530.9 RECEPTION OF HOLY COMMUNION BY NON-CATHOLIC STAFF

Revised April 2001

Introduction:

The Catholic School seeks to be a genuine "community of faith" before all else. The celebration of the Eucharist by staff and pupils is of pre-eminent importance - both as an expression of oneness in faith, and as the chief means by which they grow into a community loving Christ in all they do.

It is in the celebration of Eucharist, however, that a particular problem arises and the reality of the division between Christians must be faced.

The clear Catholic position is that the Eucharist is an action of the celebrating community, signifying the oneness in faith, worship and life of the community. Where this unity of sacramental faith is deficient, the participation of Christians of other denominations with Catholics especially in the Sacraments of Eucharist, Penance and Anointing of the Sick is forbidden. (Directory on Ecumenism, No 55)

Guideline:

1. The school takes care never to require anything of non Catholic staff that compromises their faith.

2. If the Principal becomes aware of a non Catholic staff member approaching Holy Communion the matter is discussed in a sensitive manner with the staff member at an appropriate time.

3. The Directory of Ecumenism does recognise certain circumstances in which the reception of Holy Communion by non Catholics might be allowed. If the Principal determines that such circumstances might exist in a particular case, he/she should approach the Archbishop.

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