

Diocese of Westminster Education Service

Witness to the Word:

School Bulletin 03.06.20

Dear Colleague in Catholic Education,

The Education Service every Wednesday provides schools with a wide variety of materials, resources, advice and updates on all matters relating to our schools and colleges. The content of these Bulletins are for Headteachers, Senior Leaders, Teaching Staff, Governors, Clergy and anyone who you feel would benefit from them. Please feel free to share widely.

Objectives of the Education Service during Coronavirus (Covid-19) pandemic from June to July 2020

- To support and training for 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.

Subject Content Today

1. RE & Catholic Life Update	Page 2
2. Pope's Message for Thy Kingdom Come 2020	Page 4
3. Mike Pittendreigh Updates	Page 5
4. Certificate of Catholic Practice Update from the CES	Page 6
5. Capital and Pupil Placement Planning updates	Page 8
6. UK Government & DfE Updates	Page 10
7. School Admission Appeal Code Guidance.....	Page 13
8. DfE Guidance documents	Page 14

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

PHONE

FAX

WEB

RE & Catholic Life Update

SLACK

Please remember to visit our sharing platform, SLACK. Please contact Diana Roberts (Primary) dianaroberts@rcdow.org.uk or Claire O'Neill (Secondary) claireoneill@rcdow.org.uk if you require access. There are a multitude of resources to support you with not only RE, but also prayer, worship and the wider Catholic Life.

Spiritual Resources

Weekly Rosary – please find below the link to our YouTube channel – Diocese of Westminster Education Service.
https://youtu.be/A_KNTufaL04

Beatitude Resource – please find the powerpoint for each presentation attached. You can also access on our website too at the link below.

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

15 Prayers during school closures ... and school re-openings

During this uncertain time for schools, Ten Ten Resources has produced and re-produced a series of prayers which you may like to use in school with your pupils as they return to the classroom.

Based on prayers produced by the Catholic Church, the Church of England and from various other sources, the prayers can freely accessed by the following the links below.

<https://www.tentenresources.co.uk/primary-subscription/prayers-for-home/15-prayers/>

Mental Health

Each week we will focus on one aspect of mental health and provide signposting to useful resources. This week our theme is Building Resilience. Please find what we hope to be useful links below:

Mentally Healthy Schools:

- Tools for Managing Emotions [Click Here](#) (A set of tools designed to help children understand and manage their emotions and feelings, whilst helping them to stay calm and in control within the classroom.)
- Resilience Ladder [Click Here](#) (A resource to teach children about resilience and the steps they may need to take to achieve their goals.)
- Resilience Game [Click Here](#) (An easy to use board game exploring some common scenarios that children may face in their daily lives either at home or at school, and the resilience skills they may need for dealing with them.)

Premier League Primary Stars:

- Home Learning – Resilience. [Click Here](#) (A series of activities about changing attitudes from "I can't" to "I can". These resources, which can be used at home or in school, provide children with opportunities to learn strategies to bounce back and about positive thinking and resilience through the lens of football.)



Sesame Street:

- Building Resilience - [Click Here](#) (A range of video and printable resources from the US children's TV Series Sesame Street)

Positive Psychology:

- Resilience Resources and Games for Primary and Secondary Schools [Click Here](#)

NHS:

- Top Tips for building Resilience [Click Here](#)

Place2Be

- Building Resilience Assembly [Click Here](#)

Young Minds:

- Building Resilience Resources for Schools [Click Here](#)
- 10 ways for parents to help their children cope with change [Click Here](#) (10 simple tips for parents and carers to help their children cope with change.)

Mind Ed for Families:

- Building confidence and resilience [Click Here](#) (Advice for parents and carers on helping children deal with change and difficult situations.)

Early Education:

- Helping Children cope with change [Click Here](#) (An article with useful advice for parents and carers of young children on how to support them as they grow.)

Meditation moments with Pope Francis

The Holy Father recently suggested, 'Prayer belongs to everyone: to men and women of every religion, and probably even to those who profess no religion. Prayer is born within the secrecy of our being, in that interior place that spiritual writers often call the "heart".' Take a moment to ponder what is in your heart today, especially during these trying times. Could it be a prayer that you didn't recognise was a prayer? Pope Francis has also spoken of Christian hope as, 'a sail that catches wind and is therefore able to sail out to sea, and new lands, and fresh discoveries'. If we take his idea into our own prayer, can we feel ourselves borne on the winds of the Holy Spirit, sailing outwards to a new place and new joy?

Resources

- The Pope's Worldwide Prayer Network websites: www.popesglobalprayer.net and www.popesprayer.va
- Prayer platform: www.clicktopray.org
- The Pope's video: www.thepopevideo.org (new video released on the first Friday of each month)
- To receive a selection of prayer-cards, including the Daily Prayer Pathway, email: prayernetwork@jesuit.org.uk



Pope's Message for Thy Kingdom Come 2020

Pope Francis said last Sunday that he prays that Christians will be “more deeply united as witnesses of mercy” in the aftermath of the coronavirus pandemic.

The Pope made the comment in a [video message](#) May 31, broadcast during an online Pentecost Sunday service hosted by the Archbishop of Canterbury, Justin Welby, head of the worldwide Anglican Communion.

The Pope said: “Let us ask the Spirit for the gift of unity, for only if we live as brothers and sisters can we spread the spirit of fraternity. We cannot ask others to be united if we ourselves take different paths. So let us pray for one another; let us each feel responsible for the other.”

The papal message was shown during a virtual service connected to the [Thy Kingdom Come](#) movement, which began in 2016 when Welby and the Anglican Archbishop of York, John Sentamu, asked every Church of England parish to pray between Ascension and Pentecost for the evangelization of the world. The following year, Christians in more than 85 countries took part.


On Pentecost Sunday, 31st May 2020, during an online service closing this year's Thy Kingdom Come ecumenical prayers, Pope Francis delivered the following message.

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

With joy, I join Archbishop Justin Welby and all of you to share some thoughts from the heart. This is Pentecost: we celebrate the day on which the Spirit of God came down with power. Since that day, God’s life dwells among us, bringing us new and previously unknown hope, peace and joy. At Pentecost God ‘infected’ the world with life. How different this is from the contagion of death that has ravaged the earth for months now! Today, more than ever, it is necessary to implore the Holy Spirit to pour forth into our hearts the life of God, who is love. Indeed, if there is to be a better future, our hearts must change for the better.

On the day of Pentecost, people who spoke different languages assembled and encountered one another. In these months, however, we have been required to observe appropriate and necessary measures to keep our distance from one another. Yet we have also come to understand, perhaps better, what others are experiencing: we have been brought together by fear and uncertainty. How many troubled and broken hearts are in need of comfort! I think of how, when Jesus spoke about the Holy Spirit, he used a particular word: *Paraclete*, that is, *Comforter*. Many of you have experienced the consolation brought by the Spirit, that inner peace which makes us feel loved, that gentle strength that always inspires courage, even amid suffering. The Spirit assures us that we are not alone, that God sustains us. Dear friends, we must give in turn the gift that we have received: we are called to share the comfort of the Spirit, the *closeness of God*.

How can we do this? Let us think about all those things that we long for: comfort, encouragement, someone to care for us, someone to pray for us, someone to weep with us and help us face our difficulties. Everything we would like others to do for us, let us do for them instead (cf. *Mt* 7:12). Do we want to be heard? Let us first listen. Do we need encouragement? Let us give encouragement. Do we want someone to care for us? Let us care for those who are alone



and abandoned. Do we need hope for tomorrow? Let us give hope today. Today our world is experiencing a tragic *famine of hope*. How much pain is all around us, how much emptiness, how much inconsolable grief! Let us, then, become messengers of the comfort bestowed by the Spirit. Let us radiate hope, and the Lord will open new paths as we journey towards the future.

I would like to share with you something about this journey that we are making together. How greatly I desire that, as Christians, we can be more deeply united as *witnesses of mercy* for the human family so severely tested in these days. Let us ask the Spirit for the gift of unity, for only if we live as brothers and sisters can we spread the spirit of fraternity. We cannot ask others to be united if we ourselves take different paths. So let us pray for one another; let us each feel responsible for the other.

The Holy Spirit bestows wisdom and good counsel. In these days let us invoke his aid upon those charged with making complex and pressing decisions, that they may *defend human life and the dignity of work*. For this is what must be invested in: health, employment, and the elimination of inequalities and poverty. Now as never before we need a vision rich in humanity: we cannot start up again by going back to our selfish pursuit of success without caring about those who are left behind. And even if many are doing precisely that, the Lord is asking us to change course. On the day of Pentecost, Peter spoke with a bold courage (*parrhesia*) prompted by the Spirit. 'Repent' (Acts 2:38), he urged, be converted, change the direction of your lives. That is what we need to do: go back, turn back to God and our neighbour: no longer isolated and anaesthetized before the cry of the poor and the devastation of our planet. We need to be united in facing all those pandemics that are spreading, that of the virus, but also those of hunger, war, contempt for life, and indifference to others. Only by walking together will we be able to go far.

Dear brothers and sisters, you are proclaiming the Gospel message of life and you are a sign of hope. I thank you from my heart. I ask God to bless you and I ask you to pray that he bless me. Thank you.

Mike Pittendreigh Updates

APPRAISAL

The CES have recently updated the model Appraisal Policy. Heads were sent a document detailing the changes which have been made earlier this week. Helpfully, the CES no longer password protect the document. This protection caused much frustration but was aimed at preventing schools making changes which might not be legal. If you intend to change anything substantial in the document, please speak to us before you do it. The CES are now embarking on a revision of the Capability Procedure. More news soon.

The model policy for Appraisal and this can be found by following this link
<https://www.catholiceducation.org.uk/employment-documents/model-policies-and-procedures>



PROBATIONARY CLAUSES ON EMPLOYMENT CONTRACTS

Several headteachers have contacted us asking about the legality of probationary clauses in employment contracts. This is currently very relevant as it is difficult / impossible to see a person teach before employing them. There is a clause which can be added and this can be found at: <http://www.catholiceducation.org.uk/employment-documents/guidance-on-contracts>

However, it is important to proceed with caution. Where a teacher has been employed previously in a maintained school they will have 'continuous service' and a probationary clause cannot be used. If you are certain, please call us and check.

Certificate of Catholic Practice Update from the CES

issued 29.05.20

We have received a number of enquiries about the operation of the Certificate of Catholic Practice in the context of the extraordinary events of this year. In particular, there have been questions whether admission authorities of schools where they use the Certificate of Catholic Practice should make a unilateral decision no longer to require the Certificates this year, whether they should apply for in-year variations, and what instructions, if any, should be given to clergy administering the scheme.

At this stage, the CES advises that there is no reason why the Certificate of Catholic Practice cannot be used by schools that require it in accordance with the existing admission arrangements, and therefore no need for in-year variations of admission arrangements.

For ease of reference, the Bishops' Conference's Certificate of Catholic Practice, and associated guidance for clergy can be found on the CES website:

<https://catholiceducation.org.uk/guidance-for-schools/admissions>

The reasons for this advice are set out below.

1. Applications for secondary transfer (together with the Certificate of Catholic Practice, where required) do not need to be submitted until the 31 October 2020 (for secondary transfer) and 15 January 2021 (for applications to primary school). It is currently too early to predict whether or not churches will remain closed in the Autumn term. We appreciate that, in a normal year, some clergy will make arrangements to issue Certificates well in advance, perhaps even before the Summer holidays. However, this year is not a normal year, and, while tighter than usual, there may well still be a couple of months to put in place mechanisms to identify those seeking a Certificate and to issue them during the Autumn Term. It is therefore too early at this stage to decide there is insufficient time to implement the scheme in something like the normal way.

2. The Bishops' Conference Certificate of Catholic Practice is firmly based on the Church's own discipline relating to Mass attendance. For that reason, question of Mass attendance should not, in principle, be affected by the temporary cessation of the obligation under canon 1247: see the Guidance for Clergy under the heading 'Length of Practice'.

3. Schools are legally obliged to apply the admissions criteria for entry in 2021 which they set within the statutory time limits some time ago. At this stage these can only be varied by each school applying to the OSA, separately, for an in-year variation to their admission criteria. At this stage we would advise against such applications.

4. We believe that the current Guidance to Clergy on issuing Certificates already contains a reasonable amount of flexibility to allow clergy to exercise proper pastoral judgment in each case, taking into account all of the circumstances. The extraordinary situation we all find ourselves in this year will form part of the circumstances of each case. Ultimately, the priest is being asked to do no more than certify whether or not the child comes from a practising Catholic family to the best of his knowledge and belief, in all the circumstances.

5. Before the Bishops' Conference adopted the Certificate of Catholic Practice, it, and all associated guidance, were subject to detailed consultation with the Office of the Schools Adjudicator. We therefore have a high degree of confidence that schools adopting it and using it as envisaged will not be subject to a successful challenge.

If at any time it looks likely that churches will remain closed during the Autumn term, then we will revisit this guidance, and we should have a much better idea about this before the Summer holidays.

This guidance relates to schools that have adopted the Bishops' Conference Certificate of Catholic Practice, and the CES Model admission arrangements. If any schools have, for whatever reason, adopted a different mechanism for determining Catholic practice, we cannot have the same confidence about the lack of a successful challenge and may well have to seek further advice.

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

- 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 <https://pray-as-you-go.org>

Capital & Pupil Placement Planning

1st Planner – Demographic Survey

The Oversight Committee for this project met with 1st Planner and others on Tuesday 2nd June. A significant report was circulated in advance and discussed during the meeting. An updated version was circulated just after the meeting which included information relating to LB Tower Hamlets.

1st Planner presented evidence of the availability of substantial levels of capital funding. However, in order to secure that funding, our development plans as a Diocese would need to reflect local need. Although the priority is to create outstanding and sustainable educational facilities for the future, there are opportunities to also enhance other aspects of Catholic life in the community. It was clear that many of the assets owned by the Trust have significant development potential but are generally underutilised. Developments that supported Education, Key Worker/Affordable Housing, Care for the vulnerable (young children, the elderly and those with special needs) and were sustainable (reduced CO2 emissions) could present as a win/win scenario.

1st Planner will now commence phase 2 and begin to explore realisable potential throughout the 4 local authorities identified in the pilot project. This will include conversations with school leaders and governors about potential, options and local need.

VASCA 2020/21

The following table is a snapshot of the progression of the new start projects in VASCA. School Leaders and Business managers have been logging onto Statlog in response to notification emails issued when the projects were released.

Key:

Green = School and consultant engaged

Amber = School has completed their first action. Awaiting confirmation from the school's consultant.

Red = School has not yet accepted the proposal.

URN	School	Postcode	School Confirmation Received	Consultant Confirmation Received
100357	St Thomas of Canterbury Catholic Primary School	SW6 7HB	Yes	No
100491	Oratory Catholic Primary School	SW3 6QH	No	No
100494	Saint Francis of Assisi Catholic Primary School	W11 4BJ	No	No
100499	Saint Mary's Catholic Primary School	W10 5AW	Yes	No
100500	Servite Catholic Primary School	SW10 9NA	No	No
101331	Our Lady of Lourdes Catholic School	N12 0JP	Yes	Yes
101333	St Catherine's Catholic School	EN5 2ED	Yes	No
101338	Sacred Heart Catholic Primary School	N20 9JU	Yes	No
101361	St Michael's Catholic Grammar School	N12 7NJ	Yes	No
101544	Convent of Jesus and Mary Catholic Infant School	NW2 5AN	Yes	Yes

101920	Our Lady of the Visitation Catholic Primary School	UB6 9AN	Yes	No
101922	St Anselm's Catholic Primary School	UB2 4BH	No	No
102039	St Monica's Catholic Primary School	N14 7HE	No	No
102142	Our Lady of Muswell Catholic Primary School	N10 1PS	Yes	No
102144	St Ignatius Catholic Primary School	N15 6ND	No	No
102150	St Martin of Porres Catholic Primary School	N11 2AF	Yes	Yes
102151	St Gildas' Catholic Junior School	N8 9EP	Yes	No
102421	St Swithun Wells Catholic Primary School	HA4 9HS	Yes	Yes
102423	St Bernadette Catholic Primary School	UB10 0EH	Yes	No
102424	St Catherine Catholic Primary School	UB7 7NX	No	No
102527	St Lawrence Catholic Primary School	TW13 4FF	Yes	Yes
117466	St Teresa Catholic Primary School	WD6 5HL	No	No
117470	St Adrian Catholic Primary School	AL1 2PB	Yes	Yes
117488	Sacred Heart Catholic Primary School and Nursery	WD23 1SU	No	No
117492	St Paul's Catholic Primary School	EN7 6LR	Yes	Yes
117493	Sacred Heart Catholic Primary School	SG12 9HY	Yes	Yes
117495	St Anthony's Catholic Primary School	WD18 6BW	Yes	Yes
117498	Saint Vincent de Paul Catholic Primary School	SG1 1NJ	Yes	No
117594	Saint Mary's Catholic School	CM23 2NQ	Yes	Yes
125214	St Ignatius Catholic Primary School	TW16 6QG	Yes	No
125215	Our Lady of the Rosary Catholic Primary School	TW18 2EF	Yes	Yes
131936	St Mary and St Michael Primary School	E1 0BD	Yes	No
133288	St Elizabeth Catholic Primary School	E2 9JY	No	No
137569	The Holy Family Catholic Primary School	W3 0DY	Yes	No


Statlog

Many schools have now engaged with Statlog. Consultants are being trained in the use of the Survey Tool later this week and will then begin the process of updating school asset data. This data will be used to identify priority project for funding in 2021/22 and beyond. Heads and Governors are encouraged to liaise with their retained building consultants in order to ensure that they are in contention for VASCA funding in 2021/22.

Schools seeking consent from the Diocesan Trustees to manage Minor Works Projects at a local level must ensure:

- That the Statutory Compliance module in Statlog is fully operational on their site(s), and
- That their Survey data is up to date in Statlog

Once both elements are in place, School Business Managers can apply for permission to manage Minor Works Projects themselves. Until written consent is provided, the current protocols remain in effect and schools must engage their retained building consultant when undertaking any Capital Work.



The decision to use Statlog for Land and Buildings management affects Academies and VA Schools. This system will provide clear and auditable evidence of Trustee engagement and consents. Any School seeking to expend DFC, CIF or SCA etc. must record the progression of their project, and the associated expenditure, in Statlog.

Church Marketplace is facilitating a “Statlog” discussion and training opportunity for all SBMs. Please contact CMP if you haven’t received your invitation.

Priority School Building Programme

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

UK Government & DfE Updates and links;

Maintaining Educational Provision for Vulnerable and Key Worker Children:


<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>

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

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- 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).
- 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

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

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 03.06.20

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

- Coronavirus (COVID-19): financial support for education, early years and children's social care – Updated 27 May 2020
<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/coronavirus-covid-19-financial-support-for-education-early-years-and-childrens-social-care>
- Coronavirus (COVID-19): guidance on isolation for residential educational settings – Updated 27 May 2020
<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/coronavirus-covid-19-guidance-on-isolation-for-residential-educational-settings>
- Actions for FE colleges and providers during the coronavirus outbreak – Updated 29 May 2020
<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/coronavirus-covid-19-maintaining-further-education-provision>
- Disapplication notice: school attendance legislation changes – Updated 29 May 2020
<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/disapplication-notice-school-attendance-legislation-changes>
- Disapplication notice: school inspections legislation changes – Updated 29 May 2020
<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/disapplication-notice-school-inspections-legislation-changes>
- Modification notice: school registration legislation changes – Updated 29 May 2020
<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/modification-notice-school-registration-legislation-changes>
- Modification notice: education health and care plans legislation changes – Updated 29 May 2020
<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/modification-notice-ehc-plans-legislation-changes>

NHS Test and Trace

The NHS Test and Trace service was launched on Thursday 28 May 2020. As lockdown measures start to ease, the service aims to control the rate of reproduction 'R' and reduce the spread of infection.

Everyone has a role to play in helping to make the Test and Trace service work. The diagram below outlines the steps you must take if you have coronavirus symptoms or are informed that you have been in close contact with someone with coronavirus.

