

MEMO FOR CABINETManagement of Saint Philip Neri School

In accordance with the Approved Schools Ordinance, 1921, (Cap.75), the headship of Saint Philip Neri School is entrusted to the 'Principal' who is responsible to the Director of Social Services. The Approved Schools Regulations, 1958 (Government Notice No.139 of the 20th February, 1958) determine the functions of the Principal in regard to the management of the School. These functions provide for the control, training and treatment of the pupils. He is responsible for the internal administration of the School, including the proper performance by all members of the staff of the duties assigned to them.

2. The Approved Schools Regulations provide for a 'Schoolmaster' who is assigned certain specific functions. These include the power to administer personally correction in accordance with the Regulations of the pupils for offences committed in connection with school work.

3. Up to the year 1964-65 financial provision was made for two schoolmasters on the pensionable establishment - (Vote 35-A Item 82). In August 1964 the Cabinet decided that two Christian Brothers should be employed as teachers - Minute (11) in file MLSW 134/62). In consequence of this decision the two posts of 'Schoolmasters', which were then vacant, were suppressed in the Estimates for 1965-66 - (Vote 37-A). Instead, the sum of £1,252 was provided - (B Item 43) to cover the employment of two Christian Brothers as part-time teachers.

4. In November 1965, the Christian Brothers decided to abandon the idea of undertaking the management of the School, which was being considered by Government, and they withdrew the two Brothers employed as teachers. Since then the gap has been filled by the employment of two part-time teachers. This is nothing but a make-shift arrangement, and it is not in the best interests of the pupils.

5. It is imperative that the pupils should be given constant care and attention, even during their leisure time. It is considered that this can only be done if the Head of the School (the principal) lives among the pupils and can dedicate himself to this work.

6. The Approved Schools Regulations stipulate that the Principal shall live in the vicinity of the School so that he may be immediately available whenever his presence is required at the School. Experience has shown that this arrangement is not good enough to achieve the objects for which the School is maintained. It is therefore proposed to ask the Society of Jesus to provide a member of their Society to perform the function of

Principal of the School and two others to assist him and to provide for the educational requirements of the pupils.

7. It is proposed that the arrangement will be as follows -

8. The Society will be requested to provide an ordained Member who will be designated 'Principal' by the Minister. He will be responsible to the Director of Social Services in the performance of the functions provided in the Regulations.

9. The Society will also be requested to provide two other qualified Members to provide all the scholastic requirements of the School. One of these two members, who preferably should also be ordained, will assist the Principal and he will be authorised to act as his deputy during temporary absence.

10. The overall administration of the School, including the conditions of service and discipline of the staff will remain under the control of the Director.

11. In consideration of the provision of the three members to perform the functions indicated in paragraphs 8 and 9 above, the Society will be offered a lump sum on a yearly basis.

12. It is suggested that the arrangement will be regulated by a simple agreement between the Minister, representing the Government, and the duly authorised representative of the Society. The agreement could be made for a period of five years or for any other shorter or longer period as may be decided upon in consultation with the Society.

13. If the proposal is agreed to in principle, it will be necessary to solve the problem of the present holder of the post of Principal. The best solution would be to offer him a suitable post which would not cause him any hardship. If this cannot be done immediately, it is proposed that he will be temporarily seconded or transferred to another post within the Department in which he will be allowed to retain his present emoluments, including the £40 per annum house allowance which he enjoys.

14. With these commitments in view, the Department of Social Services will only be able to dispose of the sum of £1,252 provided under Vote 38-B Item 43. Assuming that the current rate of spending on the employment of part-time teachers is maintained, say up to the end of August 1966, the Department will be able to dispose of about £852 for the remaining seven months of the year which will work out to £1,452 per annum. It will therefore be possible to offer the Society up to that amount per annum, provided that the full amount will be approved in next year's estimates.

15. In addition the members of the Society living at the School will be allowed free board, accommodation and laundering. Those not living at the School will be allowed free meals.

16. Since 1962, when the idea of entrusting the Management of the School to the Christian Brothers was conceived, the activities of the School have been overshadowed by a feeling of uncertainty which could not have done any good.

17. Hon. Ministers are required to agree to the above proposal.

28.7.66.