

# Diocese of Westminster Education Service

## Witness to the Word:

## School Bulletin 13.05.20

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 Beatitude Resources

Each fortnight, we are concentrating on a beatitude which links to the liturgical year. In preparation for Laudato Si week, our theme for the last fortnight has been '*Blessed are the Gentle*'. This week, in line with Pope Francis' call to people of all nations to pray on 14<sup>th</sup> May, it is '*Blessed are the Peacemakers*'. See resources

- '*Blessed are the Peacemakers*' PowerPoint for Primary
- '*Blessed are the Peacemakers*' PowerPoint for Secondary

<https://education.rcdow.org.uk/pandemic-support-the-beatitudes-resources-new/>

The Education Service welcomes you and your school community to join us **every Friday at 10.30am to recite a decade of the Rosary**. Please find attached the link for this week's Rosary upload to our You Tube channel.

PHONE

FAX

WEB



Please find attached the link for this week's Rosary upload to our You Tube channel.


<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=fur6IQI5GTk>

## Our Witness to Faith

In trying to discern spiritually what we have to endure at the moment it can feel overwhelming at times. Sr Gemma Simmonds CJ, Director of the Religious Life Institute at the Margaret Beaufort Institute in Cambridge, has powerfully summed it up very well. She said, "All intellectual attempts to reconcile God and suffering flounder when we deal with events like the Covid-19 pandemic. No rational argument can provide a satisfactory answer to the question of why it has come upon us. The insights of scripture point to God as unknowable but also at work in us through the power of the Spirit, giving the power for our inner self to grow strong. Christ continues to be crucified in and by the world. If there is an approach, rather than an answer, to the problem of the plague, Pope Francis tells us that it is found through conversion based on reconnection with our real surroundings, coherence in our beliefs and genuine love of one another. St Ignatius's Contemplation for Attaining Love, he points out, is based on remembering. Suffering can become a route to union when we re-member, reconnecting and reuniting ourselves in love with Jesus, the crucified and Risen Saviour, and with our crucified brothers and sisters."

It falls on all of us to ask how the extreme situation that we are living through can change us, individually and collectively, says Mauricio López Oropeza, Executive Secretary of REPAM <https://redamazonica.org/en/> Through this pandemic we are invited to a conversion in which we learn to embrace our fragility, interconnection and mystery, 'just as in these Easter days the meaning of Jesus's death and passion is a passage to the promised new life of the resurrection. Writing recently in *Thinking Faith* he stated the following:

1. Awareness of our own fragility and finiteness as a starting point, so that we create and recreate the new from our limited being. Many cultures and traditions can show us how to turn our backs on societies centered on consumption and unlimited accumulation, on market economies that swallow up human beings, and on a vision of an unlimited planet that we must destroy. We must end the 'throw-away culture' in order to weave a culture of sobriety and solidarity, which will arise from the awareness of our own fragility.
2. Awareness of our undeniable interconnection. Never before has society realised that we are absolutely intertwined. A tiny virus has shaken us from the illusion that each one of us is enough for him- or herself, or that I can remain isolated without taking responsibility for the consequences of my acts (or omissions) with respect to the lives of others. Nature has always cried at us, trying to communicate this interrelationship and the fragile balance in ecosystems. The potential new post-Covid-19 society will have to be sustained by existential ties that allow us to rethink all relationships, institutions and structures, otherwise we will again be at the mercy of the next pandemic, even more fragile in our capacity for resilience.
3. Awareness of mystery as the energy that sustains everything. No one can save him- or herself, and in the darkness of these days the most essential search of many is for a profound encounter. Beyond the particular religions, embracing all



of what is positive and valuable in each one of them, we are called to create new conditions for a planetary spirituality rooted in communion, co-responsibility, otherness and the capacity of contemplation of God's presence in all.

## **Laudato Si' Week – 16<sup>th</sup> to 24<sup>th</sup> May**

Laudato Si' Week honours the fifth anniversary of Pope Francis' encyclical on care for our common home. The theme of the week is "everything is connected." This week launches a year-long journey of transformation, as we grow through the crisis of the current moment by praying, reflecting, and preparing together for a better world to come tomorrow.

Following Pope Francis' invitation to join Laudato Si' Week, Catholics everywhere will reflect and prepare for action 16-24 May. We'll put our preparation into action during the Season of Creation this September, when Pope Francis has invited Catholics to pray and act for our common home. See <https://laudatosiweek.org/>

<https://www.vaticannews.va/en/church/news/2020-05/covid-19-faithful-respond-to-popes-invitation-to-pray-may-14.html>

For other support on Laudato Si, including an inspirational article written by the Good Shepherd Primary School in Hammersmith, see our Teaching and Learning Week 8 Resources:

## **Teaching & Learning in RE:**


Included with this bulletin is the following:

- Article on Laudato Si – Good Shepherd
- Laudato Si links
- Saints of the Environment PowerPoint
- Saints of the Environment
- Prayers for our Earth
- Beatitude Examination of Conscience

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

Recently the **Catholic Children Society** have collaborated with the World Community for Christian Meditation (WCCM) to develop videos which provide short meditation sessions which children and young people can participate in, whether in school or based at home. These sessions are inspired by meditation in the tradition of John Main OSB and the CCS are grateful for the support of Father Laurence Freeman OSB in developing these.

Full details are available here: [https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC6Cb5LrAIU7\\_MPTRDMUBcvQ?view\\_as=subscriber](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC6Cb5LrAIU7_MPTRDMUBcvQ?view_as=subscriber)

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- 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>
  - The Jesuit Pray as You Go site has changed to Pray as you Stay <https://pray-as-you-go.org>

## **Support for Mental Health – Building Resilience**

Included with this bulletin is the following:

Young Minds is a charity aimed at supporting the mental health of young people within the UK. Its mission is to make sure all young people get the best possible mental health support and have the resilience to overcome life's challenges.

**Building Pupil Resilience in Schools** [Click Here](#) (Young Minds approach to building pupil resilience within school.)

**The Resilient Classroom** - [Click Here](#) (A Resource Pack for Tutor Groups and Pastoral School Staff)

**What is academic resilience?** [Click Here](#) (A factsheet on academic resilience)

**Resilience Framework** - [Click Here](#) (A framework summarising evidence-based practices that promote resilience. It was developed by Prof. Angie Hart and Dr. Derek Blincow, with help from Helen Thomas and a group of parents and practitioners.)

**Which pupils are we talking about?** [Click Here](#) (A resource to support schools to have a greater positive impact for the most disadvantaged pupils.)

**Introducing Academic Resilience PowerPoint** [Click Here](#) (A presentation introducing Academic Resilience, why it matters and some things schools can try to ensure so that students achieve good educational outcomes despite adversity.)

**Resilience Audit Process Tool** [Click Here](#) (This tool demonstrates how to use an audit approach to develop within a school. The Audit tool brings together ideas about what could be improved or introduced within a school to promote academic resilience.)

**Pyramid of Need** [Click Here](#) (A tool to help identify levels of risk and needs of children and young people by using pupil data.)

**Fostering Academic Resilience: A brief review of evidence.** [Click Here](#) (A paper by Professor Angie Hart and Ms Steph Green, University of Brighton and Boingboing Social Enterprise reviewing the evidence and impact of focusing on a whole school resilience approach.)


**Academic Resilience for children and young people with learning difficulties** [Click Here](#) (These slides are developed to be used with children and young people with learning difficulties to help build their resilience.)

**Resilience in children, the family and the community** [Click Here](#) (A resource listing the protective factors for children in themselves, their family and the community.)

**Ideas for Resilience Assembly stories** [Click Here](#) (A document with suggestions for some stories that can be used in school assemblies to promote resilience.)

**School Resilience Survey Guide** [Click Here](#) (This survey guide will help you gather ideas from pupils, parents, staff and others in the school community and put plans in place to boost Academic Resilience.)

**Senior Leadership Team Audit Tool** [Click Here](#) (A tool for Senior Leadership Teams to carry out an audit of their school and find ways to improve resilience throughout the whole school.)



**School Staff Resilience Survey Guide** [Click Here](#) (A survey guide to help Senior Leadership Teams to gather information about how their staff are developing their own resilience.)

**Staff Audit Tool** [Click Here](#) (A tool for all school staff to carry out an audit of their school and find ways to improve resilience throughout the whole school.)

**How do I improve results through academic resilience?** [Click Here](#) (A resource showing how you can improve results through Academic Resilience.)

**Boingboing** – About the organisation

Boingboing provides opportunities to learn about resilience. We run regular [Resilience Forums](#), develop [Resilience Frameworks](#), [books and other materials](#), and offer [training](#) and [talks](#) on resilient approaches to life's challenges. We are currently involved in several [research projects](#), including some on [schools-based](#) or '[academic](#)' [resilience](#). Skip right now to the free suite of resources to help schools develop [academic resilience](#) which Professor [Angie Hart](#) produced with [Lisa Williams](#) with input from various other individuals and organisations, especially YoungMinds, Hove Park School and Eleanor Smith School.

**Resilience Resources for Schools** - [Click Here](#)

**Academic Resilience Resource Directory** [Click Here](#)

**West Sussex CAMHS and School Attendance Project**

Emotional Resilience Toolkit [Click Here](#) (A *resilience* tool kit aimed at providing information for child welfare professionals, *schools* and others who are striving to ensure positive outcomes for children.)

**Reach Out** – About the organisation

Reach Out is an online mental health service for young people and their parents in Australia. It provided self-help information, peer-support program and referral tools to help young people be well and stay well. It offers information to parents to make it easier for them to help their teenagers.

**Resilience Resources for Schools** - [Click Here](#)

**The Resilience Institute** – About the organisation

The Resilience Institute was founded in 2002. Its mission is to deliver high impact, practical, evidence-based and integrated Resilience training by bringing together modern preventative medicine, positive psychology, emotional intelligence, and neuroscience.

**Resilience Animations for children and young people** [Click Here](#) (30 animations highlighting key skills and behaviours that support or risk our resilience and wellbeing.)

**Public Health England** [Click Here](#) (Local action on health inequalities: Building children and young people's resilience in schools)

## Staff Training in promoting resilience in schools

**Catholic Children's Society** [Click Here](#) (Through the ConnectEd Mental Health Services, the Catholic Children's Society deliver a range of training sessions for schools staff, with the aim of helping to enhance their skills to identify and support children in the area of mental health and well-being.)

**Anne Freud Centre** [Click Here](#) (Promoting the resilience of children and young people in schools. The training will explore the role schools and colleges can play, in supporting the resilience of its children and young people.)

**Bounce Forward** [Click Here](#) Bounce Forward is a UK a charity involved in advocating resilience as the key to personal development of students. The charity provides a range of training opportunities in teaching resilience within schools.

**Young Minds** [Click Here](#) (Building resilience Training)

**The Resilience Doughnut** [Click Here](#) (The Resilience Doughnut is a practical, research-validated model being used around the world to build the emotional resilience and wellbeing of children, adolescents and adults.)

**Mindset UK** - [Click Here](#) (Mindset UK's mission is to help bring confidence and resilience to every aspect of your world so you can live a fulfilling and purposeful life.)

**Worth It** [Click Here](#) (A community Interest Company supporting the application of evidence-based approaches that build positive mental health in children and young people.)

## Capital

### VASCA 2020/21

On Thursday 7<sup>th</sup> May, the Capital Strategy Committee of the Education Commission convened to review and confirm initial allocations. As previously confirmed, the 2020/21 VASCA allocation to the Diocese of Westminster is £10,406,563.78 (Quoted at 100%). The 90% Grant, the amount of real money to be transferred to the Diocese, is £9,365,907.40.

The committee resolved:

- To reserve £500,000.00 as a contingency for emergency works that might present later in the financial year.
- To reserve an additional £500,000.00 as a COVID-19 safety net.
- To assign £1,271,931.78 in support of 11 previously approved projects (details below)
- To assign £7,023,690.00 in support of 33 new projects (details below)
- To retain £1,110,942.00 for a second wave of allocations in the Autumn Term

The figures quoted above are VASCA 100%

## Support for Previously Approved Work

The 11 Projects in this Subset are:

URN	School	Postcode	Project Title
100048	St Joseph Catholic Primary School	WC2B 5NA	Boundary Wall Remedial Works to Safeguard Pupil Entrance
100048	Our Lady Catholic Primary School	NW1 0DP	Provision of Temporary Building to Provide Additional Group Teaching Space
100503	All Saints College	W10 63L	Phase Two H&S Repairs, Windows and Science Lab Refurbishment
100503	St Thomas More Language School	SW3 2QS	Calorifier Replacement
101337	St Joseph Catholic Primary School	NW4 4TY	Roof Refurbishment and Associated Works
102422	Botwell House	UB3 2AB	Hall and Kitchen Extension
102545	Gunnersbury	TW8 9LB	Emergency Replacement of Boilers
117481	Holy Family Catholic Primary School	AL7 1PG	Urgent Drainage Repair Works
131936	St Mary & St Michael Catholic Primary School	E1 0BD	Boiler Replacement & Associated Works
133669	St Dominic Catholic Primary School	E9 5SR	Replacement of Dilapidated Temporary Building
139121	St Richard Reynolds Catholic College	TW1 4LT	Sports Hall Replacement Flooring and Associated Works

## Support for New Capital Works

The 33 Projects in this Subset are:

URN	School	Postcode	Project title
100357	St Thomas of Canterbury Catholic Primary School	SW6 7HB	Proposed roof covering replacement phase 2
100491	Oratory Catholic Primary School	SW3 6QH	Urgent parapet wall rebuilding and associated reroofing
100494	Saint Francis of Assisi Catholic Primary School	W11 4BJ	Safeguarding & educational therapy unit
100499	Saint Mary's Catholic Primary School	W10 5AW	Urgent, life expired boilers, flue and controls replacement
100500	Servite Catholic Primary School	SW10 9NA	Legionella compliance works: hot and cold water services phase 2
101331	Our Lady of Lourdes Catholic School	N12 0JP	Urgent fire precautions upgrade to address deficiency and enhance life and building protection
101333	St Catherine's Catholic School	EN5 2ED	Caretakers house remodelling (strategic development)
101338	Sacred Heart Catholic Primary School	N20 9JU	Changing room roof and associated repairs
101361	St Michael's Catholic Grammar School	N12 7NJ	Replacement of boilers and hot water services junior building
101544	Convent of Jesus and Mary Catholic Infant School	NW2 5AN	Urgent replacement of failed pitched (main building) and flat (chapel) roof covering in very poor condition
101920	Our Lady of the Visitation Catholic Primary School	UB6 9AN	Urgent fire compartmentation upgrade at ks1 & ks2 corridors and stairwell (high risk 2-storey and / or single escape situations)
101922	St Anselm's Catholic Primary School	UB2 4BH	Urgent main boiler room refurbishment
102039	St Monica's Catholic Primary School	N14 7HE	Asbestos removal, roofing & associated works

102142	Our Lady of Muswell Catholic Primary School	N10 1PS	Urgent replacement of life expired school heating distribution system already partially failed
102144	St Ignatius Catholic Primary School	N15 6ND	Replacement of main building (campion) boilers
102150	St Martin of Porres Catholic Primary School	N11 2AF	Urgent fire precautions upgrade â€” phase 2
102151	St Gildas' Catholic Junior School	N8 9EP	Whole block refurbishment to improve condition & teaching facilities
102421	St Swithun Wells Catholic Primary School	HA4 9HS	Urgent fire precautions and fire compartmentation upgrade
102423	St Bernadette Catholic Primary School	UB10 0EH	Urgent refurbishment of life expired and unsafe kitchen facility to prevent imminent closure due to very poor condition
102424	St Catherine Catholic Primary School	UB7 7NX	Urgent life expired roof covering replacement - phase 2
102527	St Lawrence Catholic Primary School	TW13 4FF	Urgent replacement of life expired and unsound ks2 temporary class base accommodation
117466	St Teresa Catholic Primary School	WD6 5HL	Boiler room, pipe distribution replacement and associated works
117470	St Adrian Catholic Primary School	AL1 2PB	Safeguarding lobby front extension
117488	Sacred Heart Catholic Primary School and Nursery	WD23 1SU	Flat roof renewal - phase 1
117492	St Paul's Catholic Primary School	EN7 6LR	Safeguarding improvements & associated work
117493	Sacred Heart Catholic Primary School	SG12 9HY	Urgent boiler / plant and gas safety (incl. Kitchen compliance works)
117495	St Anthony's Catholic Primary School	WD18 6BW	D1 priority roofing works
117498	Saint Vincent de Paul Catholic Primary School	SG1 1NJ	Urgent legionella safety compliance works
117594	Saint Mary's Catholic School	CM23 2NQ	Strategic development and redevelopment of block for technology
125214	St Ignatius Catholic Primary School	TW16 6QG	Emergency lighting, lighting & associated works
125215	Our Lady of the Rosary Catholic Primary School	TW18 2EF	Urgent life expired flat roofcovering replacement to the main school building â€” phase 2
131936	St Mary and St Michael Primary School	E1 0BD	Hot water flow and return and cold-water services and low temperature heating pipework, radiators and coils
133288	St Elizabeth Catholic Primary School	E2 9JY	Condition works to heating distribution system and built fabric
137569	The Holy Family Catholic Primary School	W3 0DY	Urgent, life expired gas absorption heat pumps and controls replacement (heating plant)

On Friday 15<sup>th</sup> May 2020, the initial funding allocations for the above-named projects will be formally announced via Statlog. Recipient schools are requested to logon at the earliest opportunity in order to:


- a) confirm local funding contributions, including the required governors 10%, and
- b) Confirm the Governors' retained Building Consultant

Once the offer has been accepted, the designated building consultant will be automatically notified of the project and invited to progress to tender as soon as possible.

In most instances, a small amount of funding will be assigned to the 2021/22 VASCA account. This is in order to ensure that there is sufficient funding to meet the final contractual payments following the end of the defects liability period.

This year, all new start projects are to be fully resourced from the outset. This strategy is designed to eliminate the additional costs associated with the historical phased investment plan that resulted in contractors returning to the same school year after year.





During the next 12 months, diocesan office is in consultation with the professional consultants employed by our schools will formulate an asset management plan that will give a clear indication of proposed investments during the period 2021/22 to 2023/24. In drafting this plan, school colleagues will be provided with a clear indication that timetable for any proposed works at this school. This will also enable governing bodies sufficient time to raise the 10% contributions necessary for voluntary aided Capital Works.

### **Priority School Building Programme**

Project managers continue to monitor the progress of schools in this scheme. Some contractors are able to make headway whilst ensuring social distancing.

### **Demographic Survey (Project 2020)**

Our work with 1<sup>st</sup> Planner is progressing and we will shortly be asked to complete phase one (Charter). This is when all the data gathered over the last few weeks is presented to the principle stakeholders in the Diocese. At that time, we anticipate that the project team will be authorised to move on to phase two and undertake more detailed analysis of the schools within the designated pilot areas.

### **Statlog**

By the end of this week, all schools should have received their login credentials for Statlog. Please check that the correct personnel are included in the list of contacts for your school and make corrections as possible.

Please carefully consider which staff and governors need access. We are anticipating the following:

- Governors (1 or 2): Chair and Chair of Premises
- School: Head, 1 Deputy or Assistant Head, 1 SBM and 1 SPM

All Diocesan approved Building Consultants have been informed that there will not be a VASCA bidding process this year. Priority projects will be identified using the date there has been uploaded to Statlog by your consultants. Building consultants will be offered access to Statlog training in order to ensure that they are fully equipped to support the introduction of this new coordinated system.

In order to allow sufficient time for all voluntary aided schools to register with Statlog and ensure that their data is up to date, decisions relating to the assignment of funding in 2021/22 will not take place until February 2021.

Evidence from Statlog will be used by diocesan officers when assuring the DfE of the legitimacy of Capital Expenditure. This includes formal confirmation of the expressed consent of the landowner. To help us provide a cohesive response, please ensure that any planned capital work, using DFC or Voluntary Funds is registered on Statlog. Within the next few weeks, we will be offering online training opportunities for school leaders, business managers and governors to facilitate the transition to Statlog.

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:**

#### **Summary of the plans to re-open schools on 1 June 2020 contained in government guidance**


It is the government's intention to partially re-open schools, provided that the 5 key tests set by the government justify this, from 1 June 2020 for certain year groups/provision. Schools are being asked to plan for re-opening on this basis now ahead of confirmation that the 5 tests have been met.

#### **The key elements of the plans to re-open are as follows:**

- It will no longer be necessary for parents of eligible children to keep them at home if they can. This means that children of key workers and vulnerable children are encouraged to attend school where appropriate.
- Schools will be open for the following pupils from 1 June 2020:
  - Nursery, Reception, Year 1 and Year 6.
  - Some face-to-face tuition should be provided for pupils in Years 10 and 12 though this will not be full time. Further guidance is expected on this issue.
  - Special schools, post-16 institutions and hospital schools are to welcome back more pupils, but they are not required to prioritise any specific year groups.
  - Alternative provision – reception, Year 1 and Year 6 to return full time. Years 10 and 11 are to have some face-to-face contact.
  - At Further Education colleges some face-to-face contact should be provided to those in the equivalent of Years 10 and 12. Again, further guidance is expected.
  - Parents will not be fined for non-attendance and schools will not be held to account for attendance levels.
  - The aim is that the remaining primary age pupils will return to school for around a month before the end of the summer term
- Children and staff who are classified as clinically extremely vulnerable due to pre-existing medical conditions have been advised to shield and will not be expected to attend.
- Parents of children who are clinically vulnerable should seek medical advice on whether it is appropriate for them to attend. Staff who are clinically vulnerable should also seek medical advice in order to determine whether it is appropriate for them to return to work.
- Children and staff who live with someone who is clinically extremely vulnerable should only attend where stringent social distancing can be enforced.
- Children and staff who live with someone who is clinically vulnerable (including pregnant women) can attend.
- All staff and pupils will be eligible for testing if they develop symptoms.

#### **The government has also provided guidance on the appropriateness of PPE which is as follows:**

- The wearing of facemasks or other coverings is not recommended. However, they may be beneficial for short periods indoors where the risk of close contact is very high (i.e. on public transport).

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- Face coverings should not be worn by those who may not be able to handle them such as young children or disabled pupils.
  - Most staff will not require PPE even if they cannot always stay 2 metres away from others.
  - PPE will be required when staff are responsible for intimate care needs of pupils.
  - PPE will also be required if a learner becomes unwell whilst at school and is awaiting being taken home. In this instance a facemask will be necessary if a 2-metre distance cannot be kept. Gloves, aprons and facemasks should be worn if contact is required with the symptomatic individual.
  - PPE should be acquired through local supply chains.

**The government has also provided additional operational advice which includes:**

- Undertaking a risk assessment
- Limits on class and group sizes
- Reorganisation of classrooms to maintain safe spaces
- Reviewing and refreshing timetables to minimise contact between groups. The guidance confirms that schools will not be penalised if they are unable to offer a broad and balanced curriculum to their pupils during this period
- Consideration of drop off and collection practices
- Communication and consultation with staff, parents, carers and visitors.
- The Government has confirmed that it will work with the profession to provide further detailed guidance in the coming weeks.

## **Recruitment**

The Department has now issued guidance in relation to recruitment as part of its general Covid-19 advice which covers the points we made in our last update, including in relation to notice periods. The advice can be accessed by following this link:

[https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/covid-19-school-closures?utm\\_source=e2370cff-637a-4f13-8694-04ca86c2aed8&utm\\_medium=email&utm\\_campaign=govuk-notifications&utm\\_content=immediate](https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/covid-19-school-closures?utm_source=e2370cff-637a-4f13-8694-04ca86c2aed8&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=govuk-notifications&utm_content=immediate)

## **Arrangements in relation to Newly Qualified Teachers**

The government has issued guidance in relation to NQTs and the impact of the Coronavirus to support the implementation of The Education (School Teachers' Qualifications and Induction Arrangements) (England) (Coronavirus) (Amendment) Regulations 2020 which come into force on 21 May 2020. NQTs who are currently completing their statutory induction period will be able to complete it this academic year as expected provided that they meet the Teachers' Standards. The guidance can be found by following this link:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/coronavirus-covid-19-induction-for-newly-qualified-teachers/covid-19-induction-for-newly-qualified-teachers-guidance>



## **EHCP Revised Timescales**

Guidance has been issued to support The Special Educational Needs and Disability (Coronavirus) (Amendment) Regulations 2020 which come into force today. These regulations allow for temporary changes to some aspects of the law on education, health and care needs assessments and plans to enable local authorities, health commissioning bodies and education settings to contribute to those processes more flexibly in response to the issues that have arisen during the Coronavirus pandemic. The guidance can be found by following this link:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/changes-to-the-law-on-education-health-and-care-needs-assessments-and-plans-due-to-coronavirus/education-health-and-care-needs-assessments-and-plans-guidance-on-temporary-legislative-changes-relating-to-coronavirus-covid-19>

## **Admission Appeals**

Please find attached our advice in relation to school admission appeals during Coronavirus which takes into account the regulations referred to in our last update.

## **Governors' Terms of Office**

The Department has not issued any further advice in this regard at this stage.

## **Temporary Pupils Guidance**

The Department has made an amendment to the School Attendance Guidance for Schools to make it clear that pupils attending schools on a temporary basis remain on the roll at their original school. The guidance can be accessed by following this link:

[https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/school-attendance?utm\\_source=deb0ca87-2a2e-45a3-bf8e-f9900890bcef&utm\\_medium=email&utm\\_campaign=govuk-notifications&utm\\_content=immediate](https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/school-attendance?utm_source=deb0ca87-2a2e-45a3-bf8e-f9900890bcef&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=govuk-notifications&utm_content=immediate)

## **Vaccination Trial Request**

The St George's Vaccine Institute is looking for healthy volunteers to participate in a COVID-19 vaccine trial. This study is open to staff and members of the public, and aims to find a safe vaccine that can be used to create immune responses against the virus, and thus prevent the disease.

Staff and members of the public would be welcome to apply - if you are aged 18-55 and in good health, you could be eligible to participate. The study involves 4 visits to the institute - based within **St George's, University of London** - over a period of 6 months, and volunteers will be reimbursed up to £190 for their time, travel and contribution to the trial.

<https://covid19vaccinetrial.co.uk/volunteer>



## 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>



## DfE Guidance

### DfE Guidance

Please see below DfE guidance that has been issued recently which you may have missed:

- Actions for HE providers during the coronavirus outbreak – published 4 May 2020  
<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/actions-for-he-providers-during-the-coronavirus-outbreak>
- Remote education during coronavirus (COVID-19) – updated 5 May 2020  
<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/remote-education-during-coronavirus-covid-19>
- Coronavirus (COVID-19): travel advice for educational settings – updated 5 May 2020  
<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/coronavirus-covid-19-travel-advice-for-educational-settings>
- Coronavirus (COVID 19): online education resources – updated 6 May 2020  
<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/coronavirus-covid-19-online-education-resources>
- Actions for FE colleges and providers during the coronavirus outbreak – updated 7 May 2020  
<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/coronavirus-covid-19-maintaining-further-education-provision>
- Conducting a SEND risk assessment during the coronavirus outbreak – updated 7 May 2020  
<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/coronavirus-covid-19-send-risk-assessment-guidance#history>