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COMECE advocates for the unique contribution of Religious Education at the European Schools in latest position paper



Exterior view of European school in Brussels, Belgium. (Photo: Alexandros Michailidis/Shutterstock)

The Commission of the Bishops' Conferences of the European Union (COMECE) publishes a position paper titled *'Religious Education in the European Schools – A Unique and Essential Contribution to the Next Generation of Europeans'* on Wednesday, 18 December 2024. The document underscores the importance of preserving the religious and testimonial dimension of faith within the educational mission of European Schools. [Read Position Paper](#)

Building on the vision and [mission](#) of the European Schools regarding Religious Education, the document reflects on the importance of Religious

Education in Europe today. Drafted in cooperation with the Coordinators of Catholic Religion working at the European Schools—who support the activities and work of Catholic religion teachers in Brussels and other Member States—the position paper highlights that religion offers a space for learners to discover meaning and purpose, enhances their moral and ethical development, effectively promotes social cohesion, and helps prevent radicalization.

“Religious education helps students understand the historical and cultural dimensions of yesterday and today’s Europe. It deepens the understanding of Europe’s heritage that is directly linked to Christianity. Christian religious education, in fact, promotes values such as dignity, freedom, democracy, equality, rule of law and fundamental rights, which are at the core of the European project”, the paper reads.

COMECE General Secretary, Fr. Manuel Barrios Prieto, comments on the publication: *“In the context of current discussions on reforms that may alter the provision of religious education in the final two school years, it is more essential than ever to preserve the religious and testimonial dimension of faith within the educational mission of the European Schools”.*

As part of its mission to represent the Bishops of the Dioceses where European Schools are located, and as a close collaborator of Religious Education teachers, COMECE will hold its next regular meeting with the General Secretariat of the European Schools on 8 January 2025. Religious authorities and members of the Secretariat will discuss the current state of Religion classes and the action plan developed in response to the [2023 European Parliament resolution](#).