

# Witness to the Word - School Bulletin 21.10.20

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 resources and advice relating to the Teaching and Learning of RE;
- To provide resources and advice relating to Spiritual support and renewal.
- To provide resources and advice relating to Mental Health issues;
- 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;

## Subject Content Today

1. Religious Education and Catholic Life resources are [here](#)
2. Caritas Update is [here](#)
3. Information about upcoming CPD and Training is [here](#)
4. Diocesan Inspection Update is [here](#)
5. Mental Health and Wellbeing Resources are [here](#)
6. Capital and Pupil Placement Planning updates are [here](#)
7. UK Government & DfE updates are [here](#)

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

## Religious Education and Catholic Life Resources

### October – The Month of the Rosary

As October is the month of the Rosary, it is quite fitting that we have finished the entire set of the Rosary with all the PowerPoints of the mysteries now available on our website to be used and amended at any time in the future [here](#). If you would like to find out more about Our Lady and the Rosary, please see our Catholicism Unpacked resources [here](#) as well as the Dowry of Mary resource [here](#). Unfortunately, the Rededication was due to take place as we went into Lockdown so some of these resources may have been missed. Please see attached a PowerPoint on Mary's 'yes' with the original and child-friendly version of the Angelus which can be used at home and at school at any time of the year.

### Fratelli Tutti

We are providing a summary of a section of Pope Francis' Social Encyclical each week taken from [www.vaticannews.va](http://www.vaticannews.va). Click [here](#) to download the full document.

#### Week 3 - Rights have no borders

A fraternal society, therefore, will be one that promotes educating in dialogue in order to defeat the "virus" of "radical individualism" (105) and to allow everyone to give the best of themselves. Beginning with protection of the family and respect for its "primary and vital mission of education" (114). There are two 'tools' in particular to achieve this type of society: benevolence, or truly wanting good for the other (112), and solidarity which cares for fragility and is expressed in service to people and not to ideologies, fighting against poverty and inequality (115). The right to live with dignity cannot be denied to anyone, the Pope again affirms, and since rights have no borders, no one can remain excluded, regardless of where they are born (121). In this perspective the Pontiff also calls us to consider "an ethics of international relations" (126), because every country also belongs to foreigners and the goods of the territory cannot be denied to those who are in need and come from another place. Thus, the natural right to private property will be secondary to the principal of the universal destination of created goods (120). The Encyclical also places specific emphasis on the issue of foreign debt: subject to the principal that it must be paid, it is hoped nonetheless that this does not compromise the growth and subsistence of the poorest countries (126).

### Black History Month

Thank you to [St John XXIII Primary School](#) for sharing their approach this week:

*Here at St John we have taken a longer term stance on this, we do not want to just recognise Black History in October but ensure it is embedded in the school curriculum across the year. Next week the children will be studying Black Saints, Famous Black People in History, taking part in cultural workshops and having a virtual Show Racism the Red Card workshop hosted by QPR.*

*However, we have also started a virtual stakeholder working party on Raising Awareness of Racism. This is attended by parents, staff and governors. We had our first meeting last month where we discussed the schools approach to the teaching and learning of Black History and Racism. It was an excellent meeting with clear outcomes for how we move forward. We came up with an action plan to*

*look at how we can involve our whole school community in the development of 5 key points. Please contact the school directly for further details of the action plan.*

*In our next meeting we are going to be looking at our curriculum offer, there are elements of taught Black History in our curriculum already but we are now really going to personalise this to what is important to our school community and local area, such as an art study of Khadija Saye, who sadly passed away in the Grenfell Tower. She was an artist who specialised in photography. Our Year 4 class will be doing a study of her work after half term so that her work lives on.*

What have you been doing for Black History Month in your lessons?

If you want some ideas, NATRE have developed some **fantastic FREE primary and secondary resources** for you to use with your pupils in the classroom.

These project materials are designed to help teachers of RE plan and provide excellent learning in the classroom that encourages pupils to learn about religion and beliefs, racism and prejudice in challenging ways that promote the well-being of all in our richly plural communities.

Project partners whom this work would not be possible without include black, asian and minority ethnic teachers, academics, religious and non-religious voices from many communities, other subject associations and educational partners and many pupils. The project is generously supported initially by the Free Churches Group and Methodist Schools, and managed, written and edited by Lat Blaylock, RE Adviser and editor of REtoday magazine. Click [here](#) to access the resources.



## The Year of the Word – The God Who Speaks

### Jesse Tree Advent Resource

The Early Church adopted the idea of Jesse Trees to help people link decorating Christmas trees with the events and prophecies leading to Jesus' birth.

The Jesse Tree resource features press out baubles which you can tie to your Christmas Tree with some thread. There's a Scripture passage to look up and read each day and a quiz question on the reverse of the baubles.

Schools can order this fabulous resource in bulk!

To order your Jesse Tree resource please click [here](#) or contact Katy Dorrer via email: [katy.dorrer@biblesociety.org.uk](mailto:katy.dorrer@biblesociety.org.uk)



### New Posters Available

Three wonderful new posters are available to download to support your RE teaching are available [here](#). The themes of the posters are as follows:

- Jesus' 'I Am' Sayings – click [here](#)
- Key Catholic Symbols - click [here](#)
- The Twelve Apostles – click [here](#)

### Mark's Gospel

Discover the life of Jesus as told in the Gospel of Mark using the popular NRSV (New Revised Standard Version) translation, in collaboration with the Catholic Church's 'The God who Speaks' initiative.

10 copies for just £15. Click [here](#) below to order your copies.

## November – We remember those who have died

This year **Mission Together** has created a new **All Saints' Assembly** to remind pupils that the saints in heaven intercede for us and how they offer an example of lives of holiness. Pupils can discover how saints from each of the five continents are an inspiration to people everywhere. The assembly can be delivered in full or you may wish to reflect on each saint separately throughout the month.

For this month of the Holy Souls we have a **Liturgy and Activities for the Holy Souls** in which pupils learn that Jesus has shown us that God's love is so great, even death cannot separate us from him. The prayers and activities help children to know that even though we may not understand when someone dies, we can always ask God to comfort us. Resources for November can be found [here](#)

## Caritas Westminster

### Tackling Food Waste and Caring for Creation PowerPoint Resource

Caritas Westminster works with schools and churches across the Diocese of Westminster to help those in need. During the pandemic, Caritas Westminster launched a new initiative across the Diocese of Westminster to tackle the problem of food poverty and insecurity. To support schools in helping pupils to understand the importance of this issue, the team at Caritas have created an extremely useful and informative PowerPoint presentation which provides pupils with an insight into the magnitude of this issue (particularly at the present time) and provides them with the opportunity to reflect on how they can help to reduce food waste, both at home/school and in the wider community. The powerpoint can be found [here](#). For further information concerning this PowerPoint, and other excellent resources available from Caritas, contact Ines Ignasse at: [inesignasse@rcdow.org.uk](mailto:inesignasse@rcdow.org.uk)

## Upcoming CPD – Online Courses (2<sup>nd</sup> November to 18<sup>th</sup> November Inclusive)

Date/Time	Course	Booking Links
<b>4<sup>th</sup> November</b> 3.30pm to 5.00pm	CST and the Common Good	<a href="#">Single Ticket</a> <a href="#">School Ticket</a>
<b>5<sup>th</sup> November</b> 5.00pm to 6.00pm	Governors Course - School Admissions	<a href="#">Book Ticket</a>
<b>12<sup>th</sup> November</b> 3.30pm to 5.00pm	Poetry in Religious Education	<a href="#">Single Ticket</a> <a href="#">School Ticket</a>
<b>16<sup>th</sup>, 17<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup> November</b> 5.00pm to 7.00pm	Introduction to Governorship (3 Parts)	<a href="#">Single Ticket</a> <a href="#">School Ticket</a>

***(Please click on the ticket link to book)***

## Aspiring to Headship

This course provides a professional development programme for existing leaders in a senior role aspiring to Headship in a Catholic setting. The purpose of the course, and what makes it unique from others, is its focus on using Christ's example of servant leadership and the Gospel Values to underpin practice in schools. The course is now in its second year with many of the original participants having gone onto Headship. The course has been developed by two leading Catholic Teaching Schools and is endorsed by Formatio. The course is ideal for anyone who is looking to move into headship within the next 2 years, or anyone who is new to this position. Alongside gaining practical, hands on advice and coaching delegates will become versed in the Gospel Values and how they underpin everything that we do as Catholic Educators. In order to become accredited all modules and the project must be completed.

The course will run from November 2020 - July 2021. COST OF COURSE: £250 plus VAT

For further details or to register your place, contact [teachingschool@cvms.co.uk](mailto:teachingschool@cvms.co.uk) or [agnusdei@stbons.org](mailto:agnusdei@stbons.org)

## Diocesan Inspection Update

The Diocesan Inspection Handbook, along with the accompanying documentation has been updated. The changes are minor but will allow for up to date assessment data to be recorded. If you are completing a SEF, please use the 2020 version. All revised inspection documentation can be accessed via the Diocesan website [here](#)

## Mental Health and Wellbeing Resources

### Toolkits and resources for a whole school approach



[Click Here](#) **Wellbeing Measurement Framework for Primary Schools** - A set of questionnaires which can be used to measure wellbeing and resilience in children and young people.



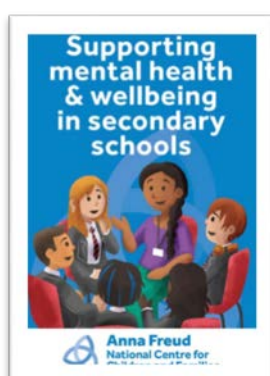
[Click Here](#) **Measuring and monitoring children and young people's mental wellbeing: A toolkit for schools and colleges** - The aim of this toolkit is to make schools and college staff aware of the range of validated instruments that can be used to measure and monitor student mental wellbeing.



[Click Here](#) **Supporting mental health and wellbeing in schools** - The booklet, developed with our child mental health experts, explains in simple terms what to do if you are worried about a child or young person in your school, and includes information on a range of topics including anxiety, low mood and self-harm.

**Young Minds** - [Click Here](#) **Building pupil resilience in school.** Young Minds provide training and support to schools interested in whole school development using the Academic Resilience Approach.

**Coram Life Education** [Click Here](#) A whole school approach to behaviour, safety and learning – improving mental health and physical wellbeing – Based on the eight key principles set out in Public Health England’s “Promoting children and young people’s emotional health and wellbeing: A whole school approach”



[Click Here](#) **Supporting mental health and wellbeing in secondary schools** - The booklet, developed with our child mental health experts, explains in simple terms what to do if you are worried about a child or young person in your school, and includes information on a range of topics including exam stress, sleep problems, eating disorders, substance use, ADHD and responding to traumatic events.

[Click Here](#) **National Children’s Bureau** - The approach involves multiple components including early identification and intervention; staff wellbeing and development; and skills-based work for pupils, but above all it adopts a positive and universal focus on wellbeing.

[Click Here](#) A research briefing paper commissioned by the Evidence Based Practice Unit (EBPU) **“Whole school approaches to promoting mental health: what does the evidence say?”** A useful briefing paper looking at various case studies on whole school approaches promoting mental health.

[Click Here](#) DfE “Developing a whole organisational approach - Introduction to the case study practice illustrations”

## Capital and Pupil Placement Planning Updates

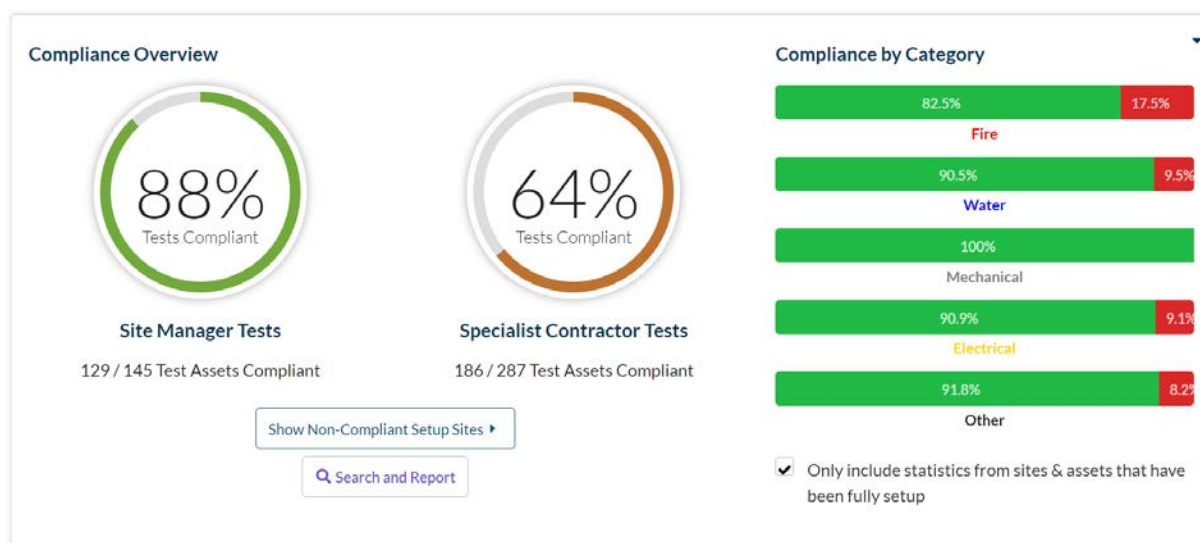
### Capital

#### VASCA 2020/2021

A total of 67 projects are currently live. In addition, the Diocese is maintaining an emergency reserve to support the resolution of unexpected/emergency works that occur during the winter. It is possible that there will be sufficient funding for a third wave of projects in February/March 2021. Wave 3 Projects will be identified using the Asset Management (Condition) Information that is being prepared and collated this term. Our four largest consultant partners are reporting a significant number of commissions to complete condition surveys in preparation for the new allocation process. Some schools have been in contact with the Service this term enquiring about “bidding”. As previously confirmed, bidding will not form part of the VASCA allocation process. The Education Commission (Capital Strategy Committee) will be wholly reliant on the evidence submitted by the specialist building consultants to identify need and target resources. This is to ensure that the Diocese, as the body responsible for the effective delivery of the Government’s capital grant, can provide empirical evidence to demonstrate that the delivery of the funding has been targeted at priority need.

### Statlog

Statutory Compliance in School is a high priority for the Diocesan Trustees. The effective management of statutory compliance helps to protect the Occupier (Governing Body/Academy trust), and the Owner (Diocesan Trustees or Religious Order Trustees). The current compliance overview is:



The percentage of Compliant “Specialist Contractor” Tests has improved in recent weeks. This data is limited to those schools that are fully set-up on Statlog. New schools are added to the list of those operating an effective local regime each week as their consultants complete the survey and mapping process required in Statlog.

### Priority School Building Programme

Project managers continue to monitor the progress of schools in this scheme. Kier has been selected as the contractor for the project at John Henry Newman (Stevenage).



## Pupil Placement Planning

### 1<sup>st</sup> Planner Project

The Project's Oversight and Scrutiny Committee is expected to meet before the end of November. With JP on compassionate leave, Paolo has asked Clive Horscroft – Head of Diocesan Property, to join the O&S Committee.

### Lighthouse

This year, Lighthouse has been commissioned to facilitate the collation of Catholic School data. Click [HERE](#) to fill out the Diocesan October Census.



## UK Government & DfE Updates

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

- **Face coverings in education** – Updated 16 October 2020  
<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/face-coverings-in-education>
- **What parents and carers need to know about early years providers, schools and colleges during the coronavirus (COVID-19) outbreak** – Updated 16 October 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#history>
- **Guidance for full opening: special schools and other specialist settings** – Updated 16 October 2020  
<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/guidance-for-full-opening-special-schools-and-other-specialist-settings>
- **Extraordinary regulatory framework: General Qualifications, COVID-19 Conditions and Requirements** – Updated 16 October 2020  
<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/extraordinary-regulatory-framework-general-qualifications-covid-19-conditions-and-requirements#history>
- **Changes to checks for EU sanctions on EEA teachers from 1 January 2021** – Updated 16 October 2020  
<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/changes-to-checks-for-eu-sanctions-on-eea-teachers-from-1-january-2021>
- **Free school travel: funding allocations** – Updated 16 October 2020  
<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/extended-rights-to-free-school-travel--2>
- **Guidance for parents and carers of children attending out-of-school settings during the coronavirus (COVID-19) outbreak** – Updated 15 October 2020  
<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/guidance-for-parents-and-carers-of-children-attending-out-of-school-settings-during-the-coronavirus-covid-19-outbreak>
- **Protective measures for holiday or after-school clubs and other out-of-school settings for children during the coronavirus (COVID-19) outbreak** – Updated 15 October 2020  
<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/protective-measures-for-holiday-or-after-school-clubs-and-other-out-of-school-settings-for-children-during-the-coronavirus-covid-19-outbreak>
- **Coronavirus (COVID-19): test kits for schools and FE providers** – Updated 14 October 2020  
<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/coronavirus-covid-19-home-test-kits-for-schools-and-fe-providers#history>
- **Recruit teachers from overseas** – Updated 14 October 2020  
<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/recruit-teachers-from-overseas>

- **Coronavirus (COVID-19): safer travel guidance for passengers** – Updated 14 October 2020  
<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/coronavirus-covid-19-safer-travel-guidance-for-passengers>
- **Safe working in education, childcare and children's social care** – Updated 13 October 2020  
<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/safe-working-in-education-childcare-and-childrens-social-care>
- **Remote education webinars** – Updated 13 October 2020  
<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/remote-education-webinars>
- **Headteachers' standards** – Updated 13 October 2020  
<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/national-standards-of-excellence-for-headteachers#history>
- **How to complete the educational setting status form** – Updated 12 October 2020  
<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/how-to-complete-the-educational-setting-status-form>
- **Using the Primary Assessment Gateway** – Updated 12 October 2020  
<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/using-the-primary-assessment-gateway#history>
- **Key stage 2 tests: how to become a marker** – Updated 12 October 2020  
<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/key-stage-2-tests-how-to-become-a-marker>
- **16 to 19 education: funding allocations** – Updated 12 October 2020  
<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/16-to-19-education-funding-allocations>