

BRIEFING NOTES



Christian Education is a registered charity and a company limited by guarantee as Christian Education Movement. It has a turn over of about £1m p.a.. It incorporates the work of Christian Education Movement (CEM) and the National Christian Education Council (NCEC) and has been running as a merged enterprise since September 2002. The charity has a Christian foundation and the Chief Executive is required to be a practicing Christian.

The charity **supports teachers of Religious Education** in schools through RE Today Services and by hosting the subject teachers' association National Association of Teachers of Religious Education (NATRE). In this aspect it produces educational materials on the Buddhist, Christian, Hindu, Islamic, Jewish, and Sikh faiths. It **works with Education workers in churches** and Christian agencies particularly those working with children and young people and those involved in bible study. The charity is the successor to the National Sunday Schools Union. It publishes annual programmes of bible reading notes under the imprint of International Bible Reading Association (IBRA).

Christian Education is governed by a **Board of Trustees**, who also serve as directors of the company. There are two main committees to oversee the publications and educational elements of the business. There is a Trustee Board of 12 members with John Keast in the chair. The board is appointed at an Annual General Meeting. Those eligible to vote at the AGM are the "membership" limited to 75 representatives of one of the four categories – Church denominations, Ancillary bodies, Individuals, Other interested organisations (e.g. CAFOD and Christian Aid). Peter Fishpool as Chief Executive brought the merged charity into being, starting work in October 2001.

Christian Education employs **15 staff** (not all full time). Ten staff work out of an office in Selly Oak, Birmingham. They are principally engaged on management, publishing, sales and administration. Four (+ 1 see below) professional schools advisers work from their homes providing, consultancy, conferences, courses, and writing materials for use in schools. The charity makes frequent use of some free-lance contractors – for project work, financial advice, illustrations, rights searches and editorial services.

The staff team comprises:

Chief Executive.

Director of Professional Services and currently two other professional advisers.

Another adviser is appointed to start in Sept 2008

Office Manager/PA to the Chief Executive

Finance Officer.

Four staff covering administration, subscriptions, course bookings, sales orders and despatch.

Publications Team Leader and Editor

Designer and Production Controller

There is also a Masters Degree Marketing Associate on placement from Aston University Business School.

On the **schools** side the charity's 'flagship' magazine is the termly *RE Today* magazine which is distributed to almost 4,000 subscribers. There are thirteen variations of subscription package. Some of these also include the *British Journal of Religious Education*, also owned by the charity but handled since January 2004 by the academic journal specialists Taylor and Francis.

On the **churches** side the 'flagship' is the IBRA imprint which sells 18,000 copies of its annual sets of bible reading notes a year. The charity also works with the Consultative Group on Ministry with Children and the Christian Youth Work Training Network and Roots for Churches Ltd. It is a Body in Association of Churches Together in Britain and Ireland.

Christian Education **sells direct** through the mail, over the web, by occasional exhibition stands, conferences and special events. On the education side it also markets through its advisers working from their homes around England. On the publications side it also markets through (mostly Christian) bookshops. Sales are handled in our Birmingham office, while stock is stored and dispatched (on contract) from a warehouse in Peterborough.

There are two **endowed funds**, one offering interest free loans for member churches building to extend facilities for children and young people. The other offers bursary aid to churches taking children and young people on holiday trips. A cash fund is slowly being spent on bursaries for young adults travelling internationally for Christian study.

The charity works in association with a distinct charitable trust, the **Montgomery Trust**, to sponsor theologically based lectures in colleges, schools and societies. **A Company of Speakers** which has been separate, was included within CE from 1 Sept 2004 it supports taking outside speakers into schools and has a scheme currently in operation in Lancashire.

Christian Education works in **partnership** with CEM Northern Ireland, Religious Education Movement Scotland and Religious Education Movement Wales.

Mar 2008