**REPORT OF**

**EUROPEAN NETWORK OF SACRED HEART SCHOOLS**

**CORE TEAM MEETING**

**JOIGNY APRIL 8 AND 9, 2016**

**Introduction**

The Core Team of the European Network of Sacred Heart Schools met in Joigny April 8 and 9, 2016.

## The current members of the Core Team are Reinhard Hallwirth, Headteacher of Sacré Coeur Gymnasium, Vienna, (President); Christophe Corda, Headteacher of Nantes (Vice President); Hilary Thompson, Coordinator for England and Wales (Secretary); Javier Usoz, Member of Coordination Team for Spain (Vice Secretary); Birgit Gmeindl-Oser, Coordinator for Central Europe (Treasurer); Monica Sarale, Head of Exchange and Coordinator for Istituto Sacro Cuore della Trinità, Rome (Vice Treasurer). Maria Luisa Campa, Headteacher of Istituto Sacro Cuore della Trinità dei Monti, Rome; Christophe Blanchard, Head of the French Tutelle. Ann Miller of San Francisco acted as Facilitator.

The official positions were re-elected with no changes.

**European Heads Meeting – Placeres – October 5-8, 2017**

Most of the two day meeting was taken up with discussion of the theme, goals and agenda for the European Heads Meeting which is scheduled to take place in Placeres October 5-8, 2017, with the main meeting times on October 6 and 7.

The Core Team was asked to prepare the substance of the meeting, while the Host Committee is planning the logistics, scheduling and social aspects of the meeting, as well as the providing the opportunity to visit Santiago di Compostella.

Various work to obtain the best speakers and to finalize the meeting substance is ongoing, and will be discussed by Javier with the Spanish Host Committee.

It is thought by the Core Team that the importance of nourishing the spiritual life for School Leaders and Students would be an excellent focus. Javier and the Host Committee are looking into the availability of appropriate speakers. In their evaluations on the Dublin Conference, the participants stressed that they would like the opportunity to talk more with each other, sharing ideas and getting to know each other better. This and other comments from the evaluations are being kept in mind as we prepare.

A variety of workshops were raised such as Erasmus, Leadership in Sacred Heart Schools, sharing best practice in living the ethos, a session linked with the upcoming anniversary of Philippine’s arrival in the United States, a follow up workshop on the theme from Mexico. Decisions will be made closer to the time.

Please feel free to make suggestions.

The group worked out what might be an ideal number for the conference and its location. They negotiated what might be a fair distribution across the networks, leaving space for flexibility. The possibility of inviting some representatives from networks further afield was also raised. It is clear that attending the worldwide meetings is difficult in the present economic climate and it was thought bringing some colleagues to our European Meeting will give a further dimension to our internationality.

**Networks of Sacred Heart Europe**

**Commitment and Challenges/Updates** The Sacred Heart schools in Europe face different challenges, depending on location and other factors, such as the entities (for example: dioceses and other local school authorities) which have a right to take an interest in the schools and their curricula.

Each member of the group gave updates on current activities in their networks.

**Spain**: the new united network is strengthening and they are evaluating how the processes they have put in place are working. They are looking forward to hosting the Conference in Placeres in 2017

**France:** the French provincial has appointed a full time, new Head of the Tutelle, Christophe Blanchard, who has joined the Coreteam. Nantes is involved in an Erasmus project with Northern Ireland, Eire and Saragossa in Spain.

**Italy:** Expressed how important the connections with the Sacred Heart Schools across Europe are: how the school in Rome benefits from exchange of ideas, resources, students and being involved with Joigny.

**Central European Network:** The network has been devising its own criteria for the Goals of Sacred Heart Education as well as a logo and a prayer to unite them. They are reflecting on how to continue the formation programme the RSCJ have been delivering

**Ireland/Scotland/Malta:** The network has well established documentation available on its website. Recently they have been sharing good practice via film on the website <http://www.heritageandhorizon.ie/media/videos/>

The network is looking forward to welcoming RSCJ speakers from the USA/Canada Network in October 2016

**England and Wales:** The network was delighted to welcome Cecile Meijer RSCJ, the Society’s NGO rep at the UN to their schools and University last year. A leadership session for Head Girls/Boys was inaugurated. Headteachers, many new to Sacred Heart Education, are holding their next annual meeting in Joigny.

**Activities across the European Network and beyond**

**Exchanges** Exchange of resources, students, teachers/ other staff, choirs and others is a way to ensure networking within Europe and outside of Europe toward the US, Canada, Asia, Latin America and Africa. The more we can find the resources to ensure those exchanges continue, the stronger will be the presence of Sacred Heart education worldwide. There are examples of teacher exchange on the website

<http://www.sacrecoeur-europe.net/#!teacher-exchange/c1w9s>

**Website of European Network** sacrecoeur-europe.net

It is hoped that through that the various schools will share ideas and events so that the enhanced website becomes even more of a way of sharing ideas and developing partnerships. It is good to have some extra contacts in the schools to help this process. Schools who have yet to give a second and even third contact are encouraged to do so.

**Joigny**

The last session of European teachers in March 2016 was very successful.

See download **March 2016 session** at this link <http://www.sacrecoeur-europe.net/#!european/c10ci>

The next Joigny session, Une rencontre avec Madeleine Sophie, for European Sacred Heart Educators will take place from **Wednesday 12th to Saturday 15th October 2016**. If you are interested in attending please talk to your head teacher. Applications go through your own Network Coordinators. The cost will be 200€ Contact [network@sc-europe.net](mailto:network@sc-europe.net) for any further information.

**International Prayer Project 2015**

The Philippine project had a huge response this year and with the help of a teacher in London we mapped the prayers. This allowed the RSCJ and others to join us in prayer. We are looking for further opportunities to unite in prayer.

<https://www.google.com/maps/d/u/0/viewer?mid=1JDhw992tG91P5H0MV5O1v_7Qx6Q>