**REPORT OF**

**EUROPEAN NETWORK OF SACRED HEART SCHOOLS**

**CORE TEAM MEETING**

**BARCELONA MARCH 6 AND 7, 2015**

INTRODUCTION AND SUMMARY

The meeting of the Core Team of the European Network of Sacred Heart Schools took place on March 6 and 7, 2015.

Present were Reinhard Hallwirth (Austria), President; Hilary Thompson, Vice-President and Secretary (England); Javier Usoz (Spain), Deputy Treasurer; Mary Shiel RSCJ representing the IRSMalta (France), Network, Gitti Linhart RSCJ (Austria), Veronique Poutoux (France), Christophe Corda Maria Luisa Campa (Italy), Monica Sarale ( Italy), Deputy Secretary. Apologies were received from Birgit Gmeindl-Oser, Treasurer ( Austria) and Ann Miller (Facilitator).

The group was warmly welcomed at Sagrat Corazon, Diputacio by Tete Terricabras Carol, the head teacher and her staff. During the meeting we reviewed our Action Plan from the Vienna Meeting in 2014 as well as sharing news from our Networks and addressing some new areas. We were delighted to welcome Mary Shiel RSCJ to the group.

**REPORTS:**

**AROUND THE NETWORKS**

**Italy:** the school in Trinita is developing links through shared on line lessons and a choir exchange with La Perverie. They looked for further partners for an Erasmus project, but sadly there were in sufficient. Involvement with the European network aids the school greatly in re-inforcing their identity.

**France:** There is a 3 year plan for development in the network, including formation for staff on many levels. In May all schools in France and Belgium will be represented (staff and students) as well as RSCJ at an event in Sophie Barat School near Paris, A Tout Coeur. Links across Europe are present in the French schools. There is hope that schools will show case projects on the website.

**Central Europe (CEU)**: The network is now established with regular meetings and a coordinator. The Goals are the main focus. The RSCJ are delivering a formation course which is having a great impact. The plan is that lay people will take over this in the future.

**Spain:** Javier shared a presentation giving a clear overview of the systems and documentation now in place or being developed for the new Spanish “RED”(network) which came into being in September 2015 when the two province networks joined together.

**England and Wales (ENW):** The schools came together for “Heartfest2” in Newcastle which was a huge success. They were also involved variously in the Janet Stuart centenary celebrations providing banners and a joint choir for the Centenary Eucharist. ENW also focus on the Goals and are now at the end of their first cycle. There are several new head teachers in the network,

**Ireland/Scotland Malta:** In place since 1996, the network adopted the Goals, holding regular conferences for the Coordinators and also the Heads and Deputies. Excellent systems have developed over the years and the fruits can be seen on the heritageandhorizon.ie website.

**ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING**

Reinhard presented a report of the year as well as the accounts, on behalf of Birgit. There is a balance of 4619.50 Euros. The group decided to keep this amount, largely accrued through donations from an alumna, for the expenses of the website.

Hilary stood down as Vice-President and Christophe Corda was nominated and duly elected in her place. Hilary remains as Secretary and all other officers remained in post.

**JOIGNY**

The Joigny Experience has been a great success over the last three years. Over 100 staff from our schools either through our sessions or run by individual networks or schools subsequently. All present thought the programme is excellent, so we will continue to offer it. **Timing:** The date of the next session will be March 2nd-5th 2016 as there are difficulties scheduling it in October and November 2015. It will return to October/November in future years as this is the preferred timing.

**MEXICO**

**Fifth World Conference for Head teachers of Sacred Heart Institutions October 21-25, 2015**

The group considered the two preparatory questions sent out by the organisers. Network Coordinators may consult about these prior to October. There will be representation from Europe at the meeting. Many are aware of the economic issues which stand in the way of greater numbers going. The aim of the conference is to produce principles to help the formation of an inner for our students.

**INTERNATIONALITY PROJECT**

Mary Shiel, Monica Sarale and Hilary Thompson will collaborate on an international project for the feast o St Philippine in November 2015. You will be notified about this in late September.

**WEBSITE**

The Sacred Heart European Website is going to have a re-designed. An Assistant Head teacher from the Sacred Heart High School in Newcastle upon Tyne has kindly agreed to do this task in collaboration with Hilary. We will keep you informed of the launch. The new website name will be sacrecoeur-europe.net. It is not live yet. Once launched, there will be a link from the old site for a while. We really need you to send us materials to make the website relevant. There will be a separate email about this. In the meantime send any queries about the website to network@sc-europe.net

**EXTRA CONTACT IN SCHOOLS**

We are very much aware of the demands on Head teachers and suggested at Dublin that each school has another link person with the European Network. We are aware too that every network has different systems and that naming such a person is not straightforward. At this meeting we thought that if we suggested 3 simple tasks that this person could do, it might help you identify a member of your leadership team or some other interested staff who could take on this role. Here are the tasks we suggest:

1. To be copied in to the Coreteam meeting reports: to read and be aware of initiatives of interest to your school
2. To open and read our European Website 2 times per term: to be aware and pass on initiatives and posts of interest to your school
3. To send to network@sc-europe.net links to articles and posts on your own school website that might be of interest and inspiration to other schools in the network,

**EXCHANGE AND STUDENT EVENTS**

On the new website we plan to post information about past teacher exchanges that have worked well alongside guidance as to how to set them up. We hope to that we will be able to set up an event for students so that they can experience the international community to which we belong.

**NEXT EUROPEAN HEAD TEACHERS MEETING 2017**

This will be in Placeres in Spain, not far from Santiago de Compostella. It will be held on October 5th to 8th (the main meeting days are Friday 6th and Saturday 7th October)

The Coreteam will be discussing the possible agenda of this meeting when we meet in 2016.

We realise that costs for the conference will have to be realistically priced.

**NEXT CORE TEAM MEETING**

This will be in Joigny from the evening of Thursday 7th until Sunday 10th April 2016 with the meetings on Friday and Saturday.