

The background features abstract, overlapping green geometric shapes, primarily triangles and polygons, in various shades of green, creating a modern and dynamic visual effect.

Being Church Together

The Parish-School Relationship

Being Church Together

A Theology, Vision and Guiding Principles
for the Parish-School relationship

A Working Draft

developed by a collaboration between
Catholic Education SA and the
Office for Renewing Parishes
for use and consultation during
2018 until October 2019

- ▶ The parish is not an outdated institution; precisely because it possesses great flexibility, it can assume quite different contours depending on the openness and missionary creativity of the pastor and the community. While certainly not the only institution which evangelizes, if the parish proves capable of self-renewal and constant adaptivity, it continues to be ‘the Church living in the midst of the homes of her sons and daughters’. This presumes that it really is in contact with the homes and the lives of its people, and does not become a useless structure out of touch with people or a self-absorbed group made up of a chosen few.

▶ Pope Francis, *Evangelii Gaudium*, para 28

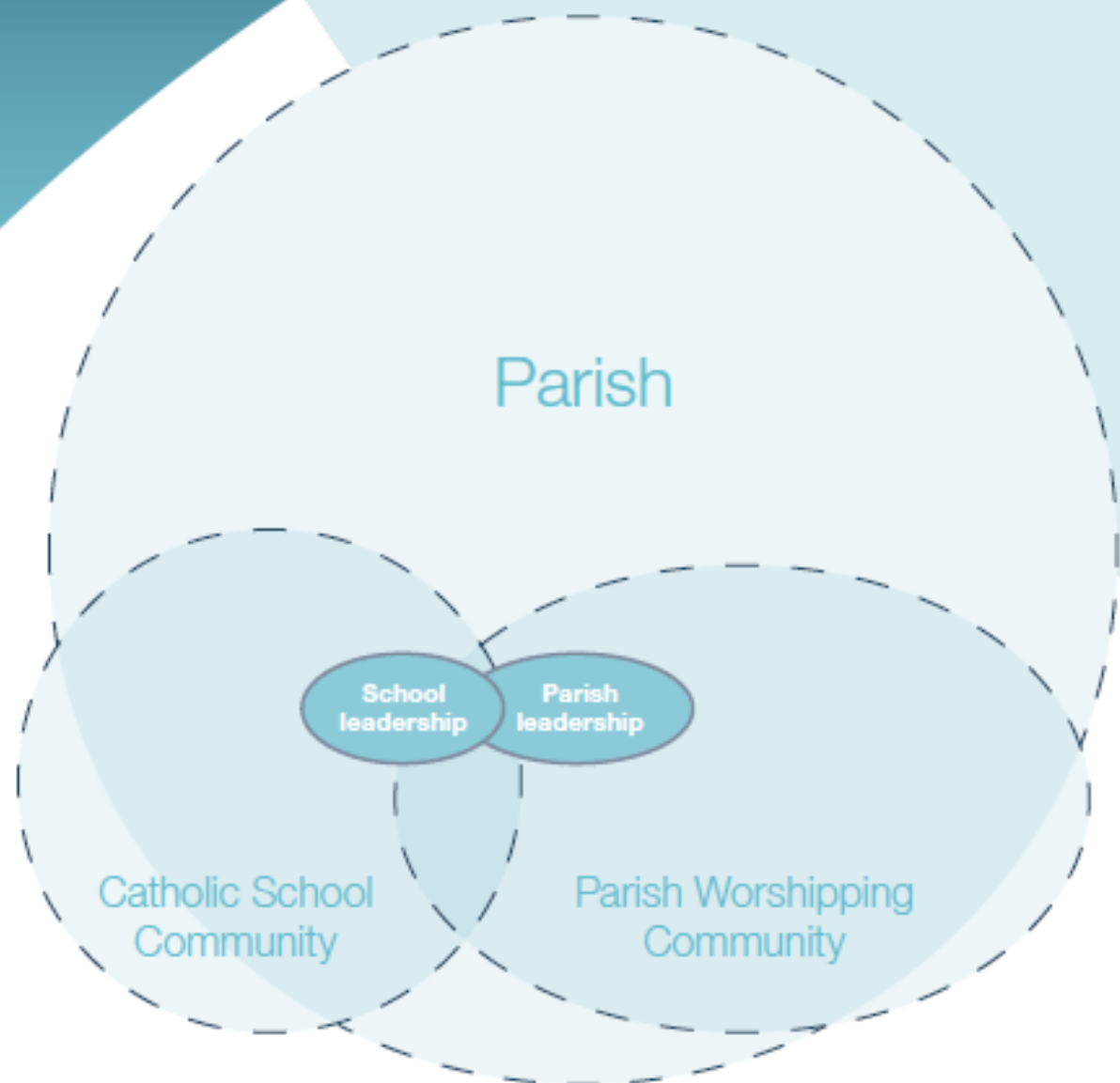
“

We adults can often be tempted to list all the problems and failings of today's young people. Perhaps some will find it praiseworthy that we seem so expert in discerning difficulties and dangers. But what would be the result of such an attitude? Greater distance, less closeness, less mutual assistance.”

Pope Francis, *Christus Vivit*, para 66

“ Anyone called to be a parent, pastor or guide to young people must have the farsightedness to appreciate the little flame that continues to burn, the fragile reed that is shaken but not broken (cf. Is 42:3). The ability to discern pathways where others only see walls, to recognise potential where others see only peril. That is how God the Father sees things; he knows how to cherish and nurture the seeds of goodness sown in the hearts of the young. Each young person’s heart should thus be considered ‘holy ground’, a bearer of seeds of divine life, before which we must ‘take off our shoes’ in order to draw near and enter more deeply into the Mystery. ”

Pope Francis, *Christus Vivit*, para 67



Acknowledgement of
sharing together the
mission of God

Mutual respect and
support of
complementary and
distinctive role

Shared engagement
in being together

Shared engagement
in action

Effective
communication

Cooperative,
collaborative and
shared leadership

Sharing of resources



Appreciative Visitation with Catholic Schools 2017–2018 Promising Examples of Parish-School Relationships

Office for Renewing Parishes | Jill Gallio and Tim Grauel | v11 August 2019

Many healthy, vibrant, and renewing parish-school relationships were noted during the 2017 – 2018 visits to Catholic Schools conducted by the Office for Renewing Parishes. An appreciative listening approach, through the lens of the Eight Gospel Pathways, guided interactions with school boards, parents and friends, and staff meetings. This paper highlights practical and creative ways in which schools and parishes build, sustain and repair local relationships. It is meant to support and give colour to the working draft, *Being Church Together: A Theology, Vision and Guiding Principles for the Parish-School relationship* (CESA, October 2018).

1. Intentional collaboration between Parish and School leadership

The parish is a community of diverse gifts and charisms, each recognised and nurtured in the community, and coordinated by the parish priest and leadership team.

Gospel Pathway #7

Mutual support and engagement across School and Parish life is regularly expressed, and is actively led, by School and Parish leadership teams.

- Parish Priest and/or parish representatives regularly attend School Board meetings, and Principals and/or APRIMS regularly attend Parish Pastoral Council meetings
- Where parish leadership team meetings occur, Principals and/or APRIMS regularly attend
- Priests, Pastoral Associates, Principals, Deputy Principals, APRIMS and other key leaders come together each term as a combined Parish/School leadership team for planning and relationship building
- Parish Priests and parish representatives, Principals and school representatives collaborate on working parties at particular times of change within parishes and schools (i.e. when new Parish Priests or Principals are appointed or when large building projects are undertaken)
- Annual induction offered for new and existing School Board and Parish Pastoral Council members
- Combined School Board and Parish Pastoral Council meetings are held annually, not only to share in formation and planning but to build relationships

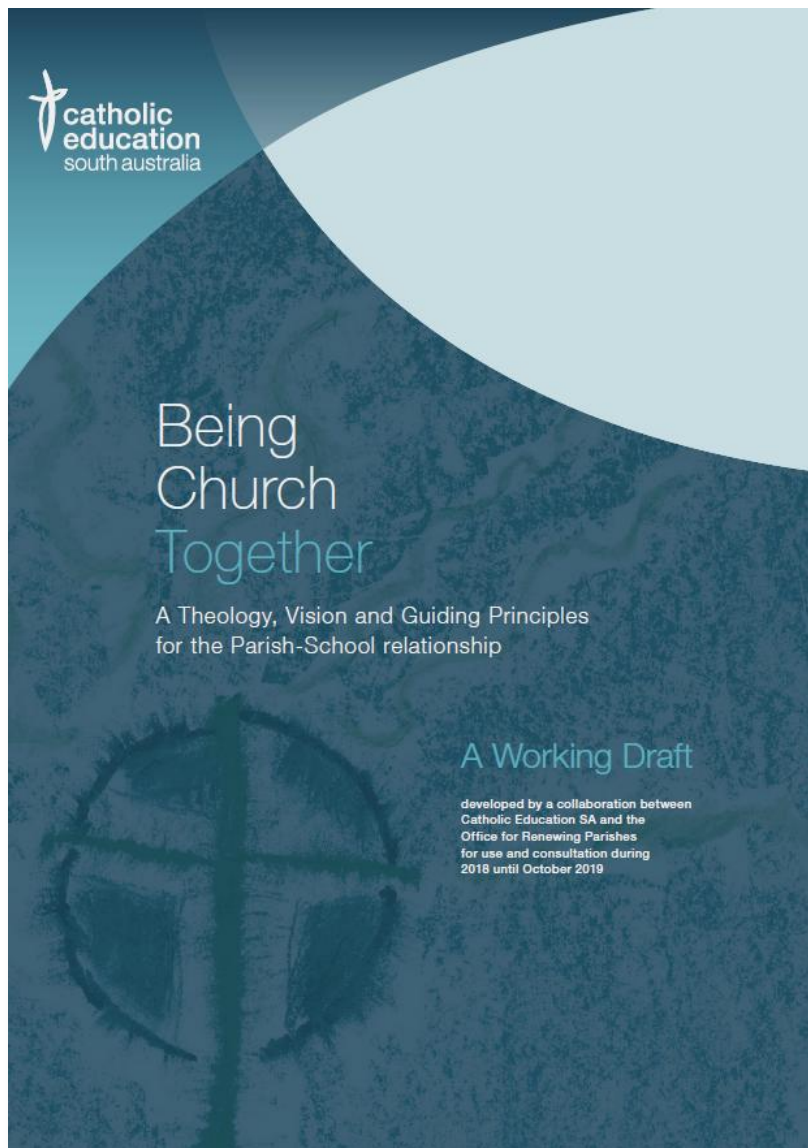
Staff formation, together with regular formation of school and parish leadership teams, is vital in the ongoing faith development of students and provides an engaging community of witness and service (Pastoral Worker)

2. Generous opportunities for Masses, liturgies and community prayer

Eucharistic liturgies are prayerful and fully participative.

The Word of God is known, loved and proclaimed in good preaching and in faithful lives.

Gospel Pathways #2 & #3



Concluding Invitation