

Diocese of Westminster Education Service

Witness to the Word:

School Bulletin 02.09.20

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 September 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



New Staff and Departures at the Education Service

I am delighted to announce that our new Chief Inspector of Schools **Nancy Conoboy** has started her new role. Nancy was the Assistant Principal for Teaching and Learning at St Dominic's Sixth Form College. Nancy has over 30 years' experience in Catholic education. She was one of our Lead Inspectors and a Religious Education specialist. In September Nancy will have the opportunity to communicate to all schools what the vision for her role and the inspection process will look like going forward.

We also welcome this term **Margaret Hanley** as our new CCRS Coordinator. Many of you will know Margaret who has recently retired as the Headteacher at St Edmund's Catholic Primary School, Edmonton, Enfield. We are delighted that she has taken on this new role and in the weeks ahead she will communicate with schools the opportunities for CCRS this year.

The economic climate that has affected all parts of our life as a result of the pandemic has had an impact on our Education Service. As some of you are already aware our team, like other departments within the Diocese, has had to make redundancies. This is done with a heavy heart and affects us all. We have worked closely with HR to ensure this has been done with dignity and professionalism.

Sadly, **Greeny Longville-Ancel** has stepped down from the Diocese after 40 years of service. On behalf of all the team I wish to say a massive thank you to Greeny for everything she has done for our schools and our team. She will be missed, not least for her honesty, integrity and camaraderie. The length of service is unlikely to be surpassed and we publically recognise her incredible dedication to Catholic education and all who work for it. Many of you will have spoken to Greeny over the phone and she passes on her good wishes to you all. We wish Greeny every happiness and success for the future.

The PA to the Director, **Mary Murray**, is also stepping down from her post. I wish to thank her for her energy, enthusiasm and dedication to the role. Mary did a wonderful job during the lockdown and we wish her every success and happiness for the future too. She too will be missed.

In September a revised booklet outlining the roles and responsibilities of the Education Service will be published.

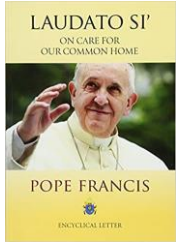
Public Examination Results for our Secondary Schools

Every year we ask you to complete the **Diocesan Public Examination Return** for the Education Commission. Here it is [Click Here](#)

If you, or your Exams Officer, would be so kind to complete this form **as soon as possible**. Many schools have submitted their results but not all.

Catholic Life and Worship Resources

Care of Creation



"Young people demand change. They wonder how anyone can claim to be building a better future without thinking of the environmental crisis and the sufferings of the excluded. I urgently appeal, then, for a new dialogue about how we are shaping the future of our planet. We need a conversation which includes everyone, since the environmental challenge we are undergoing, and its human roots, concern and affect us all." (Pope Francis, *Laudato Si'*, 13-14)

Westminster Justice and Peace Website – Season of Creation Resources

[Click Here](#)

Global Catholic Climate Movement – More ideas, resources and a place to register events taking place worldwide

[Click Here](#)

Catholic Bishops Conference Environment Office

[Click Here](#)

CAFOD Novena – set of nine short video prayers for use during the Season of Creation

[Click Here](#)



Season of Creation Logo



**Climate
Sunday**

Climate Sunday logo – 6th September 2020

Full competition details to follow – Deadline for 3 minute Season of Creation short videos will be 1st October.

Link to Video: [Click Here](#) Interview with **Fr Dominic Robinson SJ** and **Colette Joyce**.

In an interview with *Avvenire* to mark *Laudato si'* week (16-24 May 2020), Cardinal Michael Czerny SJ urges us to let the encyclical shape the way we think about the coronavirus crisis and find solutions to the fault lines it is highlighting.

'Before being a "socio-environmental issue", creation is a fundamental article of faith', so how can a Christian view and love of the world, our common home, inspire change? [Click Here](#)



Autumn Term Professional Development Opportunities

For a complete list of our training opportunities for the Autumn Term, please see attached PDF document. Please note this is an *interactive document*, and bookings can be made by clicking on the tickets within. We are providing single and schools tickets for most events.

All of our courses for the Autumn Term will be delivered online via Zoom. It is essential therefore that an accurate name and email address is provided for every delegate attending, so we can assure Zoom invitations and course materials reach their intended target. Please note that bookings for an event will close at 4pm the day before so please do book in advance.

Diocesan Regional Hubs

Last term we, through necessity, transitioned to online meetings and to our delight witnessed increased engagement. We would therefore like to capture the success of this new way of working with you. This academic year we will be **hosting online half termly meetings for all headteachers arranged in clusters of deaneries** at which all members of our Senior Leadership Team will be present as well as the relevant members of the advisory team. The hub meetings are **not intended to replace your deanery meetings** which we appreciate are incredibly important for you to discuss issues at a local level and build significant partnerships. They are simply intended to be a way of the diocesan Education Service working and communicating with headteachers across our diocese in a more strategic way.

For this reason we have also **aligned our advisory support to this regional way of working**. Going forward advisers are assigned to a regional hub and will work with all of the deaneries within that hub. This should also contribute to and help to facilitate the building of local partnerships and sharing of best practice. We fully appreciate the relationships you may have built with your adviser and understand that, depending on your circumstances, you may need time to transition that support. This transition is certainly something that can be discussed with your existing and new advisers going forward. We have every confidence in the expertise of every member of the advisory team without exception, so please be assured that this change should not be to the detriment of the high quality of service you receive.

Please find attached a document detailing:

- a) Regional hubs
- b) Adviser allocations for next academic year
- c) Dates of the regional hub meetings for the next academic year.

(Please find booking links within the attached CPD booklet)

Upcoming CCRS Courses and Modules

(All modules will be taught online during the Autumn Term 2020).

NEW online course starting September 2020

This new CCRS course will be taught online, making it easier for staff across the Diocese to attend.

Online - Module 1 - Old Testament, Dr Ann Jeffers

- 24th September Thursday 4-6pm
- 1st October Thursday 4-6pm
- 8th October Thursday 4-6pm
- 15th October Thursday 4-6pm
- 22nd October Thursday 4-6pm

Sunbury (Online) - Module 4 – The Church, John Stayne

- 17th September Thursday 4-6pm
- 24th September Thursday 4-6pm
- 1st October Thursday 4-6pm
- 8th October Thursday 4-6pm
- 15th October Thursday 4-6pm

Tower Hamlet (Online) - Module 6 – Catholic Morality, Mark Davoren

- 21st September Monday 4-6pm
- 28th September Monday 4-6pm
- 5th October Monday 4-6pm
- 12th October Monday 4-6pm
- 19th October Monday 4-6pm

Vaughan House (online) - Module 6 – Catholic Morality, Nicola O’Callaghan

- Saturday 10th October 10 - 3.30pm
- Saturday 17th October 10 - 3.30pm

Cost

The cost of the course is £400 per person. This covers all eight modules and registration fee with the Board of Religious Studies. This is to be paid before commencing the course and is non-refundable.

For further information and a registration form please email the CCRS Co-ordinator at: ccrs@rcdow.org.uk



Heart Speaks Unto Heart

To commemorate the 10th anniversary of Pope Benedict XVI's visit to St Marys, a day of events linked to the educational mission of the University is taking place on 17th September. www.stmarys.ac.uk/events/2020/09/heart-speaks-onto-heart. Please see attached for further details.

Catholic Education Post-Covid Webinar

Julie Etchingham hosts an evening of debate and discussion with Damian Hinds MP, former Secretary of State for Education, Kate Fallon, General Secretary of the Association of Educational Psychologists and Andrew O'Neill, Headteacher of All Saints Catholic College in London, about the guide to a safe and successful return to a Catholic Education post-Covid.

- Thursday 10th September 6.00pm – 7.15pm
- Ticket price: £5.50 inclusive of VAT

Click [here](#) to register

School Admissions: Certificate of Catholic Practice

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 dioceses may well have to seek further advice.


UK Government & DfE Updates and links; Maintaining Educational Provision for Vulnerable and Key Worker Children:

Guidance Updates

DfE Guidance

Please see below links to the most recent DfE guidance that has been issued to schools and colleges.

- Guidance for full opening: schools – updated 28 August 2020
<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/actions-for-schools-during-the-coronavirus-outbreak/guidance-for-full-opening-schools>
- Modification notice: school registration legislation changes – updated 28 August 2020
<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/modification-notice-school-registration-legislation-changes>
- Disapplication notice: school inspections legislation changes – updated 28 August 2020
<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/disapplication-notice-school-inspections-legislation-changes>
- Providing school meals during the coronavirus (COVID-19) outbreak – updated 28 August 2020
<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/covid-19-free-school-meals-guidance>
- Taking exams during the coronavirus (COVID-19) outbreak – updated 27 August 2020
<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/coronavirus-covid-19-cancellation-of-gcses-as-and-a-levels-in-2020>
- Recording attendance during the coronavirus (COVID-19) outbreak – updated 27 August 2020
<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/coronavirus-covid-19-attendance-recording-for-educational-settings>
- Further and higher education: coronavirus (COVID-19) – updated 26 August 2020
<https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/further-and-higher-education-coronavirus-covid-19>
- Face coverings in education – published 26 August 2020
<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/face-coverings-in-education>
- Coronavirus (COVID-19): home test kits for schools and FE providers – published 26 August 2020
<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/coronavirus-covid-19-home-test-kits-for-schools-and-fe-providers>

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- Education, health and care needs assessments and plans: guidance on temporary legislative changes relating to coronavirus (COVID-19) – updated 26 August 2020
<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>
 - Coronavirus (COVID-19) catch-up premium – updated 24 August 2020
<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/coronavirus-covid-19-catch-up-premium>
 - Coronavirus (COVID-19): safer travel guidance for passengers – updated 21 August 2020
<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/coronavirus-covid-19-safer-travel-guidance-for-passengers>

TfL update on transport plans for return to school

Please see below TfLs updates on transport plans for the return of schools in September.


Schools and parents are being asked to encourage children to travel to school by walking, cycling or scooting wherever possible however TfL are planning to make important changes to the bus network for those who cannot do so.

From 1 September the TfL are planning to:

- Add over 230 extra buses to the network to bolster some of the busiest low-frequency routes for schoolchildren to travel on, including adding more vehicles to our existing school bus services
- In addition, designate some existing regular buses as School Services, which would be prioritised for school travel and would operate at full seated capacity, as is permitted by Government guidelines for school bus services. These buses will have clear signs to differentiate them from regular bus services and information will be posted at bus stops and [online](#). Signs will clearly indicate that these are School Services and they are planned to operate on:
 - Around half of all buses during school travel times on certain high-frequency routes
 - All the extra buses which are being added to lower-frequency routes
 - All buses on existing school services

These School Services would help free up non-school services for other customers. However, journeys for other customers may take longer during school travel times (generally 07:30 to 09:30 and 14:30 to 16:30) due to these planned changes. Other customers who will be using the bus network are being encouraged to plan their journey in advance, travel at quiet times and outside of school travel times if possible and allow more time to complete journeys. [Check to see if your route is affected](#) or [view a full list of bus routes affected](#).

School children travelling without adults should travel on the designated school services where these are provided, to help provide space for other customers on regular services. Customers who are not school children but who need to travel



at school travel times are strongly encouraged to use the regular services. Regular services will continue to have lower capacity limits to support social distancing, in line with Government guidelines.

Customers aged 11 and over are required to wear a face covering when using public transport services (including our school services) or stations, or taxi and private hire services, unless they are exempt on health or equality grounds. Anyone exempt from wearing a face covering are advised to carry an exemption card. For more details please see <https://tfl.gov.uk/campaign/face-coverings>. TFL are also asking people to carry hand sanitiser and wash their hands before and after they travel.

The planned service changes are proposed to remain in place until at least the end of October, although could be subject to change.

[Watch the video to see what other changes have been made to buses](#) that help safe and sustainable travel.

TFL are continually reviewing how the network is operating and every September, as children start at new schools or travel from their new homes back to their old schools, services are adjusted as far as possible to ensure they reflect new and changing travel patterns. This September comes, of course, with unique challenges posed by the coronavirus pandemic.

Please do ensure you communicate these changes to your networks as widely as possible. Please regularly check tfl.gov.uk/reopeningeducation for the latest information on services and safer travel guidance - including a list of routes affected by these proposals.

Please note that there will be no changes to fares and ticketing for children in September. You may be aware that the Government has asked TFL to temporarily suspend free travel for 11-17 year olds as part of their funding agreement with them. The implementation of this is being discussed with TFL, the Government and London's boroughs and full details, including the effective date of changes, will be widely communicated once finalised.

Don't Zap the Zip Campaign

Children in London have been able to travel around the capital for free, or at a discounted rate, since 2005. But that's about to change. As part of its bailout of Transport for London, the government is insisting on suspending free travel for under 18s, to protect public health and avoid overcrowding on buses. This will be a disaster for families with children who are already struggling.

Not only will it increase costs for them, it could also mean that children and young people are more restricted to their local area, less able to travel to school, college, work and healthcare appointments and more likely to miss out on the many opportunities that London has to offer them.

Families have suffered enough during the pandemic and children are missing out. It's not right that the government should limit their access to education and healthcare and their ability to maintain relationships with family and friends.

The removal of free travel disproportionately affects Catholic education. Our pupils, in the main, travel further to their schools of choice, particularly at Secondary level.



**KEEP LONDON TRANSPORT
FREE FOR UNDER 18S**

Please support the Child Poverty Action Group Campaign

[Click Here](#)

Letter templates for all MPs in London.

[Click Here](#)

A Petition


[Click Here](#)

Getting to School in September – travel updates from TFL, Westminster Movement Strategy and SEN Home to School Transport

Ahead of students returning to education in September, Transport for London is asking schools to help enable social distancing on the transport network by encouraging children and parents/carers to walk, cycle or scoot to school. This is in response to the current reduced capacity on public transport to support social distancing. Having more people using alternative transport will enable students with the longest journeys or additional needs to be able to travel.

Plans include additional buses and dedicated school services, a range of Streetspace measures and a comprehensive communication and engagement programme. Please see the full press release [here](#).

Schools are asked to review their Travel Plans in consideration of this and communicate any changes to parents ahead of the new school year.



Parents, students and school staff are being encouraged to plan ahead and to walk, cycle, scoot or use public transport for their journeys. While a normal service is being run on weekdays on public transport, social distancing reduces the number of people that can be carried, so those who can are advised to travel during quiet off-peak times, and allow more time if travelling by bus during school travel times.

There are also proposed changes to under-18s concession travel. These are not yet finalised and are unlikely to come into effect until after October half term at the earliest.

A new dedicated webpage for education providers gives the latest advice and useful resources for schools to encourage safe and sustainable travel among their pupils. The webpage can be found here: <https://tfl.gov.uk/info-for/schools-and-young-people/travel-guidance-for-schools>

Capital & Pupil Placement Planning

Additional School Condition Allocations (VASCA) 2020/21

On 29 June, the Prime Minister announced an additional £560 million for repairs and upgrades to school buildings, on top of funding already allocated this year. The purpose of SCA is to maintain and improve the condition of school buildings, so that all children can learn in a safe and effective environment. Investment must prioritise keeping buildings in good working order by tackling poor building condition, building compliance, energy efficiency, and health and safety issues.

The School Capital Allocation:

- Is to be invested strategically.
- Must only be used for capital projects in line with the agreed terms and conditions and must not be used for other purposes, such as operating costs.

The amount of additional funding assigned to the Diocese of Westminster is: £4,349,703 (This figure is at 90%). The 100% VASCA working budget increase by £4,833,003.33 (100% figure). Therefore, our updated VASCA 2020/21 allocation is **£15,239,566.66** (£10,406,563.33 (original award) + £4,833,003.33 (additional award)).

VASCA 2020/21

Work throughout the Summer Holiday period has progress as planned. No significant issues have been presented.

Statlog

Consultants have been undertaking Statlog Surveys in schools throughout the Diocese. The initial engagement and commitment from Schools and Academies is positive.

The software has now been developed to management projects to the end of Tender and work during August has focused on contract administration. Diocesan Finance Officers from across the country will participate in further training in mid-September. We are anticipating a mid-year assurance process and working with Statlog to ensure that a national reporting mechanism is available.