

Diocese of Westminster Education Service

Witness to the Word:

School Bulletin 09.09.20

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

RE, Catholic Life and Worship Resources

Advisory Team Support

The advisory team are very keen to recommence supporting schools. We moved very quickly to online support last term and certainly for the first half of this term we will be continuing to support you online. We have received a number of requests for advisers to visit schools in person but unfortunately this is simply not possible at the moment. This situation will be reviewed as government and diocesan guidance is updated and you will be informed of any changes, but for now your advisers will be in touch shortly about the nature of the online support they can offer. Last term our virtual support visits to schools were very popular, and online deanery meetings for both Headteacher and RECs were also very successful. Please do approach your individual adviser if there is particular support or guidance you require.

I know that for many of you will be experiencing a change of adviser this year as we have adapted our support to reflect the regional hubs. We accept that many of you may require a period of transition, particularly if you are expecting a diocesan inspection. This is understandable and something that the team are fully anticipating. Do contact your adviser or Amanda Crowley amandacrowley@rcdow.org.uk if you have any queries regarding the support you can expect this half term.

Mass and Collective Worship

We are awaiting guidance from the CES regarding the celebration of Mass and Collective Worship in schools. As soon as we are receive, we will advise schools accordingly.

Primary SLACK Channel

If you are a Primary Headteacher or RE Coordinator and you do not currently have access to the Primary SLACK channel, please contact Diana Roberts dianaroberts@rcdow.org.uk.

Season of Creation

Please find below some resources for celebrating the Season of Creation in your schools. We have uploaded various practical resources to our SLACK sharing platform also.

Westminster Justice and Peace Commission



Visit [this](#) website for various audio-visual resources and links including the message of Pope Francis, a prayer card and activities to do with groups. There is also background information on the Care of Creation in the wider Church that can be used by teachers, parishes and governors. This website will be continually updated throughout the month.

[Season of Creation Official Website](#)



Click [here](#) for Season of Creation website give a good introduction to what the Season is about:

The Season of Creation is a time to renew our relationship with our Creator and all creation through repenting, repairing, and rejoicing together. During the Season of Creation, we join our sisters and brothers in the ecumenical family in prayer and action for our common home.

This year, amid crises that have shaken our world, we're awakened to the urgent need to heal our relationships with creation and each other. During the season this year, we enter a time of restoration and hope, a jubilee for our Earth, that requires radically new ways of living with creation.

The Season of Creation unites the world's 2.2 billion Christians around one shared purpose. With so much injustice all around us, now is the time for Christians everywhere to come together and show the world how to love each other and creation.

CAFOD Website

Click [here](#) for various resource and prayers for the season of creation. You can also search for other resources for creation, stewardship and Laudato Si as there are many!

Video Competition

The Justice and Peace Commission is inviting all schools to submit a short 3 minute (max) video to show us how they celebrated the season of creation. There are categories for primary, secondary and sixth form entrants. The deadline is 1st October 2020 so that they can publish and display all the videos together before the Season ends on 4th October. Full details can be found [here](#)

Clifton Diocesan Resources

Weekly reflections from which can be used by individuals or groups can be found [here](#)

The Mark 10 Mission

The Mark 10 Mission, in partnership with The Franciscan Friars of the Renewal, is creating brand new and completely free content for schools. The team have been working hard filming and editing virtual collective worship assemblies ready for the start of the new term. The assemblies present the Sunday Gospel, a reflection, a time of guided prayer and a live recorded worship song with Fr Gabriel CFR. [Click Here](#)

The Year of the Word: The God Who Speaks

The Bishops' Conference Standing Committee met on 30th June and officially agreed to extend 'The God who Speaks – The Year of the Word' until at least the 'Sunday of the Word of God' on 24th January 2022. As a result during the coming months, new themed materials will be posted on the God Who Speaks website which you might find useful.

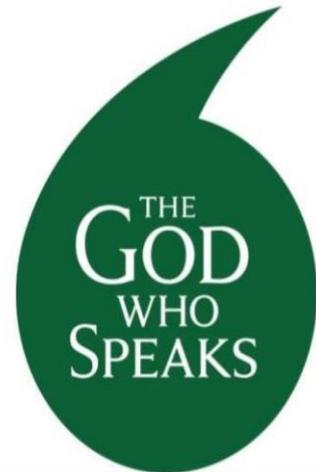
The themes for this term are as follows:

- September – The Environment; St. Jerome's 1,600th anniversary
- October – Mary; Families/Relationships
- November - Mental Health and Healthcare; Spiritual Direction; Spirituality
- December – Advent; Christmas

The CES and the Bible Society are delighted and have created new resources on their website, which we will continue to promote 'The God who Speaks – The Year of the Word' in all seasons and at all times. Here is the link to this website – <https://www.godwhospeaks.uk/>

Please continue to share your work on 'The God Who Speaks - The Year of the Word' by sending it to Claire O'Neill claireoneill@rcdow.org.uk

This work will be used to showcase the fantastic initiatives that has taken place in our Diocese.



CPD – Autumn Term Programme

A reminder that all Education Service courses for this Autumn Term will be delivered online using Zoom. A Zoom link will be sent to delegates after booking and prior to the start of the course. For each delegate to receive the link their name and email address must be provided at the time of booking. Bookings will close for each event at 4pm the day before so please do book in advance. You can book a single ticket or school ticket for more than one member of staff. Also the timings for many of the courses has changed to make them more accessible so do consider that when planning for yourself and your team.

Please find attached our Autumn Term CPD booklet, which includes interactive booking links for all scheduled courses.

Foundation Stones

An introductory course to Catholicism, structured around the four main sections of the Catechism. Participants learn about the key Catholic beliefs and practices. It is simple and straightforward and is excellent CPD for non-Catholic teachers or those who are not confident teaching RE. The course is structured to allow participants to ask questions and discuss ideas so they can gain insights into the Catholic faith. This in turn aids the teaching of RE and understanding of the Catholic Life of their school. Click [here](#) for further information and booking links. There are three courses available this term:

- Mondays 4-6pm (6 sessions) – Claire O'Neill
- Wednesdays 2.30-3.45pm (12 sessions) – Amanda Crowley

➤ Thursdays 4-6pm (6 sessions) – Tony Gorton

Mental Health Resources



A two week reflective programme from Worth Abbey Parish can be found [here](#). The effects of mental health problems are huge. Nearly nine out of ten people with mental health problems have been affected by stigma and discrimination. Given the challenging times we are living in with coronavirus, the reflections in this booklet were updated and new resources written in March 2020. They seek to provide hope, reassurance and comfort.

Mental Health and Well-being of Teachers – Resources to support returning to school
Staff Wellbeing Planning Pack - [Click Here](#)

Reframing Thoughts for staff - [Click Here](#)

Reducing Separation Anxiety Teacher Resource - [Click Here](#)

Reducing Separation Anxiety Teacher Resource - [Click Here](#)

Mental Health and Well-being of Pupils– Resources to support returning to school

Reflecting on Lockdown Activity - [Click Here](#)

Brain Breaks helping children settle back into the classroom - [Click Here](#)

Piece of the Puzzle Assembly - [Click Here](#)

Piece of the Puzzle Activity Pack - [Click Here](#)

Mentally Healthy Schools – Reframing Thoughts Activity - [Click Here](#)

Catholic Children’s Society Crisis Fund

If a family in your school faces a crisis and needs immediate one-off financial help, please consider applying for a Crisis Fund grant from the Catholic Children’s Society (CCS). The one-page application form is easy to complete and CCS will respond within 24 hours. Click [here](#) for further information.

Many schools have used this fund during the pandemic so do consider how your school could raise money to support its ongoing work.

Mental Health Resource checklist

At the start of the new term we wish to remind you of Resources for your staff on Mental Health that you may find useful that were produced before the summer and still accessible on our website

Mental Health and Well-being Resources	
Week 1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Websites for children and young people on mental health and well-being ➤ Websites for parents/carers and teachers on mental health and well-being ➤ Support for mental health while working from home ➤ Responding to the coronavirus – resources for mental health and well-being ➤ The Leapers little guide to working from home
Week 2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Coronavirus School Closures (British Psychological Society) ➤ Supporting children and young people with worries about COVID-19 ➤ NHS – Taking steps towards living well ➤ Mental Health and Well-being - Coronavirus
Week 3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Staff Well-being
Week 4	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Mental Health and Well-being – support for key workers
Week 5	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Children’s Mental Health and Well-being ➤ CPD – Mental Health Awareness Courses
Week 6	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Bereavement ➤ Five Ways to Well-being – for parents
Week 7	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Coronavirus a book for children ➤ Five Ways to Well-being – for teachers ➤ Anxiety
Week 8	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Resilience
Week 9	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Mental Health Awareness Week ➤ Dealing with lockdown ➤ Coping with unexpected endings ➤ Managing unexpected endings
Week 10	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Transitions
Week 11	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ CPD – Training for school staff
Week 12	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Supporting children and young people when returning to school
Week 13	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Ideas for the Summer break
Autumn Term	
Week 1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Mental Health and Well-being: resources for returning to school

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



The Coronavirus FAQs for early years and schools

These FAQs have been compiled by our colleagues at RBKC and Westminster to help provide additional guidance to local early years settings and schools about coronavirus. They will be regularly reviewed and updated in line with national guidance.

It's important to note that Public Health England (PHE) are the lead and local public health advice is supplementary.

Contact details and Notifications

Do early years settings and schools have to notify Public Health England of any situations?

If you have a *confirmed* case for staff or student - please inform Public Health England of your situation by email on LCRC@phe.gov.uk or by phone 0300 303 0450.

You do *not* need to notify Public Health England or suspected/symptomatic cases – only if there is a confirmed case.

However, locally we are also asking early years settings and schools to notify the local Public Health team if you have any symptomatic or confirmed cases staff or students by completing this short [survey](#). This is so we can provide supplementary health protection advice if needed.

Early Years

Do early year settings still need to keep children in bubbles?

From 20 July, early years settings are no longer required to keep children in small, consistent groups (bubbles) within settings but can return to normal group sizes. Settings should still consider how they can minimise mixing within settings, for example where they use different rooms for different age groups, keeping those groups apart as much as possible.

Do we need to take children's temperatures?

Settings do not need to take children's temperatures. Public Health England's guidance is that routine testing of an individual's temperature is not a reliable method for identifying coronavirus.

However, some settings are choosing to do this as part of their risk assessments.

Can children share toys?

Settings are being asked to consider new approaches that will need to be taken to minimise the sharing of resources between groups, for example for painting, sticking, cutting and outdoor construction activities, which should be thoroughly cleaned before and after use by different groups. Malleable resources, such as play dough, should not be shared between groups.



Public health advice is to remove all soft toys, and any toys that are hard to clean, such as those with intricate parts. Where practicable, remove soft furnishings, for example pillows, bean bags and rugs.

Public Health England has published revised guidance for cleaning non-healthcare settings to advise on general cleaning required in addition to the current advice on [COVID-19: cleaning of non-healthcare settings guidance](#).

Can children go outside to play?

Yes! Please plan how outdoor space, where available, can be used as much as possible. Consider how all groups of children can be given equal opportunities for outdoor learning, while ensuring outdoor equipment and toys are appropriately cleaned between being used by different groups.

Can early years providers take groups of children to outdoor public places, for example if there is no private outdoor space in the setting?

Settings should maximise use of private outdoor space. Early years providers, including childminders, may take small groups of children to outdoor public spaces, for example parks, provided that a risk assessment demonstrates that they can stay 2 metres away from other people wherever possible. This should be restricted to small groups.

Can under 5s get tested?

Yes. If they develop symptoms, or are advised to by NHS Test and Trace, all children including the under 5's can get a test. See "testing" section below for more information.

Will schools (including nursery schools) receive home testing kits so they can give directly to parents/carers collecting a child who has developed symptoms at school?

Yes. PHE is currently working with the DFE on the scope and delivery of home test kits to educational settings, including early years. More information will be made available in due course.

Can childminders and other early years settings do pick-ups and drop-offs at school or other settings?

Childminders and other settings should consider how they can work with parents and carers to agree how best to manage any necessary journeys, for example pick-ups and drop-offs at schools, to reduce the need for a provider to travel with groups of children.

If it is necessary for a childminder to pick up or drop off a child at school, walking is preferable. If this is not practicable, then a private vehicle is preferable to public transport.



Are settings allowed to invite visitors and non-staff members such as speech and language therapists or parents and carers for stay and play into settings?

Wherever possible, settings are encouraged to avoid visitors entering their premises. Parents and carers should **not** be allowed into the setting unless this is essential, and children should be dropped off and collected at the door if possible.

Sessions in settings that use external providers, which are not directly required for children's health and wellbeing, should be suspended. In instances where settings need to use other essential professionals such as social workers, you should assess whether it is possible for them to attend virtually instead. If they need to attend in person they should closely follow the protective measures and where possible maintain social distancing.

Schools

All pupils, in all year groups, will return to school full-time from the beginning of the autumn term.

The prevalence of coronavirus (COVID-19) has decreased, the NHS Test and Trace system is up and running, and there are measures that need to be in place to create safer environments within schools.

Face Masks and Face Coverings

Do staff or pupils need to wear a face mask or face covering?

If they can, children aged 12 and over should wear a mask where social distancing cannot be safely managed and there is widespread transmission in the areas. Schools and colleges have the discretion to require face coverings in indoor communal areas where social distancing cannot be safely managed, if they believe that it is right in their particular circumstances. For more information see [Face coverings in education](#).

When travelling on public transport, if they can, children will need to wear a face covering. See [How to wear and make a face cloth](#).

Some pupils may be exempt from wearing face coverings. These exemptions will apply in schools and colleges, so any requirement to wear a face covering does not apply to children and young people who:

- have a disability that means they cannot wear a face covering
- would find wearing a face covering severely distressing
- are with someone who relies on lip reading to communicate

Travelling to School

How should children travel to school? Is Public Transport safe?

Walk/cycle or scooter if possible or drive a private vehicle. If families and children do have to travel on Public Transport, they will need to wear a face covering. See [How to wear and make a face covering](#).

Can families “car share” to travel to school?

The Department for Transport are encouraging people to plan their journey; if it requires them to share a car with another household, they are asked that they follow government guidance to help them keep safe. The advice for the public is to:

- try not to share a vehicle with those outside their household or support bubble
- if this is not possible, share the transport with the same people each time
- open the windows for ventilation
- wear a face covering for the duration of the journey
- consider seating arrangements to maximise distance between people in the vehicle – e.g. leave seats some free.
- clean their car between journeys including door handles and other areas that people may touch

This guidance is for personal family owned cars. Taxis and Private Hire Vehicles have their own guidance and regulations.

Do these measures apply to dedicated school transport?

Pupils on dedicated school services do not mix with the general public on those journeys and tend to be consistent. This means that the advice for passengers on public transport to adopt a social distance of two metres from people outside their household or support bubble, or a ‘one metre plus’ approach where this is not possible, will not apply from the autumn term on dedicated transport.

The following will need to be considered:

- how pupils are grouped together on transport, where possible this should reflect the bubbles that are adopted within school
- use of hand sanitiser upon boarding and/or disembarking
- additional cleaning of vehicles
- organised queuing and boarding where possible
- distancing within vehicles wherever possible
- the use of face coverings for children (except those under the age of 11), where appropriate, for example, if they are likely to come into very close contact with people outside of their group or who they do not normally meet



What measures need to be taken for children arriving and leaving school?

If patterns allow, schools should consider staggered starts or adjusting start and finish times to keep groups apart as they arrive and leave school.

Schools should also have a process for removing face coverings when pupils and staff who use them arrive at school and communicate it clearly to them. Pupils must be instructed not to touch the front of their face covering during use or when removing it. They must wash their hands immediately on arrival (as is the case for all pupils), dispose of temporary face coverings in a covered bin or place reusable face coverings in a plastic bag they can take home with them, and then wash their hands again before heading to their classroom.

School Uniform

Do school uniform policies need to be changed?

Schools decide their own uniform policy. We are encouraging all schools to return to their usual uniform policies in the autumn term. You do not need to clean uniforms differently or any more often than usual because of coronavirus (COVID-19).

Suspected cases

What happens if someone becomes unwell at an educational or childcare setting?

If anyone in an education or childcare setting becomes unwell with a new, continuous cough or a high temperature, or has a loss of, or change in, their normal sense of taste or smell (anosmia), they must be sent home (or wait to be collected) and advised to follow the [COVID-19: guidance for households with possible coronavirus \(COVID-19\) infection guidance](#).

If a child is awaiting collection, they should be moved, if possible, to a room where they can be isolated behind a closed door, depending on the age of the child and with appropriate adult supervision if required. Ideally, a window should be opened for ventilation. If it is not possible to isolate them, move them to an area which is at least 2 metres away from other people.

If they need to go to the bathroom while waiting to be collected, they should use a separate bathroom if possible. The bathroom should be cleaned and disinfected using standard cleaning products before being used by anyone else.

PPE should be worn by staff caring for the child while they await collection if a distance of 2 metres cannot be maintained (such as for a very young child or a child with complex needs).



If a member of staff has helped someone with symptoms, they do not need to go home unless they develop symptoms themselves (and in which case, a test is available) or the child subsequently tests positive (see ‘What happens if there is a confirmed case of coronavirus (COVID-19) in a setting?’ below). They should wash their hands thoroughly for 20 seconds after any contact with someone who is unwell. Cleaning the affected area with normal household disinfectant after someone with symptoms has left will reduce the risk of passing the infection on to other people. See the COVID-19: cleaning of non-healthcare settings guidance.

If the child tests negative, then they can return to school.

If they test positive, then the school will need to follow the following guidance and also report the situation as an outbreak to PHE/LCRC and the local Public Health team. See “Confirmed cases” section.

PHE/LCRC will advise on what settings need to do in the event of a confirmed case

If there is a suspected case in the setting or school (either staff or pupil) - does this mean that the setting or school should close for 14 days?

No. If a pupil or staff member has symptoms, they need to self-isolate immediately and get a test.

Confirmed cases

What happens if there is a confirmed case of coronavirus (COVID-19) in a setting?

If a child, young person or staff member develops symptoms compatible with coronavirus (COVID-19), they should be sent home and advised to self-isolate for 10 days and arrange to have a test to see if they have COVID-19. They can do this by visiting NHS.UK or by calling NHS 119. Their fellow household members should self-isolate for 14 days. All staff and students who are attending an education or childcare setting will have access to a test if they display symptoms of coronavirus (COVID-19) and are encouraged to get tested in this scenario.

If someone has been in close contact with a **confirmed case** but they themselves have tested negative, they must remain in isolation for the remainder of the 14-day isolation period - this is because they could still develop the coronavirus (COVID-19) within the remaining days

Where the child, young person or staff member tests positive, they should inform their setting immediately, and must isolate for at least 10 days from the onset of their symptoms - their household should self-isolate for 14 days from when the symptomatic person first had symptoms, following ‘Stay at home: guidance for households with possible or confirmed coronavirus (COVID-19) infection’



The rest of their class or group within their childcare or education setting should be sent home and advised to self-isolate for 14 days. The other household members of that wider class or group do not need to self-isolate unless the child, young person or staff member they live with in that group subsequently develops symptoms.

Locally we are also asking early years settings and schools to notify the local Public Health team if you have any symptomatic or confirmed cases by completing this short survey.

As part of the national test and trace programme, if other cases are detected within the cohort or in the wider setting, Public Health England's local health protection teams will conduct a rapid investigation and will advise schools and other settings on the most appropriate action to take. In some cases a larger number of other children, young people may be asked to self-isolate at home as a precautionary measure – perhaps the whole class, site or year group. Where settings are observing guidance on infection prevention and control, which will reduce risk of transmission, closure of the whole setting will not generally be necessary.

If there is a confirmed case in the setting or school (either staff or pupil) - does this mean that the setting or school should close for 14 days?

Not necessarily but it is likely that the affected class group/bubble will be sent home and told to self-isolate for 14 days. PHE will advise you if there is a confirmed case and whether to send the whole school/class group/bubble home. If a pupil or staff member informs the setting or school that they have tested positive for coronavirus, schools and settings need to contact PHE (do not wait for PHE to contact you).

Where the child, young person or staff member tests positive, the rest of their class or group within their childcare or education setting should be sent home and advised to self-isolate for 14 days. The other household members of that wider class or group do not need to self-isolate unless the child, young person or staff member they live with in that group subsequently develops symptoms.

What will happen if there is an outbreak in the school?

If schools have two or more confirmed cases within 14 days, or an overall rise in sickness absence where coronavirus (COVID-19) is suspected, they may have an outbreak, and must continue to work with their local health protection team who will be able to advise if additional action is required.

In some cases, health protection teams may recommend that a larger number of other pupils self-isolate at home as a precautionary measure – perhaps the whole site or year group.

A mobile testing unit may be dispatched to test others who may have been in contact with the person who has tested positive. Testing will first focus on the person's class, followed by their year group, then the whole school if necessary, in line with routine public health outbreak control practice.



Staff and Children rotation into bubbles

How should schools group children?

In the Autumn term guidance, maintaining consistent groups remains important, but given the decrease in the prevalence of coronavirus (COVID-19) and the resumption of the full range of curriculum subjects, schools may need to change the emphasis on bubbles within their system of controls and increase the size of these groups.

In secondary schools, and certainly in the older age groups at key stage 4 and key stage 5, the groups are likely to need to be the size of a year group to enable schools to deliver the full range of curriculum subjects and students to receive specialist teaching. If this can be achieved with small groups, they are recommended. At primary school, and in the younger years at secondary (key stage 3), schools may be able to implement smaller groups the size of a full class.

Schools should assess their circumstances and if class-sized groups are not compatible with offering a full range of subjects or managing the practical logistics within and around school, they can look to implement year group sized 'bubbles'. Whatever the size of the group, they should be kept apart from other groups where possible and older children should be encouraged to keep their distance within groups. Schools should avoid large gatherings such as assemblies or collective worship with more than one group.

Can staff cross over into different groups?

All teachers and other staff can operate across different classes and year groups in order to facilitate the delivery of the school timetable. Where staff need to move between classes and year groups, they should try and keep their distance from pupils and other staff as much as they can, ideally 2 metres from other adults.

Measures that should be implemented

- Ideally, adults should maintain 2 metre distance from each other, and from children where possible
- Where possible pupils should sit side by side and facing forwards, rather than face to face or side on
- When timetabling, groups should be kept apart and movement around the school site kept to a minimum
- Schools should also consider staggered break times and lunch times (and time for cleaning surfaces in the dining hall between groups)



Music lessons

If a school deems that they want to proceed with music for the whole class of 30, and they have risk-assessed it, is that acceptable?

Yes – the [DfE guidance](#) (see Music, dance and drama in schools section) has lifted the number from 15 and states: “All pupils should have access to a quality arts education. Music, dance and drama build confidence and help children live happier, more enriched lives, and discover the joy of expressing themselves.”

There may, however, be an additional risk of infection in environments where singing, chanting, playing wind or brass instruments, dance and drama takes place.

Additional mitigations, such as extended social distancing, were previously required for singing, and playing of wind and brass instruments given concerns that these were potentially higher risk activities. Department for Culture, Media and Sport (DCMS) has commissioned further scientific studies to be carried out to develop the scientific evidence on these activities, which has allowed the government to reconsider appropriate mitigations and further research is continuing

Singing, wind and brass instrument playing *can be* undertaken in line with this and other guidance, in particular guidance provided by the DCMS for professionals and non-professionals, available at [working safely during coronavirus \(COVID-19\): performing arts](#). However, these studies have also indicated that it is the cumulative aerosol transmission from both those performing in and attending events is likely to create risk. DCMS is continuing to develop a more detailed understanding of how to mitigate this potential aggregate risk, but in that context, organisations should follow the guidance set out below.

Risk Assessments and preventative measures are vital with an emphasis on staying at home if staff or pupils develop symptoms, strong hand and respiratory hygiene and reducing contacts with other year “bubbles”.

Schools should consider how to reduce the risk, particularly when pupils are playing instruments or singing in small groups such as in music lessons by, for example, physical distancing and playing outside wherever possible, positioning pupils back-to-back or side-to-side (not face to face), avoiding sharing of instruments, and ensuring good ventilation.

Singing, wind and brass playing should not take place in larger groups such as school choirs and ensembles, or school assemblies. Further, more detailed DfE guidance will be published shortly.

A deep clean of any surfaces during the “change-over” period is advised especially of high traffic touchpoint e.g. lights, desks, taps.

If we implement all these measures – is it Risk Free?

With these measures we can reduce the risk significantly – and there are such broad benefits of the wider returning to school and the full curriculum being offered.

Testing and Test Results

How do pupils or staff get a test?

Testing is now available for all ages (including the under 5s).

For children who report symptoms, please inform their parents that they should apply to have a coronavirus (COVID-19) test. These are available for all ages (including the under 5s) and online via the NHS portal or by calling 119¹

For staff who report symptoms, please inform the individual that they should apply to have a coronavirus (COVID-19) test. These are available online via the GOV.UK essential workers portal.

¹ 119 is the new Covid number for NHS Test and Trace. 111 is still the number for all other non-emergencies.

What are the different types of tests for coronavirus?

There are two main types of test: have you got it (now) and have you had it previously

- The swab test swabs the throat and nose and can tell if you have it now
- The swab test is available to everyone if you develop symptoms

- The antibody test is a blood test and can tell if you have had it in the past.
- The antibody test is currently only accessible for NHS staff or care workers and some hospital patients and care home residents

See graphic below and guidance here that explains in more detail

What are the differences between Coronavirus (COVID-19) tests

Swab test Do I have it?	Antibody test Have I had it?	
	Laboratory test	Home test
How does the test work?		
Swab sample from throat and nose 	Blood test taken by a medical professional 	'Finger-prick' test taken at home 
Can I get tested now?		
Anyone experiencing symptoms can ask for a test through the NHS website, and priority testing is available to essential workers.	This test is being offered to NHS and social care staff, and to NHS hospital inpatients and care home residents based on their clinician's advice.	These tests are currently not accurate enough and the Government is not offering them at present. We plan to offer this in the future once more accurate tests are available.

If someone in a bubble is showing symptoms of coronavirus but has not been tested, what should the procedure be? Should we advise others in the meantime or wait for a result?

Anyone with symptoms should be advised to immediately go home, self-isolate and ask for a test through the NHS portal or by calling 119. No action is needed for the bubble unless the individual tests positive.

If a child or adult has a positive test for COVID-19, do the others in the bubble need to be informed and self-isolate?

Where the child, young person or staff member tests positive, the rest of their class or group within their childcare or education setting should be sent home and advised to self-isolate for 14 days. The other household members of that wider class or group do not need to self-isolate unless the child, young person or staff member they live with in that group subsequently develops symptoms.

As part of the national test and trace programme, if other cases are detected within the cohort or in the wider setting, Public Health England's local health protection teams will conduct a rapid investigation and will advise schools and other settings on the most appropriate action to take. In some cases, a larger number of other children, young people may be asked to self-isolate at home as a precautionary measure – perhaps the whole class, site or year group. Where settings are observing guidance on infection prevention and control, which will reduce risk of transmission, closure of the whole setting will not generally be necessary.



If a pupil in the bubble has had a confirmed positive test result, do the other children in the bubble (who are self-isolating) need to get a test even if they don't have symptoms?

No. Only *if* they develop symptoms whilst they are self-isolating.

Where is the nearest test centre to our school in the event that anyone at school develops symptoms?

To find and book to attend the nearest testing site or to request a home test, visit the online [NHS portal](#) or call 119.

How can people without cars get tested?

Persons will require to drive or be driven to a test site. Public Health do not recommend that persons attend a testing site by public transport. Many people will find the most accessible option will be to elect to take a home test.

Home Testing Kits

Will schools (including nursery schools) receive home testing kits so they can give directly to parents/carers collecting a child who has developed symptoms at school?

Yes. PHE is currently working with the DFE on the scope and delivery of home test kits to educational settings, including early years. More information will be made available in due course.

A parent has called to say a pupil has a high temperature and they are keeping them off school. They don't have a thermometer, but they felt hot – can they still get a test?

Yes. You do not need to have taken your temperature to get a test, if you feel hot or feverish you should get a test.

A pupil has been sent home with symptoms and advised to get a test, do we need to inform all families of those children who were in the child's bubble to self-isolate or do we wait for more information?

No action is needed for the bubble unless the individual tests positive and at which point you will receive advice on how to do this by PHE.

What is the NHS Test and Trace programme?

Please visit the [GOV.UK guidance](#) for more information.

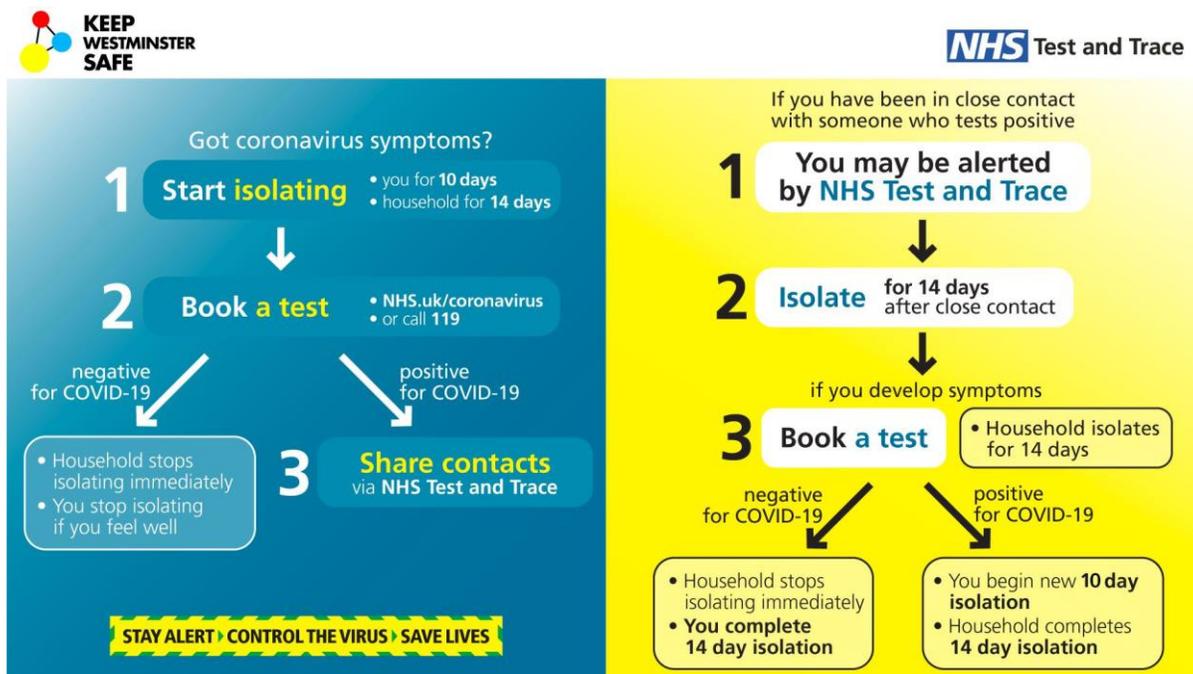
NHS Test and Trace aims to control the coronavirus rate of reproduction 'R' and reduce the spread of infection.

The NHS test and trace service:

- ensures that anyone who develops symptoms of coronavirus (COVID-19) can quickly be tested to find out if they have the virus
- helps trace close recent contacts of anyone who tests positive for coronavirus and, if necessary, notifies them that they must self-isolate at home to help stop the spread of the virus

We all have a role to play in helping to make the Test and Trace service work.

The diagram below outlines the steps we must all take if we have coronavirus symptoms or are contacted by NHS Test and Trace that we have been in close contact with someone with coronavirus.



A family with symptoms are worried about getting the test – can you explain what it involves?

The test is a simple swab test of the tongue and throat and can be done at home or at a testing site.

The [NHS Test and Trace explainer video](#) describes the test and trace service and has a graphic of a swab going up the nose.

The test involves taking a swab of the inside of the nose and the back of the throat, using a long cotton bud. You can do the swab yourself (if you are aged 12 or over) or someone can do it for you. Children aged 11 or under cannot do the swab themselves. Their parent or guardian will have to swab test them. For more information, please see the [GOV.UK guidance](#).

Families are concerned about giving their data to the NHS Test and Trace. Can you advise on the data protection/safe guarantees for families who may interact with NHS Test and Trace and may have uncertain immigration status and/or have not adhered to social distancing?

The NHS Test and Trace will only share information on cases and contacts for the purposes of contact tracing and the COVID response and would not share the information for other purposes.

If a family refuses to get a pupil with symptoms tested – can the school re-admit the pupil after 10 days onset of symptoms?



Yes, as long as they are well enough to return. But please do reiterate that the NHS Test and Trace programme is designed to be an effective and safe testing method that helps pupils get back to school quicker (if they test negative, they can return to nursery/school immediately).

Fake news/rumours

We have been made aware of rumours circulating on social media which suggest that, under the Coronavirus Act, school children displaying COVID-19 symptoms can be taken and detained by the state in a government testing centre and held for 14 days, plus tested without parental consent. Can you suggest a response?

We been alerted to these very troubling messages and can understand why they would they would be alarming for any parent or carer.

The Coronavirus Act is very clear that we can only screen or assess a child for COVID-19 in the presence of their carer, parent or guardian.

For most people, children and parents will be asked to isolate at home as a family for 14 days if required. If, for any reason, this isn't possible, alternative arrangements will always be discussed with the parents or guardians.

If your child displays symptoms it is very important that they get a test and that they do not go to school or nursery so that they don't make any other children unwell. If they become unwell at school, you will be contacted, asked to remove them from school and advised to take them for a test.

Can children of all ages get a test?

Yes, everyone can get a test if they develop symptoms – including the under 5s

Symptoms

What are the symptoms of COVID-19?

The main symptoms of coronavirus are:

- **high temperature** – this means you feel hot to touch on your chest or back (you do not need to measure your temperature)
- **new, continuous cough** – this means coughing a lot for more than an hour, or 3 or more coughing episodes in 24 hours (if you usually have a cough, it may be worse than usual)
- **loss or change to your sense of smell or taste** – this means you've noticed you cannot smell or taste anything, or things smell or taste different to normal



Most people with coronavirus have at least one of these symptoms. Please visit the [NHS coronavirus advice](#) for more information.

What is a high temperature?

A high temperature means you feel hot to touch on your chest or back (you do not need to measure your temperature).

If someone has a high temperature, they will need to self-isolate and get a test.

If the child is under 3 months and has a temperature over 38, please call NHS 111.

Please visit the [coronavirus in children NHS advice](#).

Transmission

What do we now know about children and transmission of covid-19?

While more research is needed, we know that children are less susceptible to COVID-19 infection, than adults. Research has consistently shown that there are much fewer cases of COVID-19 in children, compared to adults, and that if children do contract COVID-19, they are generally found to have much less severe symptoms than adults.

Transmission of COVID-19 to children in schools does occur. On current evidence, it is probably not a common route of transmission. It may be lower in primary age children than secondary age children.

It's important that we all continue to play our part in preventing the spread of Coronavirus by:

- **washing your hands more often than usual for 20 seconds**, especially as soon as you get home
- if you can, **cover your mouth and nose** when in places where it's hard to stay away from other people you do not normally meet
- **keep your distance** - try to stay at least 2 metres (3 steps) away from anyone you do not live with (or anyone not in your support bubble)

Shielding

What is 'shielding'?

'Shielding' is defined by Public Health England as a measure to protect extremely clinically vulnerable people by minimising interactions with others. Those adults and children who are classed as extremely vulnerable or most at risk are strongly recommended to take additional precautions to avoid COVID-19 infection. Within their homes, individuals should minimise all non-essential contact with other members of their household. PHE has guidance on what measures need to be followed when 'shielding'.



Shielding advice for all adults and children paused on 1 August, due to a continued decline in the rates of community transmission of coronavirus (COVID-19). This means that even the small number of pupils who will remain on the shielded patient list **can** (and should) return to school, as can those who have family members who are shielding. Read the [current advice on shielding](#).

If rates of the disease rise in local areas, children (or family members) from that area, and that area only, will be advised to shield during the period where rates remain high and therefore they may be temporarily absent from school.

What about clinically extremely vulnerable children and young people?

The latest evidence indicates that the risk of serious illness for most children and young people is low. In the future, we expect fewer children and young people will be included on the shielded patient list.

If a child or young person is removed from the shielded patient list, they will no longer be advised to shield in the future if coronavirus transmission increases. Parents should talk to their paediatric specialists/GPs to decide on whether a child or young person should be removed from the shielded patient list.

What if a child is under the care of a specialist health professional?

Some pupils no longer required to shield but who generally remain under the care of a specialist health professional may need to discuss their care with their health professional before returning to school (usually at their next planned clinical appointment).

You can find more advice from the Royal College of Paediatrics and Child Health at [COVID-19 - 'shielding' guidance for children and young people](#)

Infection control

Do early years settings and schools have to undertake any additional cleaning?

In all education, childcare and social care settings, preventing the spread of coronavirus (COVID-19) involves dealing with direct transmission (for instance, when in close contact with those sneezing and coughing) and indirect transmission (via touching contaminated surfaces). A range of approaches and actions should be employed to do this. These include:

- **minimising contact with individuals who are unwell** by ensuring that those who have coronavirus (COVID-19) symptoms, or who have someone in their household who does, do not attend childcare settings, schools or colleges
- **cleaning hands more often than usual** - wash hands thoroughly for 20 seconds with running water and soap and dry them thoroughly or use alcohol hand rub or sanitiser ensuring that all parts of the hands are covered
- **ensuring good respiratory hygiene** by promoting the 'catch it, bin it, kill it' approach
- **cleaning frequently touched surfaces** often using standard products, such as detergents and bleach

- 
- **minimising contact and mixing** by altering, as much as possible, the environment (such as classroom layout) and timetables (such as staggered break times)

More information can be found [here](#).

Returning from foreign travel and self-isolating

A member of the household is returning from foreign travel from a country on the UK [quarantine list](#) and so will be quarantining in the home of 2 pupils. Should the children be in school or should they be staying at home?

Yes, the children can attend school (if they haven't travelled), unless any member of the household develops symptoms.

See advice here on [how to self-isolate following foreign travel](#):

The people you're staying with **do not need to self-isolate**, unless they travelled with you or you [develop the symptoms of coronavirus](#).

Outdoor play

We have no outdoor space. Will we be allowed to take groups of pupils in their bubbles, to the park to play?

Yes this is allowed: please do continue to practice safe social distancing and reinforce handwashing regularly, especially after returning from the park.

Resources to support concerns about coronavirus

Families are concerned about the children catching COVID-19 – is there any advice on what we can say to help reduce their fears?

It is important to remember that for most people who do catch it - and especially children - the virus will be mild. See a list of recommended resources below.

We want to talk to our pupils about coronavirus – can you recommend any resources?

- PHE has published [guidance](#) for parents and carers of children and young people on looking after the mental health and wellbeing of children or young people during the coronavirus. PHE has also published an [easy-read version](#) of information about coronavirus for people with learning disabilities.
- **Rise Above** (targeted at **young people age 10-16** aiming to improve resilience and mental health) including [tips for feeling good in lockdown](#).
- [Children's Commissioner](#) - Children's Guide to Coronavirus

- [Young Minds](#) - Tips, advice and guidance on where young people can get mental health support during tCOVID-19
- [Anna Freud](#) - Download pdfs of the advice for [young people](#), [parents and carers](#), [families](#) and for [professionals working with children and young people](#).
- [Ebug](#) - a free educational resource for classroom and home use from Public Health England which makes learning about micro-organisms, the spread, prevention and treatment of infection fun and accessible for all teachers and students.
- A [digital book](#) by Julia Donaldson and Axel Shaeffer, who wrote the Gruffalo, explaining Coronavirus for children. Based on advice from medical professionals, head teachers and a child psychologist. The book answers key questions in simple language appropriate for 5 to 9-year olds.

Key Guidance

Actions for early years and childcare providers during the coronavirus (COVID-19) outbreak (updated 27 July 2020)

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/coronavirus-covid-19-early-years-and-childcare-closures>

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>

Coronavirus (COVID-19): guidance for schools and other educational settings (updated 26 August 2020)

<https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/coronavirus-covid-19-guidance-for-schools-and-other-educational-settings>

Coronavirus (COVID-19): implementing protective measures in education and childcare settings (updated 1 June 2020)

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/coronavirus-covid-19-implementing-protective-measures-in-education-and-childcare-settings>

What parents and carers need to know about early years providers, schools and colleges in the autumn term (updated 1 September 2020)

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/what-parents-and-carers-need-to-know-about-early-years-providers-schools-and-colleges-during-the-coronavirus-covid-19-outbreak/what-parents-and-carers-need-to-know-about-early-years-providers-schools-and-colleges-in-the-autumn-term>

Coronavirus in children (NHS)

<https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19/symptoms/coronavirus-in-children/>

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>
- Responsibility for autumn exams – updated 7 September
<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/responsibility-for-autumn-gcse-as-and-a-level-exam-series>
- Guidance for full opening: schools – updated 4 September
<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/actions-for-schools-during-the-coronavirus-outbreak/guidance-for-full-opening-schools>
- Coronavirus (COVID-19): initial teacher training (ITT) – Updated 2 September 2020
<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/coronavirus-covid-19-initial-teacher-training-itt>
- School attendance: guidance for schools – updated 1 September 2020
<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/school-attendance>

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- 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>

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.