



Archdiocese of Dublin
EDUCATION SECRETARIAT



***A Faith Leadership Programme
for Senior Students
in Post-Primary Schools***



What is Ember?



The Ember Programme is a training programme for students at senior level in secondary schools.

The programme was piloted in May 2013 when five school teams were commissioned. Currently there are 13 school teams participating in the programme for 2015/16.

The programme is coordinated by the Archdiocese of Dublin Education Secretariat and the training takes place annually in Ovoca Manor.

The inspiration for Ember has come from similar programmes in other dioceses. With Ember, we want to create opportunities for students in our schools to lead/plan faith activities and to deepen their own faith.

As you may know, the word Ember describes how a small flame can ignite a fire; this metaphor highlights how students can realise their true potential by participating in the programme.

Vision

Inspired by the Christian message of love and service to others, our vision is to create a team of leaders within schools who will serve as an example of faith in action, striving to make a difference in the lives of those around them.

How does Ember work?

- The participating schools select 6 - 12 students who want to be part of the programme.
- The schools come together to participate in a three-day formation programme in Ovoca Manor in June/September each year. (See www.scriptureunion.ie/index.php/ovocamanor for more information about the venue.)

- The programme aims to develop the teamwork skills, leadership skills and the participants' personal faith with a strong sense of community development.



- The three-day training enhances the participants' practical teamwork skills with a combination of indoor and outdoor activities.



- Throughout the training, students are invited to take time for individual reflection during prayer moments, Thought for the Day and evening liturgies; where the students are given space to consider how they might best serve as faith leaders in their schools.



- By the end of the three-day training, the team have a clear structure (Chair, Secretary etc.) and a plan for their first team task in their school in August/ September.
- The initial focus of the team can be to support the transition of incoming first years into the school community,
- The team continue to meet on a weekly basis throughout the school year to plan, implement and review other activities that promote the Christian spirit of the school.