

Diocesan Policy Statement on Education

(A report on behalf of the Standing Committee.)

1. By resolution 32/07 the Synod adopted the Diocesan Policy Statement on Education and authorised the Standing Committee to amend the Policy Statement from time to time provided that any such amendments are reported to the Synod.
2. Following the 2007 session of Synod the Diocesan Secretary wrote to a number of independent schools and others in relation to the process for keeping copies of the statements made by Council members under paragraphs 2.6.3 and 2.6.4 of the Policy Statement. While preparing that letter, questions were raised about a possible ambiguity in the wording of paragraph 2.6.3, and some apparent omissions from the organisations named in paragraph 2.6.2.
3. The Anglican Education Commission was invited to comment and it formed the view that it would be desirable for the Standing Committee to amend the Policy Statement to clarify these issues.
4. The Sydney Anglican Schools Corporation and the Cathedral Chapter indicated they had no objection to being included in the list of organisations named in paragraph 2.6.2.
5. At its meeting on 18 February 2008 the Standing Committee agreed to amend the Diocesan Policy Statement on Education in the manner shown in the following extract from section 2.6 of the Policy Statement –

“2.6. In respect of the governance of Anglican educational organisations

The Diocese of Sydney –

2.6.1. Endorses the overriding aim of each Anglican school and university college to educate people in ways consistent with the teaching of the Bible and gospel of Jesus Christ, and to maintain and uphold the Christian faith in teaching and practice.

2.6.2. Requires that all members of pre-school, school or university college councils elected or appointed by a parish, a Regional Council, the Sydney Diocesan Secretariat, the Sydney Anglican Schools Corporation, the Cathedral Chapter, the Standing Committee, the Synod or the Archbishop, prior to taking up office, sign a Statement of personal faith and support for the Christian ethos and charter of the organisation as outlined in section A of the Appendix.

2.6.3. Requires that any members of pre-school, school or university college councils elected or appointed by the

council or other bodies associated with the particular organisation, ~~who in conscience cannot~~ sign ~~the~~ a Statement of personal faith and support for the Christian ethos and charter of the organisation as outlined in section A of the Appendix, or, if in conscience they cannot sign this statement, they sign a Statement of support for the Christian ethos and charter of the organisation as outlined in section B of the Appendix.

2.6.4. Requires that the chair of each council of each Anglican school or university college governed by an ordinance of Synod however appointed or elected, sign, prior to taking up office, a Statement of personal faith and support for the Christian ethos and charter of organisation as outlined in section A of the Appendix.

2.6.5. Supports the provision of initial and ongoing training for council members of Anglican educational organisations in their responsibilities as council members.”

6. The amended form of the Policy Statement appears on the Secretariat's website.

For and on behalf of the Standing Committee

MARTIN HEARLE
Manager, Diocesan and Policy Services

29 August 2008