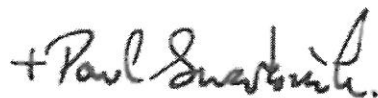
Following a period of discussion and discernment, I have requested that the Episcopal Vicar work with the Board of Education and Formation and the Trustees of the Diocese to appoint a Diocesan School Commissioner (DSC), to replace the current Head of Service role. The DSC will work full-time and be assisted by two part-time Principal Officers in the areas of the formation of teachers and staff and in fulfilling the statutory and Canonical obligations of the Service. For these changes to happen, the present staffing structure will alter. While some new appointments will be required, other roles will remain. However, it will not be possible to maintain the Diocesan Leader of Education (DLE) Service at present. I want to thank the DLEs for all they have given to education in the Diocese, and I recognise that they will be missed. I expect that the new structure of the Diocese of Lancaster Education Service will be in place at the beginning of January 2020.

For the Autumn Term, the Episcopal Vicar will work with Dr Nancy Walbank, Lead Education Officer, to cover the responsibilities previously held by the Head of Service and to deliver the necessary leadership and guidance provided by the Education Service. All

the essential and necessary aspects of the Education Service will continue during this period.

The Diocese is blessed with a strong and effective family of schools and colleges. I pay tribute to the tireless work of my predecessors and all who have worked - and still work - to achieve this, often in difficult circumstances. I wish to reassure you of my personal commitment to continue this work. Our schools and colleges have a key role to play in the life and mission of the Church in our Diocese.

I ask for your prayers, support and continued cooperation during this time of renewal and transition. The Trustees and I are fully committed to the mission of Catholic Education, and we intend to provide the best possible Service and backing to the Diocese of Lancaster Education Service to ensure we may effectively proclaim the Gospel and serve the People of God in our Diocese.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "+Paul Swarbrick". The signature is written in a cursive style with a cross at the beginning.

+Paul Swarbrick
Bishop of Lancaster

24 June 2019