

Diocese of Westminster Education Service

Witness to the Word:

School Bulletin 22.04.20

Dear Colleague in Catholic Education,

As a family of schools we to continue 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.

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.

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


The Pope's Message – Earth Day 22.04.20 courtesy of Robin Gomes, Vatican News

Dear Brothers and Sisters: Today marks the fiftieth anniversary of Earth Day. This is an opportunity for renewing our commitment to caring for our common home. We are called to cherish creation and all life within it, for the natural world is the “Gospel of Creation”, not a set of resources for us to exploit. To overcome our selfishness and rediscover a sacred respect for the earth, we need a new way of seeing – an ecological conversion – for the earth is also God’s home and we stand on holy ground. We can only be authentic custodians of the earth, and overcome the challenges before us – such as the coronavirus pandemic – by acting in solidarity with one another. As the Encyclical Letter *Laudato Si’* reminds us, we are one interdependent human family and so need a common response to the threats we face (cf. 164). In this Easter season of renewal, as we strive to love more deeply our common home and all our brothers and sisters, especially those

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most in need, let us implore our Heavenly Father: “Send forth your Spirit, O Lord, and renew the face of the earth” (cf. Ps 104:30).

Holding his weekly general audience on the 50th Earth Day on Wednesday, Pope Francis called for common action and ecological conversion that lead to a deeper love for our common home and our brothers and sisters, especially the most vulnerable.

Celebrating the 50th Earth Day on Tuesday, Pope Francis pointed out that the tragic coronavirus pandemic has taught us that we can overcome global challenges only by showing solidarity with one another and embracing the most vulnerable in our midst.

Biblical origins

The Pope, who dedicated his 2015 encyclical, “*Laudato Si*”, to the care of the created world, noted that we are fashioned from the earth and that the fruit of the earth sustains our life. As the book of Genesis reminds us, we are not simply “earthly”; we also bear within us the ‘breath of life’ that comes from God. Thus, he said, we live in this common home as one human family in biodiversity with God’s other creatures.

As the ‘image of God’, the Pope said, we are called to care for and respect all creatures, and to offer love and compassion to our brothers and sisters, especially the most vulnerable among us, in imitation of God’s love for us, manifested in his Son Jesus.

Selfishness

However, because of our selfishness, we have failed in our responsibility to be guardians and stewards of the earth. We have polluted and despoiled it, endangering our very lives. In this regard, the Pope expressed appreciation for the various international and local movements who are appealing to our consciences. Our children, he said, have taken to the streets to teach us that “we have no future if we destroy the very environment that sustains us”.

Please see below an article that details Pope Francis’ call for a **Laudato Si Week on 16th – 24th May 2020**.

<https://ucatholic.com/news/watch-pope-francis-invites-you-to-celebrate-laudato-si-week-in-may/>

The Pope’s video message about this is also there.

The Vatican has launched a website to help celebrate this week with a toolkit for links <https://laudatosiweek.org/fr/toolkit-fr/>.

<https://cafod.org.uk/Education/Secondary-and-youth-resources/Home-learning-young-people>

The above link to Cafod’s site has home learning resources on Earth day and the Sustainable Development Goals as well as some other resources for Secondary age students.



The Good Shepherd Catholic Primary School, Hammersmith and Fulham Laudato Si Week

Tamsin Moore-Jaunaii, Deputy Head Teacher/SENco, The Good Shepherd Catholic Primary School.

www.goodshepherdrc.lbhf.sch.uk

Tamsin shares with us her school's experience:


The Good Shepherd is a small one form entry primary school in Shepherd's Bush where the community has significantly changed over the many years that the school has been there. As with many children the topic of caring for our 'common home' is high on their agenda. In 2015/16 we asked our children to focus on Pope Francis letter Laudato Si and understand the message contained within. Their response was outstanding. They embraced what was being asked of them and during the single week 'Laudato Si Week' the children changed the habits of the school community and their families. Parents joked with us that they were timed when having showers and not allowed to make purchases of their usual brand where a fairtrade option was available; the power of children is amazing.

Across the school since our first Laudato Si week we have embedded the principles of caring for our common home into all that we do. The children understand that their actions here in Shepherd's Bush have an impact on the lives of their brothers and sisters in other places in the world.

One pupil in the Nursery in 2016/17 wrote to Pope Francis sharing what he had been doing in response to Laudato Si and he received a lovely letter back from the Vatican which is displayed in our school as a direct reminder that Pope Francis is talking to all of us, that all the small things add up to have a big impact. Another pupil in Year 2 has written to Ella's Kitchen about their use of single use plastic packaging and brought about change within that company who came into school to work with her class and share some of their recycled products made out of their packaging.

Some key changes have taken place in our school as a direct result of the teaching and learning that has happened in Laudato Si weeks at The Good Shepherd:

1. We do not use plastic bottles of water on school trips – we take washable re-usable cups and a reusable bottle which can be refilled and shared out.
2. We do not use single use wrapped products in our school lunches – yoghurt pots, cream cracker packets or biscuits on school trips.
3. We have signs on all our light switches reminding everyone to turn them off if we are not using them.
4. We compost all our fruit snacks rubbish and then use the compost in our Early Years garden to grow more fruit and vegetables.
5. We have removed some of the meat from our menu and children eat more vegetarian and vegan nutritious dishes instead.
6. We do not take coaches to our swimming lessons – we walk instead to reduce our carbon footprint.
7. We recycle pens and batteries in our school as well as all the recycling that is available from the council.
8. We pray for our brothers and sisters around the world and support them through our work with Mary's Meals.



There are so many more ways in which Laudato Si has had an impact on our lives at The Good Shepherd, it has inspired us to be creative, to write poetry, paint, draw and collage and talk with each other and share our ideas as a community. Our Laudato Si week this year has been postponed due to Coronavirus but we have all the plans on hold ready for when we can be a community together again. We are looking forward to thanking God together as a school. Our recently appointed school parliament will have many ideas I am certain and they will continue to drive the change we need to see in the world.

At The Good Shepherd we are very proud of our children and the love that they have for each other and their world family, we know that they are planning and we can't wait to work with them again to help them to achieve their wonderful ideas.

Teaching & Learning in RE:

Included with this bulletin is the following:

- Scripture Scramble;
- Home / school activities;
- CAFOD links;
- Religious Education TV and Film playlists;
- Laudato Si links

The outreach of the Church to the faithful and call to prayer.

- The Cardinal's Message and thanks to NHS Staff and care workers;
<https://rcdow.org.uk/cardinal/news/cardinal-thanks-nhs-staff-and-care-workers/>
- The Diocese is live streaming Masses and here is the link to those available.
<https://rcdow.org.uk/news/how-to-participate-in-mass-during-the-coronavirus-outbreak/>
<https://soundcloud.com/catholicchurch>
- CARITAS sends out £31,000 in emergency food vouchers to the community
<https://rcdow.org.uk/news/caritas-westminster-sends-out-31000-in-emergency-food-vouchers/>
- The Jesuit Pray as You Go site has changed to Pray as you Stay <https://pray-as-you-go.org>

Support for Mental Health:

Included with this bulletin is the following:

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

The Education Service is very conscious how much the current situation is affecting the mental health of everyone who is involved in working in our family of schools. One key message we are receiving from health professionals is keep in touch with one another. The following resources have been recommended to us.

Rochdale Borough Council - What are the Five Ways to Well-being - Animation -

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=yF7Ou43Vj6c>

Healthy Young Minds - A toolkit for working with young people on the five ways to well-being -

<https://www.healthyyoungmindsinherts.org.uk/sites/default/files/publications/term%3Avocabulary%3Avid/five-ways-to-wellbeing-toolkit.pdf>

Early Year Alliance – Happy children – taking care of young people’s well-being <https://www.eyalliance.org.uk/happy-children-%E2%80%94-taking-care-young-peoples-wellbeing>

BBC – Five ways to help with children’s well-being - <https://www.bbc.co.uk/teach/five-ways-to-help-childrens-wellbeing/zfb2d6f>

The School Run – Well-being Apps for children - <https://www.theschoolrun.com/best-wellbeing-apps-for-kids>

Five Minute Fun – Well-being activities for children stuck indoors - <https://www.5minutefun.com/wellbeing-activities-for-kids-stuck-indoors/>

Young Minds – Mental Health and Well-being resources for schools - <https://youngminds.org.uk/resources/school-resources/>

Mentally Healthy Schools [https://www.mentallyhealthyschools.org.uk/resources/coronavirus-resources-for-mental-health-and-wellbeing-toolkit-](https://www.mentallyhealthyschools.org.uk/resources/coronavirus-resources-for-mental-health-and-wellbeing-toolkit-3?utm_source=newsletter&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=coronavirus3&utm_content=toolkit)

[3?utm_source=newsletter&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=coronavirus3&utm_content=toolkit](https://www.mentallyhealthyschools.org.uk/resources/coronavirus-resources-for-mental-health-and-wellbeing-toolkit-3?utm_source=newsletter&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=coronavirus3&utm_content=toolkit) - Mental Health and Well-being Toolkit 3

CPD - Mental Health Awareness Courses

Children’s Society - <https://www.cathchild.org.uk/connected/mental-health-training/> Catholic Children Society has a range of training available in mental health and bereavement support ConnectEd Mental Health Services which

includes: Mental Health Training for School Staff; and Mental Health First Aid Training. There is also the national Rainbows Bereavement Support Programme.

MIND - <https://www.mind.org.uk/workplace/training-consultancy/> Mind offers a range of training opportunities in Mental Health Awareness, Managing Mental Health at Work, and Mental Health and how to support someone.

Mental Health First Aid England - <https://mhfaengland.org/> - Providing training on Mental Health First Aid

IHASCO - <https://www.ihasco.co.uk/courses/detail/mental-health-awareness-training> - A training provider including courses on mental health awareness for management and all staff.

Spiritual Support:

Included with this bulletin is the following:

- Daily Prayers for School Week 5;
- Laudato Si links;
- Spiritual Support Week 5;
- A Year of the Word at Home document


VASCA 2020/21 (The Replacement of LCVAP)

Nigel Spears is pleased to report that the Government has announced the 2020 to 2021 School Capital Allocation. For VA Schools, the retired LCVAP has been replaced with a fund the DfE has named VASCA (Voluntary Aided – Schools Capital Allocation). Allocations to date are:

Funding Type	Responsible Body	90% (VA)	Total (100%)
VASCA – (VA Schools)	Diocese	£9,365,907.40	£10,406,563.78
MATSCA – (Qualifying Multi-Academy Trusts)	DOWAT		£1,525,869.78
DFC – (Academies)	MAT Schools		£583,648.03
DFC – (VA Schools)	VA Schools	£1,593,419.05	£1,770,465.61
			£14,286,547.20
CIF – (Academies)	No Announcements To Date		

In accordance with the Published Diocesan Protocols, all capital expenditure by a Catholic School/Academy/College requires the consent, in advance of any financial commitment, of the Education Commission.

(The Diocesan Protocols only applies to School, Academies and Colleges in the Trusteeship of a Religious Order if they are applying for access to a funding source that is open to schools under more than one trusteeship – For example, VASCA).



To facilitate the approvals process and provide effective assurance to the Department of Education, the Diocese of Westminster, in consort with the other Catholic Diocese of England, is utilising STATLOG more details later in this briefing.

Whilst welcoming the allocations, expenditure in the current pandemic, will present many unusual procurement challenges. Diocesan colleagues and external consultants will be reviewing the longlist of projects submitted last autumn in order to identify projects that can be delivered in an active school environment between September 2020 and February 2021. Projects that must be delivered during school holiday periods are likely to be deferred. The Capital Strategy Committee of the Education Commission is due to meet on Thursday 7th May. At that meeting, the members will be asked to approve the first round of allocations in 2020/2021 in order that consultants can begin the process of coordinating with governors and leaders to scope the work.

Priority School Building Programme

All projects are affected by the current COVID-19 situation and, with a few exceptions, have ceased operations. Those striving to make progress are constrained by significant shortages in the supply of both materials and workers. Diocesan colleagues are working closely with consultants to maintain the integrity of contracts in order that work can resume once the country begins to return to normal.

Demographic Survey (Project 2020)

Nigel Spears is pleased to report that the Education Commission has approved the appointment of 1st Planner. 1st Planner supports “education providers to create high quality school places for their pupils, without over spending against their capital and revenue budgets, whilst identifying capacity within their existing estates and identifying funding sources to complete the works”. <https://www.1stplanner.com/home>

As previously advised, phase 1 (Pilot) will focus on 3 areas;

- Tower Hamlets
- Camden
- Kensington & Chelsea/Westminster

Catholic schools, academies and college in these areas are all stakeholders in the process and are encourage to engage with 1st Planner as appropriate.

Statlog

Phase 1 of Statlog is now active. Diocesan colleagues have been provided with login credentials and VA Schools will receive initial login details within the next two weeks. The initial letter/email from Statlog will include the following:

Welcome to the Statlog® Capital Project Allocation System (CPAS). You are receiving this email because you are a VA school belonging to a Catholic Diocese in England and Wales and your Diocese have requested that you be given access to CPAS. The CPAS system will be used by your Diocese to administer the VASCA programme (The successor to LCVAP), by your retained building consultants in order to monitor capital projects and by the school team to register and seek approval for school promoted capital projects. In addition, you will be asked to confirm

your approval for any projects, and any local funding contribution (via CPAS when prompted via email). Once you have funding allocated, you will also be able to use CPAS to track project progress. Your Diocese are currently working on their proposed funding allocations for the coming year and will let you know via CPAS when they require action from you.

Personal Login details will be provided. There will be omissions and errors in the circulation list but you will have the opportunity to amend school specific information and add, amend and delete users as necessary.

Schools that wish to manage minor capital work projects themselves will need to purchase a licence for the full Statlog Software Package. Once a school's retained consultant has completed their required tasks and a statutory compliance management regime is implemented, the SBM will be given permission procure minor capital projects from approved contractors, without the oversight of external consultants. This facility will save schools a significant amount of money.

Minor work projects to address Planned and Reactive Maintenance etc. range from approximately £20,000.00 to £250,000.00. Fees at 12% on therefore range between £2,400.00 and £30,000.00. The fees for Statlog range between £1,440.00 + VAT for a 1FE Primary School to £1,970.00 + VAT for a Large (1200+ Pupils) Secondary School.


Academies seeking Diocesan Trustee Approval for their Capital Works in 2020/21 and VA Schools wishing to be considered for VASCA in 2021/22 are encourage to purchase a Statlog Licence as soon as possible. Statlog is Software and can be purchased using the School's Revenue Account (thus saving the VAT).

Statlog can be accessed via: <https://www.statlog.co.uk/>

UK Government & DfE Updates and links;

Maintaining Educational Provision for Vulnerable and Key Worker Children:

1. **Help Primary school children continue their education:** https://www.gov.uk/guidance/help-primary-school-children-continue-their-education-during-coronavirus-covid-19?utm_source=b0838257-848b-4d77-b72f-37767d087fd1&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=govuk-notifications&utm_content=immediate
2. **Supporting your children's education through coronavirus:** https://www.gov.uk/guidance/supporting-your-childrens-education-during-coronavirus-covid-19?utm_source=cab989cd-0d5a-4ac7-9145-6445159c785f&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=govuk-notifications&utm_content=immediate
3. **Helping children with SEND continue their education :** https://www.gov.uk/guidance/help-children-with-send-continue-their-education-during-coronavirus-covid-19?utm_source=2e5b55a3-a70c-4ef9-9d11-f63b6d452437&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=govuk-notifications&utm_content=immediate
4. **Sensory project resources:** <http://www.thesensoryprojects.co.uk/covid19-resources>
5. **Amazon** are offering free coding resources for all age groups in co- ordination with Fire Tech Camp available at: <https://www.amazonfutureengineer.co.uk/>

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6. **Stem Learning** have updated their COVID resources including a Q and A video from Tim Peake on life as an Astronaut resources all age ranges on website for STEM subjects: <https://www.stem.org.uk/>

Launch of the Oak National Academy online classroom and resource hub

The sector-led Oak National Academy has today launched its online classroom and resource hub. The Academy offers 180 video lessons each week for schools to use, across a broad range of subjects. The lessons cover children in Reception through to Year 10 and are free to use by both teachers and young people.

The Oak National Academy can be accessed here:
<https://www.thenational.academy/>

Launch of BBC Bitesize

The BBC has today launched an education package across TV and online, featuring celebrities and teachers, helping to keep children learning at home and supporting parents.

BBC Bitesize can be accessed here:
<https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize>

Get help with technology and remote education during coronavirus (COVID-19)

Following the announcement by the Secretary of State for Education on Sunday 19 April, laptops and tablets will be made available to help the most disadvantaged young people access online learning and social care services. Young people and families eligible for devices must not already have access to one, and must be in one of the following groups:

- Children with a social worker

- Care leavers

- Disadvantaged children in Year 10, ahead of sitting their GCSEs next year

Responsible bodies will need to work with schools to identify eligible young people, and then place an order through our website when it launches later this week. Where care leavers, children with a social worker at secondary school and disadvantaged children do not have an internet connection, they will also receive a 4G router.

Schools will be able to keep these devices once they've reopened, allowing children and young people to continue to learn and receive support at home in the future.

Any 16 to 19-year olds in education without a suitable device and/or connectivity to study remotely and whose family can't afford these costs will also be eligible for support via the 16-19 Bursary Fund. Decisions on support will be made by education providers.

Funding and financial support for education, early years and children's social care

We have published guidance that sets out the financial support that is available for different types of education, early years and children's social care providers in England.



This guidance can be found here:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/coronavirus-covid-19-financial-support-for-education-early-years-and-childrens-social-care>

Special educational needs and disability (SEND) risk assessment guidance

We have published guidance on risk assessment for settings supporting children and young people with an education, health and care plan during the coronavirus (COVID-19) outbreak.

The guidance can be found here:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/coronavirus-covid-19-send-risk-assessment-guidance>

Guidance for schools on safeguarding and remote education during coronavirus (COVID-19)

We have published guidance to help schools and teachers understand how to follow safeguarding procedures when teaching remotely during the coronavirus (COVID-19) outbreak.

This guidance can be found here:

<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/safeguarding-and-remote-education-during-coronavirus-covid-19>

Guidance for parents and carers on supporting their children's education during coronavirus (COVID-19)

We have published information, guidance and support for parents and carers of children who are learning at home during the coronavirus (COVID-19) outbreak.

Guidance on helping children aged 2 to 4 learn at home can be found here:

<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/help-children-aged-2-to-4-to-learn-at-home-during-coronavirus-covid-19>

Guidance on helping primary school aged children learn at home can be found here:

<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/help-primary-school-children-continue-their-education-during-coronavirus-covid-19>

Guidance on helping children with special educational needs and disabilities learn at home can be found here:


<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/help-children-with-send-continue-their-education-during-coronavirus-covid-19>

Updated guidance for parents and carers on the closure of educational settings

The guidance for parents and carers on the closure of educational settings has been updated with additional information on the support available for parents, online educational resources and support for vulnerable children.

The guidance can be found here:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/closure-of-educational-settings-information-for-parents-and-carers>



Guidance on supporting vulnerable children and young people during the coronavirus (COVID-19) outbreak
The guidance for education settings and local authorities on supporting vulnerable children and young people has been updated. This update includes clarification to the existing guidance on attendance.

This guidance can be found here:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/coronavirus-covid-19-guidance-on-vulnerable-children-and-young-people>

The information below has not changed since yesterday.

Department for Education coronavirus helpline

The Department for Education coronavirus helpline is available to answer questions about COVID-19 relating to education and children's social care. Staff, parents and young people can contact this helpline as follows:

Phone: 0800 046 8687

Opening hours:

8am to 6pm – Monday to Friday

10am to 4pm – Saturday and Sunday

If you work in a school, please have your unique reference number (URN or UK PRN) available when calling the hotline.


School Admission Appeal Code Guidance

The DfE has now provided an update to say that in light of the current COVID-19 pandemic a number of organisations have contacted them asking for advice regarding school admission appeals. In particular, how to overcome the challenges posed by social distancing to in person appeal hearings.

In response to these queries the Department is currently drafting urgent temporary regulation measures which will disapply certain elements of the School Admission Appeal Code. The aim of the regulations is to give admissions authorities as much flexibility as possible to manage appeals in a way that best suits their local circumstance. It is anticipated that the regulatory changes will come into force on the 24 April 2020.

Specifically, the new regulations, which will be in force until 31 January 2021, will:

- Disapply the requirement that appeal panels must be held in person and instead give flexibility for the panel hearing to take place either in person, by telephone, video conference or through paper-based appeals where all parties can make representations in writing;
- Relax the rules with regards to what happens if one of the three panel members withdraws (temporarily or permanently) to make it permissible for the panel to continue with and conclude the panel as a panel of two; and
- Amend the deadlines relating to appeals for the time that the new regulations are in force.



It has, however, been highlighted by the Department that the regulations will not remove any of the clerking duties for admissions appeals. In addition, parents will retain the right to lodge a maladministration complaint if they are unhappy with the way their appeal has been administered.

The regulations are currently pending Parliamentary approval. The CES will provide a further update once the regulations and guidance are available.

In advance of Primary National Offer Day we hope that this information about the forthcoming regulations will assist you in providing guidance to your schools about planning for upcoming appeals.

The full announcement with additional information on the proposals is available at <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/admission-appeals-for-school-places/coronavirus-covid-19-school-admission-appeals>

Legal Advice Updates

Winckworth Sherwood have offered advice to schools. See the link below:

[Winckworth Sherwood Business Continuity Statement in response to COVID-19](#)

BrowneJacobson has now produced a free toolkit for governing bodies and academy trusts regarding what to do re employment matters during the lockdown. This covers many frequently asked questions including furloughing of staff, what do regarding wraparound and nursery staff, temporary staff, recruitment and dealing with unions.

<https://www.brownejacobson.com/education/training-and-resources/legal-updates/2020/04/coronavirus-employer-toolkit-for-schools-and-academies>