

Code of Canon Law

Whilst the governing bodies of Catholic schools must comply with all civil statutes, they must also comply with the *Code of Canon Law (1983)*.

The *Code* includes a substantial section relating to Catholic Education. All governors, but in particular foundation governors, should have a general understanding of its main provisions.

Canon 795

Education must pay regard to the formation of the whole person so that all may attain their eternal destiny and at the same time promote the common good of society. Children and young persons are therefore to be cared for in such a way that their physical, moral and intellectual talents may develop in a harmonious manner, so that they may attain a greater sense of responsibility and a right use of freedom, and be formed to take an active part in social life.

Canon 798

Parents are to send their children to those schools which will provide for their catholic education. If they cannot do this, they are bound to ensure the proper catholic education of their children outside the school.

Canon 800

- &1. The Church has the right to establish and to direct schools for any field of study or of any kind or grade.
- &2. Christ's faithful are to promote catholic schools doing everything possible to help in establishing and maintaining them.

Canon 802

If there are no schools in which an education is provided that is imbued with a christian spirit, the diocesan Bishop has the responsibility of ensuring that such schools are established.

Canon 803

- &2. Formation and education in a catholic school must be based on the principles of catholic doctrine and the teachers must be outstanding in true doctrine and uprightness of life.
- &3. No school, even if it is in fact catholic may bear the title 'catholic school' except by the consent of the competent ecclesiastical authority.

Canon 806

The diocesan Bishop has the right to watch over and inspect the catholic schools situated in his territory, even those established or directed by members of religious institutes. He also has the right to issue directives concerning the general regulation of catholic schools; these directives apply also to schools conducted by members of a religious institute, although they retain their autonomy in the internal management of their schools. Those who are in charge of catholic schools are to ensure, under the supervision of the local Ordinary, that the formation given in them is, in its

academic standards, at least as outstanding as that in other schools in the area.