

A.T.C.S.

(Association of Trustees of Catholic Schools)

- Small schools' symposium....strengthen and support small schools.
- 26/6/2019
- Welcome today's meeting which offers an opportunity to share ideas and views.



Patron Responsibilities

- Value principle of subsidiarity
- In an era of increased bureaucracy and legislative commitments, we do need to consider ways to strengthen the Trustee/Patron role to support their small schools.
- In recent times, the Patron/Trustee has been requested to approve Admissions policies, oversee Child Protection procedures, comply with F.S.S.U. directives, consider Data Protection requirements in schools, consider Whistle-blowing legislation implications, execute new school leases, deal with defective buildings and accommodate and assist the Sports Capital programme roll-out.
- All of these issues can impact a small school with a teaching Principal, so if the Patrons office received training or improved consultation as per the Education Act/ Educational partnership then the system may be improved for small schools.

Financial costs

- Insurance costs account for a large part of a school's capitation e.g. a school with 100 hundred pupils received 170 euro per child which is approximately €17,000 to run, heat, light, rate and insure a school.
- Most insurance costs are €7-10,000 per school so 50 per cent of the budget is gone before the door is opened for the school year.
- Special schools are in an even more difficult situation

