



WITNESS

to the word



FOLLOW US!

19th May 2021

Summer Term
Issue 3

Dear Colleagues in Catholic Education

Every second Wednesday, the Education Service 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 may benefit from them.

Please feel free to share.

SUBJECT CONTENT IN THIS ISSUE

Information about upcoming CPD and Training is [here](#)

Religious Education and Catholic Life resources are [here](#)

Racial Justice, Equality and Diversity updates are [here](#)

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

Upcoming Training Opportunities

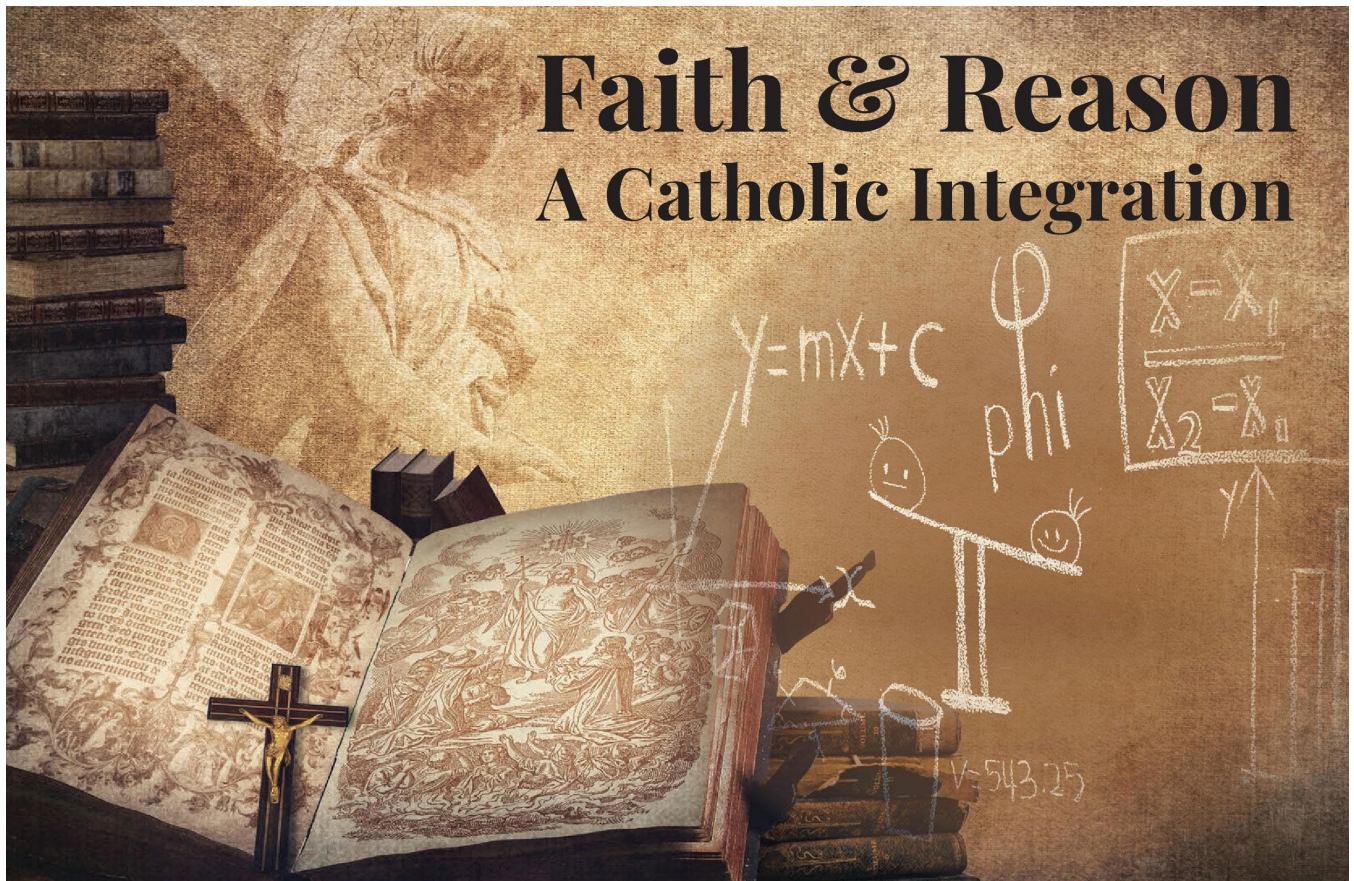
CPD for 2021 /22

We are currently planning our Autumn Term CPD programme. If there is any training you would like included in the programme, please do contact your adviser and let them know. We are keen to constantly review our offer and want to ensure it is meeting the needs of schools. We welcome your feedback!

Upcoming CPD – Online Courses May / June 2021

Date/Time	Course
19 th May 5.00pm to 6.00pm	Financial Accountability for Catholic Academy Trusts
19 th May 3.45pm to 5.00pm	Foundation Stones – Single Session: The Sacraments of Reconciliation and Anointing of the Sick
20 th May 3.30pm to 5.00pm	ART in RE
24 th May 3.30pm to 5.00pm	Mental Well-Being for Children
25 th May 3.30pm to 5.00pm	Skills Analysis Upper Key Stage 2
26 th May 3.30pm to 5.00pm	Music in RE
26 th May 5.00pm to 6.00pm	Educational Improvement for Catholic Academy Trusts
7 th June 3.30pm to 5.00pm	Mental Well-Being for Staff
8 th June 9.30am to 3.30pm	Scripture from Scratch – Old Testament
8 th June 3.30pm to 5.00pm	Primary Moderation
9 th June 3.30pm to 5.00pm	RSE and SEND
9 th June 3.45pm to 5.00pm	Foundation Stones Single Session –The Sacraments of Marriage and Ordination
9 th June 5.00pm to 7.00pm	Governors Induction Three Sessions 9th, 14th, 16th June
10 th June 3.30pm to 5.00pm	The Use of Storytelling in RE
14 th June 3.30pm to 5.00pm	Primary Moderation
25 th June 9.15 to 12.15pm	Spirituality and Pupil-led Worship

(Please click on the ticket link to book)



Faith & Reason

A Catholic Integration

**A 3-DAY RESIDENTIAL COURSE EXPLORING THE RELATIONSHIP OF FAITH
WITH PHILOSOPHY, SCIENCE AND CULTURE**

WHO
should
attend?

ANYONE seeking a deeper understanding of the Catholic faith, particularly
TEACHERS & CATECHISTS fielding commonly-asked questions about Catholicism

WHEN
is it?

Thursday 5th – Sunday 8th August 2021

FULL BOARD AND LODGING
SINGLE ROOM - £290 P.P.
TWIN ROOM - £240 P.P.

- 10 lectures over 3 days, by experienced and highly-qualified tutors
- Plenty of opportunity for discussion & questions
- Comfortable en-suite accommodation in beautiful surroundings

FOR MORE DETAILS AND TO BOOK



THE CHRISTIAN
HERITAGE CENTRE
at Stonyhurst

visit us at www.christianheritagecentre.com/events
email us direct at events@christianheritagecentre.com
find us on [Facebook](https://www.facebook.com/ChristianHeritageCentre) @ChristianHeritageCentre

RE and Catholic Life Resources

Pope Francis Prayer Intentions:

PRAYER INTENTIONS during Easter (Based on the Liturgical Year)	Liturgical Colour
New Members of the Church	WHITE / GOLD
Vocations Especially on the World Day of Prayer for Vocations (4 th Sunday of Easter)	
Human Work Especially on St Joseph the Worker (1 May)	
The Right Use of Media Especially on World Communications Day (Ascension)	
The Church Especially on Pentecost Sunday	RED

Pentecost

Liturgy

A short Pentecost liturgy will be shared with all schools for Friday. The liturgy is led by Fr Chris Vipars with readings, reflections and prayers from schools across the diocese. It celebrates diversity reminds us of the power of the Holy Spirit and how the apostles were sent out to make Christ known to all people using their own language. Please use it in your school to mark Pentecost.

Prayer

This feast, sometimes referred to as the birthday of the Church, will be celebrated this Sunday. Pentecost marks the end of the Easter season, after which we will be in ordinary time again until the season of Advent.

Hearts ablaze

Beautiful Lord,
may we say "yes" to you
so that the Spirit in our hearts
will once again be set ablaze.

Spirit of Wisdom, guide our actions so they tell of God's love.
Spirit of Truth, open our eyes to see the world as it really is.
Spirit of Power, enthuse us to work for justice throughout the world.
Spirit of Love, inspire us to respect the dignity of each person.

Come, Holy Spirit, fill the hearts of your faithful.
Come, Holy Spirit, fill our hearts.
Come, Holy Spirit, fill us.
Come, Holy Spirit. Come.
Stephen Davies/CAFOD



Resources

For more Pentecost prayers from CAFOD see [HERE](#). For a primary PowerPoint, notes and activity pack on Pentecost see [HERE](#). For a secondary liturgy with notes see [HERE](#). For collective worship resources for May see [HERE](#).

For Pentecost resources from Missio see [HERE](#). For liturgical resources for May and June see [HERE](#).

For the song Holy Spirit, Lord of Love by Alex Heath, recorded by OneLife Music see [HERE](#).

PRAYER INTENTIONS FROM DAY AFTER Pentecost Until First Day of Advent (Based on the Liturgical Year)	Liturgical Colour
Deeper Understanding Between Christians and Jews	GREEN
Those Who Suffer Persecution Especially on St John Fisher and St Thomas More (22 nd June)	
Those Who Suffer Oppression Especially on St John Fisher and St Thomas More (22 nd June)	
Those Who Suffer Denial of Human Rights Especially on St John Fisher and St Thomas More (22 nd June)	
Europe Especially on the feasts of St Benedict (11 July), St Bridget of Sweden (23 July), St Catherine of Siena (29 April)	
Human Life Especially on the day for Life (3 rd Sunday in June)	
Seafarers Especially on Sea Sunday (2 nd Sunday in July)	

LITURGICAL YEAR	NATIONAL AND INTERNATIONAL DAYS
MAY –dedicated to Mary <ul style="list-style-type: none"> St Bede (25th) St Augustine (27th) Visitation (31st) JUNE – dedicated to the Sacred Heart <ul style="list-style-type: none"> St Justin (1st) Charles Lwanga and Companions (3rd) St Boniface (5th) 	MAY <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Laudato Si week (16th - 24th May) World Bee Day (20th) World day for Cultural Diversity (21st) International Day of UN Peacekeepers (29th) World No-Tobacco Day (31st) JUNE <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Global Day for Parents (1st) World Bicycle Day (3rd) World Environment Day (5th)

Opportunities, Events and Resources

A reminder that the **Spirited Arts competition**, an annual competition now in its 17th year is accepting entries up until 31 July 2021. The competition is open to pupils from ages 4 to 19 years old of all abilities and from all schools, from any faith or worldview, including those with special educational needs. This ever-popular competition aims to give young people an opportunity to express their voice and opinions in a way that they can be listened to and heard.

Entries are welcomed in (almost!) any art form your pupils can think of, including:

- Art (painting, drawing, sketching etc)
- Poetry
- Photography
- Dance
- Music
- Drama
- Sculpture



If you'd like a bit more information you could check out the YouTube video created to promote the Spirited Arts competition this year see [HERE](#). For full details please visit [HERE](#).

Aid to the Church in Need

Aid to the Church in Need (ACN) is an international charity, which supports Christian people all across the world, in over 148 countries. From food baskets, to medical aid, to rebuilding homes and churches – the kindness of our supporters allows us to continue our work supporting those Christian people around the world who face great difficulties – just because of their faith.

There are many reasons why people might need help from ACN. Some people are suffering from the effects of poverty; other people suffer bullying or persecution because of their faith. This is a big problem for many Christian people, as some people live in places where they are not so freely accepted as we are in the UK.



Our website gives lots of information on where we work and who we support > www.acnuk.org

We have a variety of resources available for primary aged children, which can be used in the classroom or at home. We recently developed a resource focused on Lebanon and would like to invite your students to take part on **Wednesday 16th June**. Our community outreach team delivered an excellent event in March (which can be viewed here - [HERE](#)) and those of us in the schools team thought a version for school students would work great too! Please consider joining us on June 16th to learn all about what life is like in Lebanon. For more details, you can contact the schools team at [HERE](#).

CAFOD

For details of CAFOD's popular campaign 'The Eyes of the World' see [HERE](#). There have been some great responses from schools on Twitter, so schools are clearly enjoying engaging with it. See [HERE](#).

Their Fratelli Tutti assembly will be on the 10th of June. See [HERE](#)

We're currently in Laudato Si' week and resources can be found here: [HERE](#).

Their new wall planner for 21/22 has just been published, which has liturgical colours and main feast days. It can be ordered free of charge [HERE](#). It can also be downloaded [HERE](#).



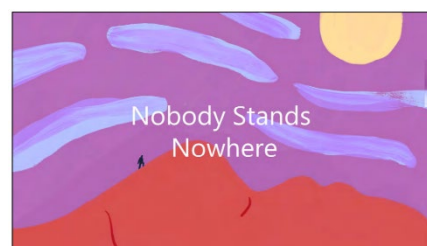
National Updates in RE

CoRE FINAL REPORT. Religion and Worldviews: the way forward. A national plan for RE

The Final Report of the Commission on Religious Education, *Religion and Worldviews: the way forward. A national plan for RE*, has been published. It sets out a National Plan for RE comprising of 11 recommendations, and calls on the Government to consider and adopt it.

A new animated film called 'Nobody stands nowhere' by Emily Downe was released on May 13th and unpacks the idea of worldviews inviting the viewer to consider how their own unique view of the world might co-exist with other, sometimes quite different, vantage points held by those around them. The hope is that the film will be a powerful tool for classroom learning, transforming a complicated concept into an accessible and personal format, stimulating conversation and encouraging pupils to think through their own worldview and how this impacts their lives. The clip can be viewed at [HERE](#). For resources teachers can use with the film see [HERE](#).

Dr Richard Kueh, Schools and Subject Lead (Religious Education) at Ofsted is filmed in these short clips speaking about RE [HERE](#) and [HERE](#). All of these materials are useful for schools with a religious character and those without.



Shepherding Talent: An Informal Formation Program for Aspiring Catholic School Leaders

In this lecture, St. Mary's University London Professors Caroline Healy and John Lydon detail the leadership formation program Shepherding Talent, which is based on the imperative for all Catholic schools to maintain a balance between school improvement and Catholic distinctiveness. The integrity of vocation and profession in the context of discipleship figures prominently and defines the nature of Shepherding Talent seminars. Additionally, the mission of the Catholic educator is elucidated alongside a consideration of personal disposition and values, inviting a critically reflective response to leadership. This interplay and its impact will be discussed alongside the key concepts and ideas embedded within the five constituent modules of the Shepherding Talent programme.

Tuesday, June 15

2:00-3:30 p.m. EST / 7:00-8:30 p.m. GMT. Register [here](#)

Culham St Gabriel's Events

Each month, Culham's hold 'In Conversation' interviews with national leaders and academics in RE. Previous 'In Conversation' interviews are still available just in case you missed any of them or would like to revisit. You can find recordings of all of them [HERE](#).

Recent conversations include...

- *Visual communication in a digital age*. Why innovation matters for today's teachers of religion and worldviews with Emily Downe and Jason Ramasami
- *Hindu worldview traditions* with Professor Denise Cush

ATCRE

ATCRE holds a monthly CPD event which is open to all staff. Other speakers include Margaret Carswell, Sr Judith Russi, James Trewby and more. All sessions are free and recorded. For previous sessions see [HERE](#). To book future sessions see [HERE](#).

Tuesday 18th May: Teach us to pray - Jo Boyce

In this session, Jo will explore the tension between contemporary approaches to collective worship and the more traditional prayer and liturgy of the Church.

Wednesday 16th June: Worldview-Friend or Foe?- Prof Trevor Cooling

In this workshop, Trevor will explore exactly what the Commission Report proposed and will examine how the worldview idea might enhance RE in Catholic schools.

Free Teaching Resources – 'Real people, Real Faith'

The Pan Berkshire SACRE Hub have produced some **free teaching resources in the form of video clips and support notes**. The project '**Real People, Real Faith**' consists of Key Stage 1-3 classroom resources, these are now available for teachers to use. The project set out to ask believers from different places of worship and religion and worldview communities questions about their faith and how it impacts on daily life – these were professionally filmed and edited with the classroom in mind. The project was mostly filmed before the pandemic and the ensuing lockdown has meant that visits to places of worship has not been possible, making these clips even more essential than previously thought. Teacher notes were also developed to accompany each video clip.

The clips include believers from the church of England, a Baptist Church, Hindu Temple, Shi'a Islam Mosque, Reform Synagogue and a Sikh Gurdwara. The same six communities were interviewed at each key stage. Each film has a page of notes outlining the key questions and concepts, with a brief summary of the answers and some suggested follow-on activities.

The resources are hosted on the NATRE website and can be accessed [here](#)

Project Opportunity: After World Religions

This project aims to explore the nature of the educational representation of religion(s) and to support the development of a new vision for Religion Education (Religion and Worldviews). The project seeks to draw attention to the limitations of the predominant world religions paradigm (WRP) in the educational representation of religion(s). Drawing on the expertise of academic specialists in Religious Studies and Education Studies along with skilled and experienced teachers, the project will reimagine Religious Education by recognising the complexity of subject matter while acknowledging the pedagogical challenges.

We are looking for enthusiastic teachers (secondary RE and primary) to contribute to the research dialogues and to develop some exemplary curricula materials based on the conversations and research. If you would like to find out more please email the project lead, David Lewin: david.lewin@strath.ac.uk

Oxford Argumentation in Religion and Science (OARS)

The Oxford Argumentation in Religion and Science (OARS) project team is hosting a public **End of Project Event** to share resources, research, and outcomes of the three-year project.

OARS is a teacher professional development and research project for science and religious education teachers to collaborate on the teaching and learning of argumentation in English secondary schools. Funded by Templeton World Charity Foundation under the Big Questions in Classrooms (BQiC) initiative, the project began in September 2018 and will formally conclude in August 2021.

The project team cordially invites you to attend this final event, which will take place online on **1st July 2021, 4-6pm** [UK time].

They would appreciate your attendance and participation in this event as we celebrate the outcomes of a wonderful innovative collaborative learning experience.

Please register your interest here and you will be sent an invite link before the event

<https://oarseducation.com/2021/03/05/oar-end-of-project-event/>

National Singing Programme

The National Schools Singing Programme is for Catholic dioceses to create or enhance their own music programmes for children educated in Catholic state schools. This initiative is founded and supported by the Hamish Ogston Foundation. After distributing some initial information to schools we have received interest from so many schools about this programme that we are currently liaising with the programme organisers to see how we can move forward with this project. We will keep you informed of developments as we receive them.

Inspection Update

Diocesan Inspection

In case you were not able to attend your Regional Hub Meeting, it was confirmed that diocesan inspection will resume in the Autumn Term. Schools will not be inspected this term, unless a school received a Requires Improvement or Causing Concern judgement in their last inspection OR if a school requests an inspection. In either case, there is no guarantee of an inspection.

The DfE has still not confirmed how long dioceses will have to catch up on the backlog of inspections. We are now over a year behind, so the existing cycle is redundant. When we have this information from the DfE, a revised inspection cycle will be shared, so you know in what year you can now expect to be inspected.

The new Framework has still not been fully published. Schools have been sent the Grade Descriptors and Evaluation Schedule, but we are still waiting on the Handbook, SEF and QA Handbook. The **pilot will go ahead next academic year but not until January 2022**. As soon we have any further information, we will send it out.

Unfortunately, there has been a delay in beginning the recruitment process for inspectors, but the CES is currently in the process of finalising the recruitment process. When we receive the paperwork from the CES, further details and the advert will be sent out.

There will be training for all current inspectors on 1 July.

RSE Update

RSE and SEND Online Course				
9th June Wednesday 3.30 - 5pm	The AIM of this course is to equip teachers with ideas to disseminate RSE content to children with SEND	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To consider the differing needs of children with SEND in a mainstream setting to develop an inclusive programme of study. To provide practical ideas/advice on teaching RSE to children with SEND and signpost suitable resources. To explore practical considerations such as how support may be deployed, considerations regarding resources, timetabling and learning environment, as well as ways to use targeted intervention and small group work. 	Book here	
Helping Parents Talk about RSE Online Course				
16th June Wednesday 3.30 - 5pm	The AIM of this course is to equip teachers with ideas/resources to assist parents when engaging in RSE with their children.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To explore potential barriers to parents when engaging in RSE with their children. To provide teachers with practical ideas and advice on helping/supporting parents when engaging with RSE with their children. To signpost resources to support parents when engaging with RSE with their children. 	Book here	

Racial Justice, Equality and Diversity Update



TUESDAY
15TH JUNE

3.30PM
TO
5.00PM



TO BOOK
PLEASE VISIT
OUR WEBSITE

WWW.COURSES.RCDOW.ORG.UK

"LET'S TALK ABOUT RACE"

**GUEST SPEAKER:
PROFESSOR PAUL MILLER**

Course Content:

- It provides a space for difficult conversations about race/racism and its effects on individuals.
- It provides an opportunity to reflect on racism in education and other sections of society.
- It provides opportunities to explore and develop a 'race conscious' and race inclusive language for practice.

If you would like to reserve a place - [Book here](https://www.courses.rcdow.org.uk)

Mental Health Update

Traumatic Bereavement

Schools in Mind/Anna Freud Centre is hosting a free seminar on: *An introduction to traumatic bereavement* on the 15th June and focuses on supporting staff, pupils and their families in dealing with bereavement; and in particular traumatic bereavement. [Click here](#) to book a place.

UK Trauma Council – has launched its new *Traumatic Bereavement* resource for schools. [Click here](#) to download the resource and [View here](#) their animation on *Helping children and young people who are struggling with bereavement*.

UK Trauma Council/Anna Freud Centre are offering a traumatic bereavement course for SENCOs, mental health or pastoral leads in schools and colleges. The course will introduce traumatic bereavement, explain how it differs from more typical grief, and explore practical approaches to support children and young people in education settings who may have experienced a traumatic bereavement. The online course takes place on 26th June at a cost of £75 [Click here](#) for further information.

Westminster Diocese Bereavement Support [Click here](#) to download our bereavement support document

Catholic Children's Society provide *Rainbows Bereavement training* for school staff and also offer schools a counselling and therapy service for children experiencing a range of issues including bereavement. [Click here](#)

Child Bereavement UK [Click here](#) for support/resources for schools

Winston's Wish - [Click here](#) for support/resources for schools

National Child Traumatic Stress Network (NCTSN) - [Click here](#) for support/resources for schools

Cruse Bereavement Care - [Click here](#) for support/resources for schools

Papyrus (Prevention of young suicide) - [Click here](#) for support/resources for schools

Caritas Update

NQT

Special invite for NQTs and young teachers to join our May Young Caritas Sessions on *Men's Mental Health*. This is fully inclusive and open to all genders.

Some excellent speakers will share their personal experiences and there will be time for reflection, questions and discussion within a safe space.

Please register using the following link: 25th of May - *Men's Mental Health* Link [HERE](#).

Year of St Joseph Resource

St Joseph the Worker and the *Dignity of Work* runs through all of the Caritas Westminster services and areas of focus. For those who haven't seen it yet, please find our quick reference to [Caritas Westminster and J&P and the Year of St Joseph](#) (Word document download) We hope it is helpful for anyone preparing resources for the rest of the Year of St Joseph.

Upcoming Caritas Events – Please find out more and register for upcoming Caritas Events [here](#)

Saturday 22nd May 2021, 11-13:30, *The Catholic Vision of Work - Westminster Social Justice and Peace Forum 2021* - examine work and unemployment in the light of the pandemic

Thursday 27th May 2021, 15:30 - 17:00, *Diocese of Westminster Quarterly Meeting of Diocesan Homeless Projects* – HEAR FROM MHCLG & KERRY WHO HAS LIVED EXPERIENCE OF HOMELESSNESS

Wednesday 2nd June 2021, 18:30 - 20:00 *Diocese of Westminster Social Action Awards 2020/21* – which schools have nominated their volunteers?

Tuesday 8th June 2021, 7:00pm - 8:00pm, *Self-Care for Staff & Volunteers* – because you can't pour from an empty cup

Tuesday 22nd June 2021, 2:00pm - 3:30pm, Diocese of Westminster *Network Quarterly Meeting for all who welcome Refugees and Migrants* - LEARN HOW TO LOBBY AGAINST THE NEW IMMIGRATION PLAN AS IT GOES THROUGH PARLIAMENT

Governance Update

Chair of Governor Briefing – Thursday 20th May 5.30pm

Please register for the meeting [here](#)

New process for appointing foundation governors / directors

1. We ask that your school appoints a Nominated Person (either the Clerk to Governors or perhaps, someone in the School Office) who will administer this process.
2. The Nominated Person should download the suite of forms [available at [Link to website](#)] and personalise them to the school, including the email address of the nominated person.
3. The Nominated Person will send the application to and receive the application from the applicant.
4. The Nominated Person will seek the references and the DBS certification. (Note: the parish priest may wish to return the reference directly to the diocese; if they wish to do this, they have been asked to let the nominated person know).
5. When all references and Clearances are available, the Nominated Person will upload all documents to the Diocese using this secure link at : [Link to website](#) A receipt will be sent to the Nominated Person and the Applicant on submission.
6. The Diocese will determine the complete application within 21 days, either with a letter and deed of appointment, or other communication.

If you have any questions about how the system will work or difficulty in downloading the materials, please contact Mike Pittendreigh (mikep@rcdow.org.uk) Other, more general, governors queries should continue to be addressed to Carol Campbell (governors@rcdow.org.uk)

Upcoming online courses targeted at Governors and Academy Trusts

FINANCIAL ACCOUNTABILITY FOR CATHOLIC ACADEMY TRUSTS: 19th May 5pm to 6.30pm

[Book your ticket here](#)

AIM: The AIM of this course is to focus on the financial management and oversight required to lead a Catholic Academy Trust.

CONTENT:

- Participants will gain confidence and knowledgeable in their role as a Foundation Director by being able to set and articulate a clear strategic direction for their Trust by focusing on:
 - i) Roles and responsibilities of the Trust Board.
 - ii) Financial management of the Trust.
 - iii) Statutory Compliance and Risk Management.

EDUCATIONAL IMPROVEMENT FOR CATHOLIC ACADEMY TRUSTS: 26th May - 5pm to 6.30pm

[Book your ticket here](#)

AIM: The AIM of this course is to focus on educational improvement, holding leaders to account and driving school improvement across a Catholic Academy Trust.

CONTENT:

- Holding individual academies to account through effective challenge.
- School improvement at scale and harnessing school data.
- External accountability.

FINANCIAL ACCOUNTABILITY FOR GOVERNORS OF CATHOLIC SCHOOLS: 23rd June - 5pm to 6.30pm

[Book your ticket here](#)

AIM: The AIM of this course is to focus on the financial management and oversight required to be a governor of a Catholic school.

CONTENT:

- Participants will gain confidence and knowledgeable in their role as a governor of a Catholic school by being able to set and articulate a clear strategic direction for their school by focusing on:
 - i) Roles and responsibilities of the governing board.
 - ii) Financial management of the school.
 - iii) Statutory Compliance and Risk Management.

GOVERNORS INDUCTION: 9th, 14th and 16th June 2021 – this is a three-part course and all three sessions must be attended.

[Book your ticket here](#)

AIM: The AIM of this course is to address the main issues that will be faced by a new (or nearly new) governor.

The course takes place over three sessions:

- Session 1 – Wednesday 9th June
- Session 2 – Monday 14th June
- Session 3 – Wednesday 16th June

CONTENT:

- Governance in a Catholic context.
- Understanding the language of governance.
- Committees and school visits.
- Legal duties and responsibilities.
- Strategic v Operational issues.

Testimonials - Governors Induction Course:

"What an Inspiration! And a joy to follow from start to finish. Thank you so very much for this brilliant foundation - Your enthusiasm is infectious!"

"Thanks for running the course. It is helpful and feel like I have a great supporter on my side."

"An excellent introduction to being a Governor. The content was covered so eloquently and efficiently, with great enthusiasm - a really solid foundation on which to build. I shall be forever grateful for the inspiration and drive, that exudes from those teaching."

SPEC Update



SPEC RETREAT CENTRE

A SPIRITUAL AND PERSONAL ENCOUNTER WITH CHRIST



RESIDENTIAL BOOKINGS NOW OPEN FOR 2021-22

Who are we?

SPEC is the retreat centre for young Catholics in the Diocese of Westminster. It stands for 'Spiritual and Personal Encounter with Christ' and that is what we aim to deliver. We offer a unique opportunity for children and young people to reflect and experience the presence of God in their lives. In great demand since COVID-19, our tranquil setting allows retreatants to escape the stress of lockdown life and find peace.

Why choose SPEC?

The COVID-19 pandemic has caused unprecedented disruption in the lives of children and young people and the impact on their mental health has been enormous. We provide a **safe and nurturing environment** in which students can reflect, away from the hustle and bustle of school life. Our **young retreat leaders** are relatable to the retreatants and can offer inspiring testimonies of their faith journeys that can be of real benefit to young people investigating their faith.

What do we offer?

- **All-new retreat programmes**, differentiated by year group (Years 5-13) for residential and day retreats.
- **Full-board accommodation** in our residential complex with ensuite rooms and dormitories. Our commercial kitchen has full capacity for dietary requirements.
- **Seven acres of grounds and woodlands**, including a football pitch and a campfire.
- **On-site chapel**, containing a relic of St. Thomas Beckett.
- **Fully COVID-compliant** and risk-assessed.

Where are we?

We are well-connected with **excellent transport links** via the Metropolitan Line (Pinner) and the Overground (Hatch End). We also have **two car parks with ample space for coaches**.

How to book?

To book or for more information, please contact us by telephone, email or online.

POST COVID DEMAND IS HIGH. To avoid disappointment, please book your space now at:

0203 757 2500 | spec@rcdow.org.uk | specretreatcentre.org/bookings

Capital Projects and PPP Update

Capital

School Capital Allocation

We are pleased to report that, on Tuesday 27th April, the Government announced its School Capital Allocation for 2021 – 2022. There are two direct awards affecting Catholic Schools in the Diocese of Westminster.

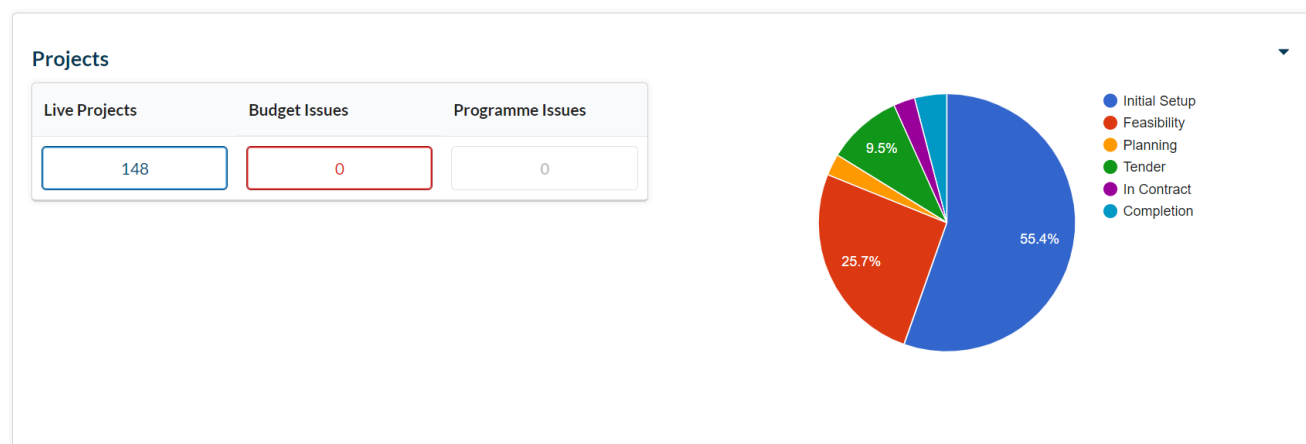
- VASCA – This grant is awarded to the Diocese of Westminster as the responsible Body and can be applied to Voluntary Aided Schools only.
 - The award is £11,992,264.00. This figure represents the 90% cash contribution from the state.
 - Governing Bodies of VA Schools are required to pay 10% of the cost of any Capital Works funded by DfE Grant, and when this is added to the equation, the actual 100% working budget is £13,324,737.77
- MATSCA – This grant is awarded to DOWAT (Diocese of Westminster Academy Trust) as the Responsible Body and can be applied to the schools in DOWAT only.
 - The award is £1,729,238.00. This is a 100% grant.
- DFC – Allocations to every school and academy in the Diocese were confirmed. The assigned DFC has been uploaded to Statlog and recorded as Local Funding. It can be assigned to major or minor projects as appropriate.

Shortly after the announcement, the Capital Strategy Committee of the Education Commission met to confirm their strategy for funding assignment. They resolved:

1. To assign funding to two demolition projects.
2. To assign funding in strict priority order to issues identified by consultant and uploaded to Statlog via the Survey Tool.

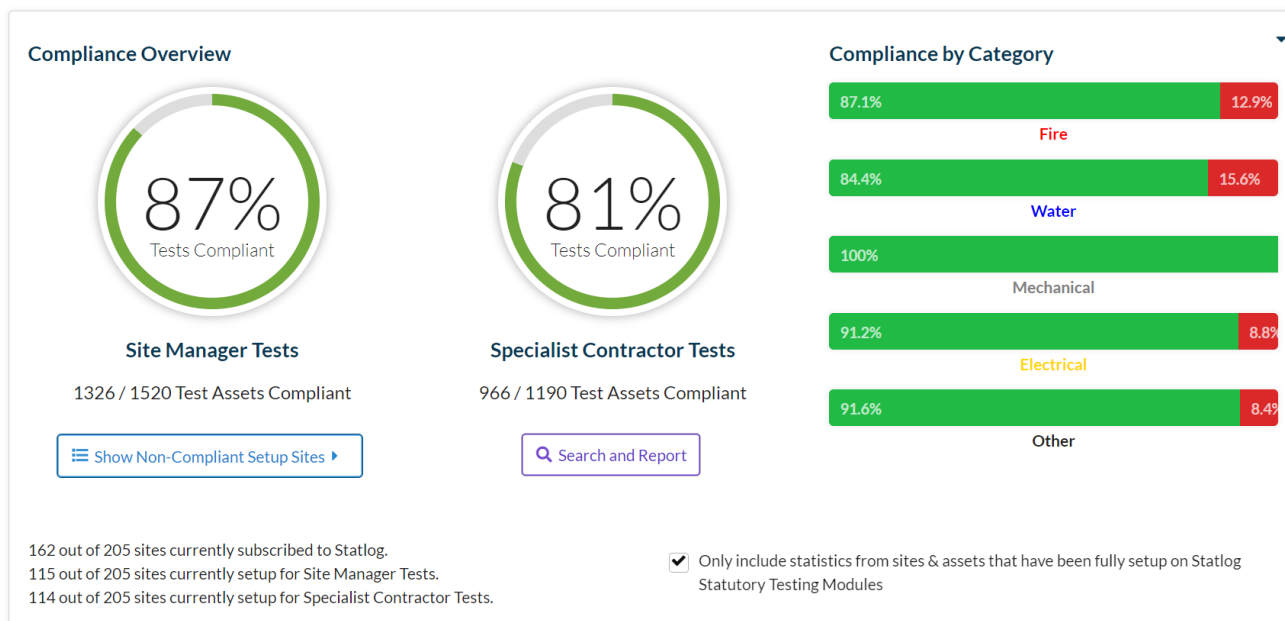
We are pleased to confirm that 60 new projects have been commissioned. Schools are encouraged to act quickly in response to email from Statlog. Funding offers that has not been accepted by Monday 7th June will be withdrawn and the funding directed to the next priority issue/issues.

In our last report, we stated that there were 84 live projects. The latest picture is:



Statlog Engagement

The number of schools with Statlog Licences has increased to 162. The number of schools that are using the Statutory Compliance Tools has also increased. The latest report is:



Project Manager

The Statlog Project Manager Tool was released on Monday 1st March. A number of schools have requested access to the module, and this has been granted. To secure approval, each school needed to demonstrate the following:

- A current Statlog Licence,
- A recent Condition Survey, uploaded to Statlog, and
- An active Statlog Statutory Compliance regime

If your school can satisfy all of the above prerequisites, please email nigelspears@rcdow.org.uk with your access request.

Priority School Building Programme

Project managers continue to monitor the progress of schools in this scheme.

Pupil Placement Planning

1st Planner Project

The 1st Planner Project Team is preparing to engage with Local Authorities to negotiate for (and secure) Capital Funding. The meetings will focus of the data shared with School leaders and the potential opportunities discussed. These meetings will be at Portfolio Holders, Council Leaders and CEOs as appropriate.

Decarbonisation Initiative

The following was presented to Head Teachers during the Hub Meetings last week. It will also be presented to Chairs and School Business Managers this Thursday.

The Diocese of Westminster is working with 1st Planner and Zeco to secure funding in support of Carbon Reduction.

We have secured significant headline data from the Statlog Surveys that have been completed at 135 schools and academies. In addition, the Diocese has access to DfE Expenditure Data.

To be ready to bid for funding in the Autumn, we need to prepare an “Oven Ready” proposal. Recent rounds of funding have been fully allocated within 5 days of opening. Therefore, it is vital that we actively prepare.

Our principal partner in this endeavour is Zeco Energy



Jon Kent is our designated contact. Jon's contact details are:

Phone: 0333 5779414. Mobile: 07951 791711. Email: jon.kent@zecoenergy.com

Jon has asked me to circulate the following:

Hi All, I shall be grateful if you will send me a letter of authority to secure energy data relating to your school. With your consent and authority, we will obtain a copy of your most recent utility bills for gas and electric, from this we will contact the suppliers, obtain data, and produce from our web portal an initial analysis report with the identification of savings. This will help to support the development of a Diocesan Carbon Reduction and Energy Management Policy and assist with funding opportunities.

The letter on the following page must be printed on School/Academy Trust headed stationary and signed by an authorised person. The required text is:

[School Banner Heading]

Date:

To whom it may concern,

Letter of Authority

Please accept this letter as authority for the following company to act on our behalf regarding all issues related to Data collection/Data aggregation; MOP/MAM agreements for electricity and or gas with your company:

Zeco Energy
The Grainger Suite
Dobson House
Regent Centre
Newcastle upon Tyne
NE3 3PF
0333 5779414
operations@zecoenergy.com

Zeco Energy are authorised to have access to any information relating to our contract documentation bills and data.

This authority is to remain in place until such time as you are advised in writing to the contrary.

For the avoidance of doubt this letter does not authorise Zeco Energy to enter into new supply agreements on our behalf. All such agreements must be signed by a duly authorised representative of this company.

Yours faithfully,