

Diocese of Westminster Education Service

Witness to the Word:

School Bulletin 01.07.20

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.

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

PHONE

FAX

WEB

Caritas Westminster Schools Survey

Thank you so much for taking the time to respond to the [Caritas Westminster Schools Survey](#). The survey is still open if you want to take part. Your responses really help to inform our outreach and advocacy work.

As an immediate response to your requests, Caritas Westminster can help **all** schools with:-

- **Sourcing Food** [our Caritas Food Collective and your local Caritas Development Worker can share links for food supply across London and Herts]
- **Caritas Food Vouchers** for the Summer Holidays [we have received a grant of £45,000 for vouchers for schools most in need – Amanda will send this out on Thursday – please look out for this and respond by 8th July]
- **Finance Resilience:** we have set up a Financial Resilience webinar specifically for schools; to take place on Thursday 9 July, 4 - 6pm. It is designed for a member of staff, or volunteer who might in turn be able to support and help parents to recover from income shock. Registration details are on the attached flyer or link here: <https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/helping-those-in-income-shock-tickets-111286474842>
- **Catholic Social Teaching** [we have shared Y6 & 7 resources to help make sense of [CV-19 using CST](#), will follow up with info on Caritas Ambassadors if requested]
- **Digital Devices** – we have received requests for 614 devices to date. We are working with Diocesan Fundraising to try to find a source/ funding.
- **Other funding requirements** – we will follow up the requests schools made in the survey.

Caritas Update on Summer Food Fund by Minet Masho, Development Worker, East London Hub


The guidance (which can be found [here](#)) about the summer food fund states that:

If a school receives a claim for an eligible child after the final ordering date of at least one week before your school term ends but before the start of the school's summer holidays, it will be possible for the school to place an exceptional order for that child via the Edenred system.

This means that the DfE wants all families to register 1 week before the summer holidays start which leaves very little time for newly eligible families to sign up. Once the holidays have started no more applications will be accepted.

It is really concerning about families with no recourse to public funds (NRPF) not knowing about the free school meals extension and therefore continuing to go without support that could make a huge difference to them.

HMC, Project17 and Sustain have designed a flyer that explains all the groups who are eligible for FSM. It includes families that receive welfare support as well as families with NRPF. I have attached the flyer and a link to it is online here: <https://hackneymigrantcentre.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2020/06/Free-School-Meals-Info-Sheet-June-2020.pdf>



It would be hugely helpful if you could share the flyer as widely as possible with your networks. It would also be great if you could retweet these links to the flyer as well: <https://twitter.com/Project17UK/status/1276171001018175488?s=20> and <https://twitter.com/HackneyMigrants/status/1276094938011373568?s=20>

The [guidance](#) about the temporary extension of free school meals to families with NRPF was updated yesterday after having expired over 3 weeks ago and causing much confusion about whether the extension is still in place. Frustratingly the updated guidance is wrong. It shows the old earnings threshold of £7,400 per household instead of the new threshold of £16,190. The earnings threshold was raised on 28 May as a result of legal action (more info [here](#)). The increase was confirmed by the Under Secretary of State for Education Vicky Ford on 9 June: <https://www.theyworkforyou.com/wrans/?id=2020-06-01.52641.h&s=speaker%3A25614#g52641.r0>

Project 17's [information sheet](#) about the temporary extension of free school meals to some families with NRPF

Independent article about children from families with NRPF being denied free school meals *[‘It was bad, but now it’s been unbearable’: The children going hungry during the pandemic](#)*

Catholic Life and Worship Resources

Weekly Rosary

Please join us each week as we pray a decade of the Rosary together. This Friday, June 12th, we recite the Second Joyful Mystery: The Visitation.

You can join via YouTube <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=tdSUwUWu0JE&feature=youtu.be> or alternatively download the powerpoint [here](#)

Weekly Beatitude Assembly

Please click [here](#) for a Primary and a Secondary Powerpoint resource that can be used with students

Catholic Churches in England can resume collective acts of worship from 4 July

A Message from the Metropolitan Archbishops of the Catholic Church in England regarding the resumption of collective worship in England: “We ask every Catholic to think carefully about how and when they will return to Mass. Our priests may need to consider whether it is possible to celebrate additional Masses at the weekends. Given there is no Sunday obligation, we ask you to consider the possibility of attending Mass on a weekday. This will ease the pressure of numbers for Sunday celebrations and allow a gradual return to the Eucharist for more people.

You can read the Bishops’ Conference guidance notes intended to assist Parish Priests to facilitate collective worship safely (i.e. providing the least possible risk of transmission of the virus). The guidance has been compiled with detailed public health advice and scrutiny and complies with the principles established by Government.

[Read Here](#)

A New Directory for Catechesis

Last week we heard of the publication of the third edition of the Directory for Catechesis. The Directory reflects the most up-to-date expertise on the necessary elements of teaching and personal formation for catechetical work, and provides robust responses to the radical challenges caused by the digital dimension and globalisation of contemporary human culture.

The result is a crucial new resource for catechists, educators, and all those working in pastoral and evangelistic work, centred on the core mission and rooted in the essential life-transforming proclamation of the Church: the Gospel itself. This Vatican document will be available to purchase from the Catholic Truth Society (CTS) from 3 July 2020. Order a copy [here](#)

Daily Gospel Reading through Art

This website links the daily Gospel reading to a piece of religious art. You could use this for your own prayer and reflection or as a basis for lessons. You can search the website and look at previous posts and past videos. If you subscribe to the website they will send you an email each day with the Gospel reading and artwork. <https://www.christian.art/todays-reading.php>

➤ 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>

Peter Edmonds SJ This week we celebrate **the Solemnity of Saints Peter and Paul**. ‘They were both apostles of Christ who sacrificed their lives to the same persecution, but their origins, personalities and achievements remind us that we live with diversity as well as uniformity in the Church of Christ.’ Peter Edmonds SJ describes how God’s grace worked differently in the lives of these two saints, neither of whom had straightforward paths to holiness. [Read Here](#)

Olga Segura

Olga Segura is the author of the forthcoming book titled **Birth of a Movement: Black Lives Matter and the Catholic Church**. Her article in America Magazine can be [Read Here](#)



Mental Health and Well-Being – Training for School Staff

Catholic Children's Society (ConnectEd) - [Click Here](#) (The CCS provide a range of training sessions linked to mental health and well-being whilst also offering bespoke opportunities for schools on specific themes.)

Young Minds [Click Here](#) (Young Minds provides information and resources that enable a Whole School Approach to mental health and wellbeing, providing a range of course that support children, young and staff)

Anna Freud Centre [Click Here](#) (The Anna Freud Centre and Mentally Healthy Schools provide information and resources that enable a Whole School Approach to mental health and wellbeing, providing a range of course that support children, young and staff)

Worth-It [Click Here](#) (A Community Interest Company supporting the application of evidence-based approaches that build positive mental health and children – The organisation provides a range of training opportunities for both pupils and staff well-being)

Education4Health [Click Here](#) (Education4Health specialises in offering a wide range of mental health related educational programmes. This includes the accredited MHFA courses, Resilience programmes, and Stress Management workshops as well as personalised training to suit an organisation's individual requirements.)

EduCare [Click Here](#) (Part of the TES, EduCare offer an online course in supporting staff well-being)

iHASCO [Click Here](#) (Mental Health Awareness Training for Education Professionals, including teachers and other school staff, aims to spread awareness of mental ill-health in primary and secondary schools and colleges with an aim to break the stigma surrounding ill-mental health.)

Family Links [Click Here](#) (Family Links is a national charity and training organisation dedicated to the promotion of emotional health at home, at school, and at work. They offer high-quality training and resources for professionals working with families, school and university staff, and employees in the workplace.)

Schools Mental Health Group [Click Here](#) (The School Mental Health Group's goal is to empower schools and colleges to tackle the Mental Health and Well-Being issues of both staff and pupils, providing training to schools and colleges across the UK.)

Place2Be [Click Here](#) (Place2Be provides a range of support, resources and training on issues of mental health and well-being for schools.)

The Centre for Child Mental Health CCMH [Click Here](#) (CCMH provide training in trauma and mental health for schools, with a diploma in Trauma and Mental Health Informed Schools and Communities)

Mental Health First Aid England [Click Here](#) (MHFA England offer training in mental health awareness and first aid)

Association for Psychological Therapies APT [Click Here](#) (APT provide schools with training in mental health awareness for teachers.)



CPD and Online Training

Please find attached a reminder of some of the courses we are running over the next few weeks.

Personnel Updates

APPOINTMENTS: SENIOR LEADERSHIP, CHAPLAIN, & RELIGIOUS EDUCATION RESPONSIBILITY

There have been one or two cases recently where schools have failed to inform us, in reasonable time, of the impending appointment of a Senior Leader, Chaplain or RE post holder. This is contrary to the requirements of the Bishop of England & Wales:

Interview procedures approved by Governing Bodies for teacher recruitment must be open to scrutiny. They must be clear, objective and transparent.

The Diocesan Bishop is entitled to be represented at all proceedings relating to the appointment of senior leaders and teachers of religious education.

Governing Bodies must facilitate the attendance of the Diocesan Director (or his or her nominee), either by affording them advisory rights or otherwise. These may be in relation to all appointments at the school or, more usually, to the appointment of the senior posts to which the requirement to be a practising Catholic are applied.

Memorandum on Appointment of Teachers in Catholic Schools

Archbishop Malcom McMahon

September 2014

Please ensure that we are informed when a vacancy occurs and certainly before any dates are set for meetings. In the first instance please contact Mike Pittendreigh (mikep@rcdow.org.uk 07973662548)

Pupil Placement Planning

1st Planner – Demographic Survey

During the last few weeks of this term, the project team will continue with its efforts to engage with local stakeholders in each of the 4 local authority areas included in the Pilot.

A video introducing the programme can be viewed here: <https://www.1stplanner.com/aow-key-stakeholder-intro>

With so many presenting challenges, it is important to plan for the future of Catholic Schools in our Diocese. Catholic Schools have been an integral part of the maintained sector for more than 75 years. If our provision is to continue for the next 75 years, it is imperative that we develop new and sustainable plans to effect change. Buildings are aging and educational delivery has changed significantly. Catholic parents are seeking outstanding education in well-constructed and maintained learning environments. If we are to take the initiative, we need to find new ways for Trust assets to work both harder and smarter. The WinWin Initiative is based on Catholic Social Teaching. In developing this initiative, it is our aim to persuade all potential stakeholders to invest in a future that is at the heart of our church and central to the needs of the communities in which we live and work.



Capital

Condition Improvement Fund (CIF) – 2020-2021

The Government announced the 2020-21 CIF Programme on Monday 29th June. Initial indications suggest that the following schools have been offered CIF Grants:

URN	School Name	Project Name
143082	Bishop Douglass School Finchley	Fire Safety Improvements
146721	Our Lady of Grace RC Infant and Nursery School	Urgent Safeguarding and Security Works
142558	St Bernadette's Catholic Primary School	Urgent, life expired, defective roof covering replacement to entire main building
142558	St Bernadette's Catholic Primary School	Urgent replacement of boiler plant, controls and ancillary services to main building

146176	St George's Primary Catholic Voluntary Academy	Urgent Fire Compartmentation & Precautions Upgrade
146178	St John Fisher Catholic Primary School	Urgent Fire Compartmentation & Precautions Upgrade
146245	The Sacred Heart Language College	Sacred Heart Language College- Replacement Windows
146903	Holy Rood Catholic Primary School	Urgent fire compartmentation & precautions upgrade
146922	Divine Saviour Roman Catholic Primary School	Urgent fire compartmentation & precautions upgrade
146922	Divine Saviour Roman Catholic Primary School	Urgent safeguarding and security works
130411	St Charles Catholic Sixth Form College	Essential Boiler Replacement, Gas Safety and Associated Works
141931	The Cardinal Vaughan Memorial RC School	Urgent Security and Safeguarding Works

If your Trust has been awarded a CIF Grant, but it is not list above, please contact Nigel Spears (nigelspears@rcdow.or.uk) with full details within the next 7 days.

Otherwise, for the Trust listed, please focus on the following:

The Diocesan Trustees/Education Commission will need to formally consent to the proposed capital work. To facilitate this process, please send (as one complete package) the following:

Plan and Specification for the approved Work

Adjudicated Tender Report

Details of the Project Manager

Offer Letter

Update Statlog.

All CIF 2020-21 Projects must be processed using Statlog. This requirement is in addition to any procedural expectations imposed by thee DfE/ESFA

Your retained Project Manager will ensure that the system is updated. The Tender part of CPAS is expected to be released in the next few weeks. Once operation, you consultant will be able to upload the required details and demonstrate effective project progression from the outset.

Formal consent will only be granted through Statlog. Consent must be in place before contracts are confirmed. Therefore, if your Trust has not engaged with Statlog, you are encouraged to do so as quickly as possible.



VASCA 2020/21

33 Projects are now live on Statlog. School Leaders and Governors from those schools, with the support of their Building Consultants, are fully engaged in the process of scoping and procuring the essential work approved by the education Commission.

Only 6 schools remain in the early engagement phase and they are receiving support and encouragement from Diocesan Colleagues and their respective retained Buildings Consultant.

Statlog

To ensure that school condition data is correctly entered into Statlog, the retained building consultant for each school will need to conduct Condition Survey. Diocesan Colleagues are working with the Building Consultants to ensure that the same pricing schedule is used by all companies.

Training opportunities for Consultants with fewer schools will be offered by Statlog. If you retained Consultant has not been trained in the use of the system, please encourage them to contact Statlog as a matter of urgency. Please remember, if you are hoping for VASCA Funding in the future, you need to ensure that the needs of your school are correctly recorded in Statlog. If they are not in the system by January 2021, you will not be eligible for VASCA funding in 2021/22.

Note for Academy Trusts: If you are planning to submit CIF applications for Funding in 2021 and beyond, you will need Diocesan Trust Consent before your application is submitted. We have been advised that the landlord will be asked to independently verify that consent has been granted during the evaluation process. If your Academy trusts occupies Land and Buildings owned by or otherwise assigned to the Diocese of Westminster Trustees, please ensure that you have secure the Statlog licences for all schools within your group. If you are not sure whether you need to engage with Statlog, please contact Nigel Spears (nigelspears@rcdow.org.uk)

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:

DfE Guidance 01.07.20

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

- Online education resources for home learning – Updated 24 June 2020
<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/coronavirus-covid-19-online-education-resources>
- School funding: exceptional costs associated with coronavirus (COVID-19) for the period from March to July 2020 – Updated 24 June 2020 – (The updated guidance around claims for exceptional costs arising due to Covid-19)
<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>
- Guidance - Exceptional costs associated with coronavirus (COVID-19) – Published 24 June 2020 (detailed guidance on how to make a claim)
<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/claiming-exceptional-costs-associated-with-coronavirus-covid-19/exceptional-costs-associated-with-coronavirus-covid-19--2>
- **Reception baseline assessment – Updated 25 June 2020**
The standards and Testing Agency announced on 25 June 2020, that statutory introduction of the reception baseline assessment is being postponed until 2021. However, schools can choose to sign up to be early adopters of the assessment with the assessment window being just after October half term. Further information can be found here: <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/reception-baseline-assessment>.
- **Deadline for ordering FSM vouchers for the six week summer break – Published 25 June 2020.** Schools can only apply for vouchers using the Edenred platform and like the existing voucher scheme is being funded centrally by the DfE:
 - <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/covid-summer-food-fund>
 - <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/covid-19-free-school-meals-guidance/covid-19-free-school-meals-guidance-for-schools>
 - <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/16-to-19-funding-free-meals-in-further-education-funded-institutions-for-2019-to-2020>