

Diocese of Westminster Education Service

Witness to the Word:

School Bulletin 08.04.20

Dear Colleague in Catholic Education,

As a family of schools we need to work with each other and for each other at this time of extraordinary need. The Education Service is committed to ensuring each school can receive the support it requires to cope with this crisis. Every Wednesday for the foreseeable future we will be providing a School Bulletin full of resources and links to resources that may be of interest to you and your school community. Please feel free to share widely.

Thank you for all you are doing for your school community and for Catholic education.

Objectives of the Education Service during Coronavirus (Covid-19) epidemic:

- To support Headteachers, Heads of RE, RE Coordinators, Governors and the wider school community to cope at this time of unprecedented challenge;
- To provide the updates from the UK Government, DfE, CES and the Diocese of Westminster on all aspects of the Coronavirus Covid-19 relating to schools and colleges;
- To provide resources and advice relating to the Teaching and Learning of RE;
- To provide resources and advice relating to Mental Health issues;
- To provide resources and advice relating to Spiritual support and renewal.

Teaching & Learning in RE:

Included with this bulletin is the following:

- Easter Activities;
- Easter Garden;
- Home school activity;
- Mission Together notes;
- Storybook activities.

PHONE

FAX

WEB

Here's are links to the Church news channels and Triduum details

https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCknR9Qdz8f_T4Mi6bHpVH3w

<https://soundcloud.com/catholicchurch>

As a reminder, the list of parishes streaming or live-streaming Mass in our diocese can be found on our website: <https://rcdow.org.uk/news/how-to-participate-in-mass-during-the-coronavirus-outbreak/> Much of the feedback indicates that the faithful are grateful for the opportunity to participate in this way in the celebration of Mass.

There is also a growing list of prayers and online resources on our website that may prove helpful to your school community. <https://rcdow.org.uk/news/resources-during-mass-suspension/>

The diocese asks you keep in your prayers our priests at this time who are having to manage the Triduum in an extraordinarily difficult way.

<https://rcdow.org.uk/cardinal/news/pray-for-priests-on-maundy-thursday/>

The Vatican has extensive links that will be of interest to your school community. You can find most details of what they can offer here <http://www.vaticannews.va/en/taglist.chiesa-e-religioni.Calendario-liturgico.pasqua.html>

Today the writer Austen Ivereigh has published an interview with Pope Francis which you can read here:

<https://www.thinkingfaith.org/articles/remembering-our-future-pope-francis-and-corona-crisis>

Support for Mental Health:

Included with this bulletin is the following:

- Resources to support mental health;
- Support your mental health while working from home

(A note to those using these links to websites. The sites highlighted in yellow contain useful information regarding support children, young people and adults in mental health. However, they also contain other information including topics on relationships, sexual health, and other issues such as child protection etc that come with a disclaimer that they may not be compatible with the teachings of the Church and please use with discretion.)

Young Minds - <https://youngminds.org.uk/resources/school-resources/caring-for-the-wellbeing-of-teachers-and-school-staff/#how-to-support-wellbeing-in-your-school>

Mentally Healthy Schools -

- Supporting Staff Well-being Guidance - <https://www.mentallyhealthyschools.org.uk/whole-school-approach/supporting-staff-wellbeing/>

- Coronavirus Mental Health Toolkit - <https://www.mentallyhealthyschools.org.uk/media/1998/coronavirus-mental-health-and-wellbeing-toolkit-2.pdf>
- Support Staff Doc - <https://www.annafreud.org/media/7653/3rdanna-freud-booklet-staff-wellbeing-web-pdf-21-june.pdf>
- Looking after each other and ourselves - <file:///E:/Mental%20Health%20and%20Wellbeing/Staff%20Wellbeing/looking-after-each-other-ourselves-final.pdf>
- Video Training on well-being for staff - <https://www.annafreud.org/what-we-do/schools-in-mind/expert-advice-and-guidance-videos/>
- Schools in Mind – Sign up the newsletter and resources - <https://www.annafreud.org/what-we-do/schools-in-mind/>

Action for Happiness - <https://www.actionforhappiness.org/10-keys> (Similar to the five ways to wellbeing mentioned in previous bulletins)

- Ten Keys Guidebook- https://www.actionforhappiness.org/media/530511/ten_keys_guidebook.pdf

Education Support

- <https://www.educationsupport.org.uk/>
- <https://www.educationsupport.org.uk/blogs/7-tips-headteachers-coping-coronavirus-pandemic>

BBC - <https://www.bbc.co.uk/teach/teacher-support/new-mental-health-and-wellbeing-support-for-teachers/z4g4scw>

Mental Health at Work - https://www.mentalhealthatwork.org.uk/toolkit/coronavirus-and-isolation-supporting-yourself-and-your-colleagues/?utm_source=MIND%20%28THE%20NATIONAL%20ASSOCIATION%20FOR%20MENTAL%20HEALTH%29&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=11451871_HTWW_MHAW_2_April_Manual_SP_oneoff&dm_i=CZC,6TGBJ,WYJ0ZO,RAZP4,1

Mind - <https://www.mind.org.uk/information-support/coronavirus/coronavirus-and-your-wellbeing/>

The Schools Bus – Free Mental Health Calendar for school staff (30 Mental Health Tips) -


<https://hub4leaders.co.uk/learning-hub/resources/staff-mental-health-calendar/staff-mental-health-calendar/>

UK Government – guidance for parents and carers on supporting children and young people’s mental health and well being during the Covid-19 outbreak.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/covid-19-guidance-on-supporting-children-and-young-peoples-mental-health-and-wellbeing/guidance-for-parents-and-carers-on-supporting-children-and-young-peoples-mental-health-and-wellbeing-during-the-coronavirus-covid-19-outbreak>

Childline - Guidance tips to help and support children and young people during the lockdown. -

<https://www.childline.org.uk/info-advice/your-feelings/anxiety-stress-panic/worries-about-the-world/coronavirus/#lockdown>



Carers UK - Coronavirus – Tips for protecting your mental wellbeing

<https://www.carersuk.org/help-and-advice/coronavirus-covid-19/coronavirus-mental-wellbeing>

Dr Pooky Knightsbridge – 5 tips for staying mentally well

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8GmQijmUrkk&feature=youtu.be>

Spiritual Support:

Included with this bulletin is the following:

- Prayers of the Week – we hope to develop the use of online resources produced by the Church.
- Spiritual Support document;
- Wintershall Livestream 10 April 2020;
- Weekly reciting of the Rosary every Friday at 10.30am across all our schools including Good Friday;
- Jesuit Pray as You Go site has changed to Pray as you Stay <https://pray-as-you-go.org>

UK Government & DfE Updates and links :

The Department’s guidance on additional funding for schools is available here

(<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/coronavirus-covid-19-financial-support-for-schools>).

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Explore the topic

Free school meals (FSM) funding (<https://www.gov.uk/education/free-school-meals-fsm-funding>)

Funding for different types of schools and settings (<https://www.gov.uk/education/funding-for-different-types-of-schools-and-setting>)

School curriculum (<https://www.gov.uk/education/school-curriculum>)


Topical events

Coronavirus (COVID-19): UK government response (<https://www.gov.uk/government/topical-events/coronavirus-covid-19-uk-government-response>)

Advice received from the DfE

Schools will continue to receive their budgets for the coming year, as usual, regardless of any periods of partial or complete closure. That will ensure that they are able to continue to pay their staff, and meet their other regular financial commitments, as we move through these extraordinary times.

We know that schools may face additional costs as a result of coronavirus (COVID-19). We will put in place a new process that allows us to reimburse schools for exceptional costs that they face as a result.



We will discuss how best to deliver this funding with stakeholders over the next few days, and will publish details of the scheme shortly.

We recognise that the COVID-19 outbreak carries financial implications for many providers, and we are working to make changes where we can.

To help manage the financial implications, the Education and Skills Funding Agency (ESFA) will continue to pay grant funded providers their scheduled monthly profiled payments for the remainder of the 2019 to 2020 funding year.

Signpost to detailed Further Education funding guidance published below, which includes information about:

- 16-19 grant-funded provider
- Adult Education Budget (AEB)
- Advanced learner loans

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/coronavirus-covid-19-maintaining-further-education-provision/maintaining-education-and-skills-training-provision-further-education-providers#dependants-of-critical-workers>

It is recommended that you continue to visit <https://www.gov.uk/> which will be updated with any new developments.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/schemes-for-financing-schools#history>

Latest advice on school funding:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/coronavirus-covid-19-financial-support-for-schools/school-funding-exceptional-costs-associated-with-coronavirus-covid-19-for-the-period-march-to-july-2020>