



WITNESS

to the word



24th January 2024

Spring Term Issue 2

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

Upcoming Training Opportunities are [here](#)

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

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SPEC Updates are [here](#)

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

Upcoming Training Opportunities

[Our Spring Term CPD Programme is HERE](#)

Day and Time	Course	Booking Link
Friday 26 th January	<p>Secondary - Creating a Culture of Accompaniment Online Course</p> <p>Time: 1.00pm to 4.00pm</p> <p>Course Aim: The aim of this course to to helps schools to create a culture of accompaniment to support LGBTQ+ pupils.</p> <p>Course Content:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pope Francis's vision for a renewed form of ministry among young people. • The Church's teaching on sexuality, homosexuality, and pastoral care for individuals, especially young people. • The general principles of pastoral guidance and approaching pastoral conversations with LGBTQ+ pupils. • Practical steps and ideas for schools to support and listen to LGBTQ+ pupils. <p>Target Audience: Senior Leaders, those with pastoral responsibility and school chaplains.</p> <p><i>Please note that this is a repeat run of the course from October 2022 for those who were unable to attend.</i></p>	<p>Click here: Booking Link</p>
Tuesday 30 th January 3.45pm to 5.00pm	<p>Secondary - Chaplains Updates and Sharing Online Forum</p> <p>Time: 3.45pm to 5.00pm</p> <p>Course Aim: The aim of this course to explain to Chaplains diocesan and national updates and provide opportunity for questions, sharing good practice and networking.</p> <p>Course Content:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To provide relevant and useful updates regarding chaplaincy. • To provide an opportunity for advisors to address any question or concerns regarding chaplaincy. • To provide time to share good practice and network with other chaplains. <p>Target Audience: Chaplains.</p>	<p>Click Here Booking Link</p>

Monday 5th February	<p>Racial Justice, Equality and Diversity CPD Programme Session 3 - What can Senior Leaders do?</p> <p>Time: 3.45pm to 5.00pm</p> <p>Course Aim: The aim of this course is to ensure Senior Leaders are informed about issues concerning RJED and know how to champion and support RJED within their classrooms.</p> <p>Course Content:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To provide relevant and useful senior leaders training from an RJED expert. • To provide practical suggestions about how to monitor, support and develop RJED. • To provide an opportunity to ask questions to gain a great insight into the role of senior leaders in RJED. <p>Target Audience: Senior Leaders.</p>	<p>Click Here: Booking Link</p>
Tuesday 6th February	<p>Understanding the Theology - Year 7 across Branch 4 Session 4: Understanding the Theology - Year 7 Branch 2</p> <p>Online Session: 3.45pm to 5.00pm</p> <p>Course Aim: The aim of this course is to ensure non-specialist RE teachers understand the theology in Year 7 in Branch 4</p> <p>Course Content:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To provide engaging explanation of the theology in Year 7 across Branch 4 • To provide opportunities to ask questions to develop understanding of the Catholic beliefs and practices in Year 7 across Branch 4, • To provide practical suggestions for teaching Year 7 across Branch 4 <p>Target Audience: Secondary non-specialist RE teachers.</p>	<p>Click Here: Booking Link</p>
Monday 26th February	<p>Primary REC Online Conference</p> <p>Time: 9.00am to 1.00pm</p> <p>Course Aim: The aim of this conference is for RECs to receive diocesan updates and develop REC's subject knowledge for Branch 3 (Galilee to Jerusalem) to support implementation of the RED.</p> <p>Course content:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To provide Diocesan and National updates in RE, Catholic Life & Mission and Prayer & Liturgy. • To provide support RECs to get to know the content of the new RED by providing subject knowledge input for RECs on Branch 3 (Galilee to Jerusalem) of the RED. • To empower RECs to support teachers in school. <p>Target audience: RECs.</p>	<p>Click Here: Booking Link</p>

Wednesday 28th February	<p>RJED - Update and Sharing Forum: Representation Throughout the Curriculum</p> <p>Time: 3.45pm to 5.00pm</p> <p>Course Aim: The aim of this course is to To provide diocese RJED updates and signpost to relevant resources and training and share good practice in regards to the diocesan Headteachers RJED pledges focusing on 'Representation Throughout the Curriculum.'</p> <p>Courses Content:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To provide diocese RJED updates and signpost to relevant resources and training. • To provide an opportunity for advisors to address any question or concerns regarding RJED. • To provide time to share good practice in regards to 'Representation. <p>Target Audience: RJED Coordinator</p>	<p>Click here: Booking Link</p>
Thursday 29th February	<p>Secondary - Chaplaincy Day Conference</p> <p>Time: 9.30am to 3.30pm</p> <p>Course Aim: The aim of this course is to provide Chaplains with relevant and useful training, and practical ideas so they can excel in their roles and have an opportunity to support one another and network.</p> <p>Courses Content:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To provide relevant and useful training from experts that will support chaplains in ministering to their school community. • To provide practical suggestions to develop chaplaincy. • To provide opportunities to share good practice and network. <p>Target Audience: Chaplains and Liturgy Coordinators</p> <p>Venue: London Jesuit Centre, 114 Mount Street, London, W1K 3AH.</p>	<p>Click Here Booking Link</p>

CCRS

Congratulations to those members of St. Joseph's group who have now successfully completed the course:

- Bronwyn Algar, St. Augustine's Priory
- Richard Carver, RCIA catechist, St. Monica's Parish, Palmers Green
- Kate Galligan, Our Lady of Grace, Catholic Infant School
- Sandra Lavelle-Murphy, St. Bernadette's Catholic Primary School, London Colney
- Jodie Reilly, St. Bernadette's Catholic Primary School, London Colney
- Mary Kelly, The Holy Family Catholic Primry School, Welwyn Garden City
- Patrick Kenny, formerly St. Edmund's Catholic Primary School, Enfield
- Raph Nutt, Gunnersbury Catholic School
- Becky Nwaka, St. Benedict's
- Susanna Piletto, St. Lawrence Catholic Primary School, Feltham
- Beth Shiner, Our Lady of Grace, Catholic Infant School
- Aileen St. Ledger, St. Joan of Arc
- Dee Wood, St. Paul's Catholic College, Sunbury, Surrey
- Candy Wong, St. John Fisher Catholic Primary School, Pinner
- Kerry Wong, Hong Kong and Church of England, St. Albans High School for Girls.
- Piri Jeyakumaran, formerly St. Bernadette's Uxbridge
- Marika Farrugia, Reading Girls' School

It is no mean feat to attend tutorials and write assignments, in addition to working and family life, so they are to be congratulated.

Many thanks to the headteachers who encouraged and supported this professional development.

Anyone interested in attending the course, there will be an opportunity to join a group in April or to join new groups starting in September.

For more information, or to register an interest, please email Margaret Hanley, CCRS Co-ordinator, ccrs@rcdow.org.uk

Leadership and Governance Update

Leadership and Governance

Herts for Learning is running a series of 6 **recruitment fairs** over the next few weeks and we will be attending them to promote careers teaching in our Catholic Schools.

The events are taking place at:

- [The John Henry Newman Catholic School](#) - Wed 31st Jan 17:00-19:00 (for North Herts and Stevenage)
- [Howe Dell Primary School](#) - Sat 3rd Feb 10:00-12:00 (for Welwyn/ Hatfield and Broxbourne)
- [Birchwood High School](#) - Sat 10th Feb 10:00-12:00 (for East Herts)
- [St Albans Girls' School](#) - Thurs 15th Feb 17:00-19:00 (for St Albans and Dacorum)
- [Parmiter's School](#) - Wed 28th Feb 17:00-19:00 (for Watford district and Hertsmere)
- [St Clement Danes School](#) - Sat 2nd March 10:00-12:00 (for Three Rivers)

Perhaps you know parents/ex-students who might be considering teaching as a career? They would all be most welcome!

Please promote the events local to you if you are able to. Flyers are linked to the school names above.

Applications for the next round of **NPQs** close on 2nd February. This is the last round which has guaranteed funding, so please encourage all your staff who might be thinking about this training to do it while it's still free! These courses are an excellent way to develop classroom practice and to explore some of the realities senior leadership and headship requirements before committing to them. Although many participants do go onto leadership positions, some are happy with the personal development which comes from taking part.

NPQs are available in:

Senior Leadership (NPQSL)	For school leaders who are, or are aspiring to be, a senior leader with cross-school responsibilities.
Leading Teaching (NPQLT)	For teachers who have, or are aspiring to have, responsibilities for leading teaching in a subject, year group, key stage or phase.
Headship (NPQH)	A course to help school leaders and headteachers develop the knowledge behind expert school leadership and apply it to become an outstanding headteacher.

Anyone thinking about joining with our Catholic MATS to complete the training can contact Ciara Nicholson CNicholson@DOWAT.co.uk or Katie O'Grady <KOgrady@DOWAT.co.uk>

More details about the courses can be found [here](#)

We have been sent details about [attendance training](#) run by Swift Edification. We haven't direct experience of their training but, if you are looking, you may want to check this out alongside other commercial offerings.

Webinar Series | Special Educational Needs and Disability

Dates: 9 Feb, 14 Mar & 2 May **Times:** 11:00 - 12:00

Location: Online

Schools are having to manage an increasing number of pupils with complex needs. Whilst schools are generally keen to be inclusive, dealing with the assessment and funding of SEND provision and managing practical considerations, including the behavioural challenges which often sit alongside SEND can be challenging for SENCOs, senior leaders and governors.

The [School Support Service](#) team at Winckworth Sherwood will be hosting a three-part free webinar series on all things SEND related on **9 February, 14 March and 2 May 2024**, drawing on our experience of advising schools and trusts and representing clients in the SEND Tribunal.

Aquinas Education

A reminder that Aquinas education works in partnership with the Diocese.

Please do contact them if they can help you with long or short term recruitment.

 A recruitment poster for Aquinas Education. It features a rainbow logo above the text "aquinas education" and "EDUCATION STAFFING SOLUTIONS". The poster includes the following text:

- GET A HEAD START ON EASTER AND SEPTEMBER RESIGNATION DATE!**
- WHY CHOOSE AQUINAS?**
 - * OUR SOCIAL MEDIA REACHES OVER 3 MILLION PEOPLE
 - * TRANSPARENCY AND ACCOUNTABILITY
 - * SPECIALISING IN OVERSEAS CATHOLIC TEACHERS
 - * ACCESS TO 1000S OF FULLY VETTED CANDIDATES
 - * EXCLUSIVE ACCESS TO THE AQUINAS FOUNDATION
- 02038 906 767** with a phone icon.

 The poster also features two circular images: one of a teacher interacting with students at a desk, and another of a group of children lying on the floor.

Creating a Culture of

Accompaniment (LGBT+)

In 2022 and 2023 the Education Service facilitated training for school leaders and chaplains to help create a culture of accompaniment within schools for people who are LGBT+. We are re-running these training days for those who did not attend or in case there has been a change of personnel. If no one from your school attended or the person in charge of the school or pastoral care has changed since then please book on to the relevant course

The Secondary course focuses on the theology of accompaniment and provides resources and practical advice to schools on being an accompanying school. It takes place on 26th January online from 1-4pm online, Book [HERE](#)

Cross Phase RSE conference

On February 8th we are inviting all RSE leads to our cross phase RSE conference in Cathedral Hall. This is the first in-person training for RSE leads since 2019 and we are keen to gather as many RSE leads together as possible to help to support them in their role and to provide the opportunity to network with colleagues. Please book your RSE lead onto the conference [HERE](#)

Admissions

The admissions consultation window for 2025/2026 admissions arrangements will close on January 31st and I hope the consultation process has gone smoothly for you all. Now it will just be a case of the admissions authority (governing board if a maintained school and the academy trust if an academy) formally determining your arrangements (and recording this in your minutes), and then getting your arrangements published on your website and shared with the local authority.

As always, if you have any queries or require some support, please email Deb Long on schooladmissions@rcdow.org.uk.

We have new governor induction training running again this term starting on January 31st, and new Chairs training after half term. I know we're only in January, but this is a good time to start thinking ahead to your board for September and who will be your chairs, co-chairs, and vice chairs. The workload for school governors can be considerable and so making sure your entire board is trained and equipped to do the role, is absolutely vital – please do look at the training schedule and get everyone booked on as required.

Governance

The next chairs of governors briefing takes place this Thursday, 25th January at 5pm. If chairs are not able to attend, then we welcome other governors. We do not send out minutes from these meetings, so please try to ensure that someone is able to attend.

You can register in advance [here](#)

Upcoming Governor Training

Date/Time	Online Courses	Booking Link
Wednesday 31st January, Monday 5th, Wednesday 7th February	<p>Introduction to Governorship (3 Sessions)</p> <p>Time: 5.00pm to 7.00pm</p> <p>Course Aim: The aim of this course to address the main issues that will be faced by a new (or nearly new) governor. This course takes place over three sessions.</p> <p>Course Content:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To provide information on Governance in a Catholic context. • To provide an understanding the language of governance. • To provide details of committees and school visits. Legal duties and responsibilities. • To provide an overview of strategic and operational issues. <p>Target Audience: Newly appointed governors.</p>	<p>Click Here: Booking Link</p>
Tuesday 6th February	<p>Governors Using CES Policies and Procedures</p> <p>Time: 6.00pm to 7.30pm</p> <p>Course Aim: The aim of this course is to familiarise Governors with CES policies and procedures.</p> <p>Course Content:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To provide the opportunity to examine policies for Grievances, Sickness absence, Capability and Disciplinary. • To provide help for Governors to familiarise with the procedures and practical arrangements for these. • To provide the opportunity to identify different scenarios to which these may apply. <p>Target Audience: All governors, but particularly chairs.</p>	<p>Click Here: Booking Link</p>
Thursday 8th February	<p>CSI Inspection for Governors Online Course</p> <p>Time: 5.00pm to 6.30pm</p> <p>Course Aim: The aim of this course is to gain a greater knowledge and understanding of the Catholic Schools Inspection framework and the role of governors within the inspection process.</p> <p>Course Content:</p>	<p>Click Here: Booking Link</p>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To provide an overview of the Catholic Schools Inspection Framework. • Examining diocesan expectations in relation to Catholic life and Mission and Religious Education. • To provide an overview of the role of a governor in the inspection process. <p>Target Audience: Chairs, RE Link and all other interested governors.</p>	
<p>Monday 26th & Thursday 29th February</p>	<p>New Vice and Chair of Governors Online Training Course</p> <p>Time: 5.00pm to 7.00pm</p> <p>Course Aim: The aim of this course is to provide new Chairs of Governors (and others) in Catholic schools with the knowledge and expertise to manage this important role with confidence.</p> <p>Course Content: A reminder of the three core functions and six key features of effective governance of a Catholic school. The key responsibilities of the Chair of Governors in a Catholic school including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ensuring effective functioning of the board and strategic focus • Setting expectations. • Providing leadership & direction. • Working as an effective team. • Key relationships including Headteacher, Diocese, Local Authority and Trust. • Knowing how to drive improvement in your board so that your board can drive improvement in your school. <p>Target Audience: Newly appointed / Inexperienced Chairs, Vice-Chairs, Co-Chairs, Committee Chairs and those who aspire to become Chairs of Governors.</p>	<p>Click Here: Booking Link</p>

RE and Catholic Life Resources

Pope Francis Prayer Intentions: January

Intention for evangelisation – For the gift of diversity in the Church

We pray that the Holy Spirit may help us to recognise the gift of different charisms within the Christian community and to discover the richness of different traditions and rituals in the Catholic Church.



PRAYER INTENTIONS (Based on the liturgical year)	Liturgical Colour
Christian Unity (Octave or prayer for Christian unity in January)	GREEN
Peace on Earth (Peace Day – 2nd Sunday in Ordinary Time)	
Victims of Human Trafficking (Feast of St Josephine Bakhita)	
Sick and Those Who Care For Them (World day of the Sick – Feast of Our Lady of Lourdes)	
Europe (Feast of Ss Cyril and Methodius)	
Racial Justice (Racial Justice day - 3 Sundays before Lent)	
Unemployed (Day for the unemployed – Sunday before Lent)	

LITURGICAL YEAR	NATIONAL AND INTERNATIONAL DAYS
January <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ss Timothy and Titus (26th) Racial Justice Sunday (28th) St John Bosco (31st) February <ul style="list-style-type: none"> St Brigid (1st) Presentation of Our Lord (2nd) St Blaise (3rd) St Agatha (5th) Paul Miki and Companions (6th) St Jerome Emiliani; St Josephine Bakhita (8th) 	January <ul style="list-style-type: none"> International Day of Education (24th) World Leprosy Day/Hansen's Disease (26th) International Day of Commemoration in Memory of the Victims of the Holocaust and Genocide (27th) Week of Prayer for Christian Unity (18-25th Jan) February <ul style="list-style-type: none"> World Wetlands Day (2nd) World Cancer Day (4th) World Pulses Day (10th)

Other faiths/worldviews - For a brief overview of festivals see [HERE](#).

Year of Prayer - 2024



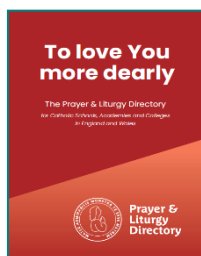
In preparation for the 2025 Jubilee Year 'Pilgrims of Hope', 2024 has been designated a Year of Prayer by Pope Francis. There is a particular focus on the Lord's Prayer (Our Father) this year, and this presents us with a great opportunity to reinvigorate the centrality of prayer within our schools. The Education Service will be producing resources from January 2024 to support schools with the Year of Prayer.

Within the next few weeks, an introductory resource for the Year of Prayer will be shared. Following this, there will be both primary and secondary resources sent to all schools that will unpack the Lord's Prayer. In the meantime, perhaps your New Year's resolution as a school could be to say, sing or sign the Lord's Prayer together.

For CAFOD Year of Prayer materials [HERE](#).

For the Bishops' Conference resources for this year see [HERE](#).

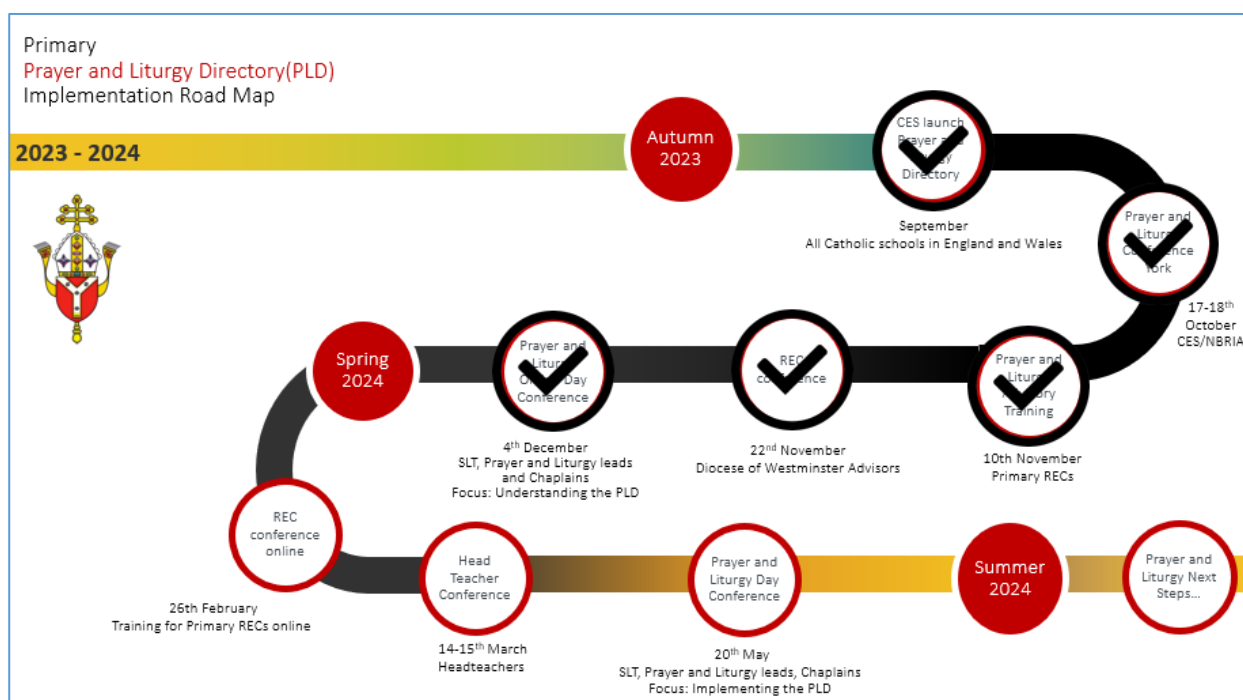
Prayer and Liturgy Directory Updates



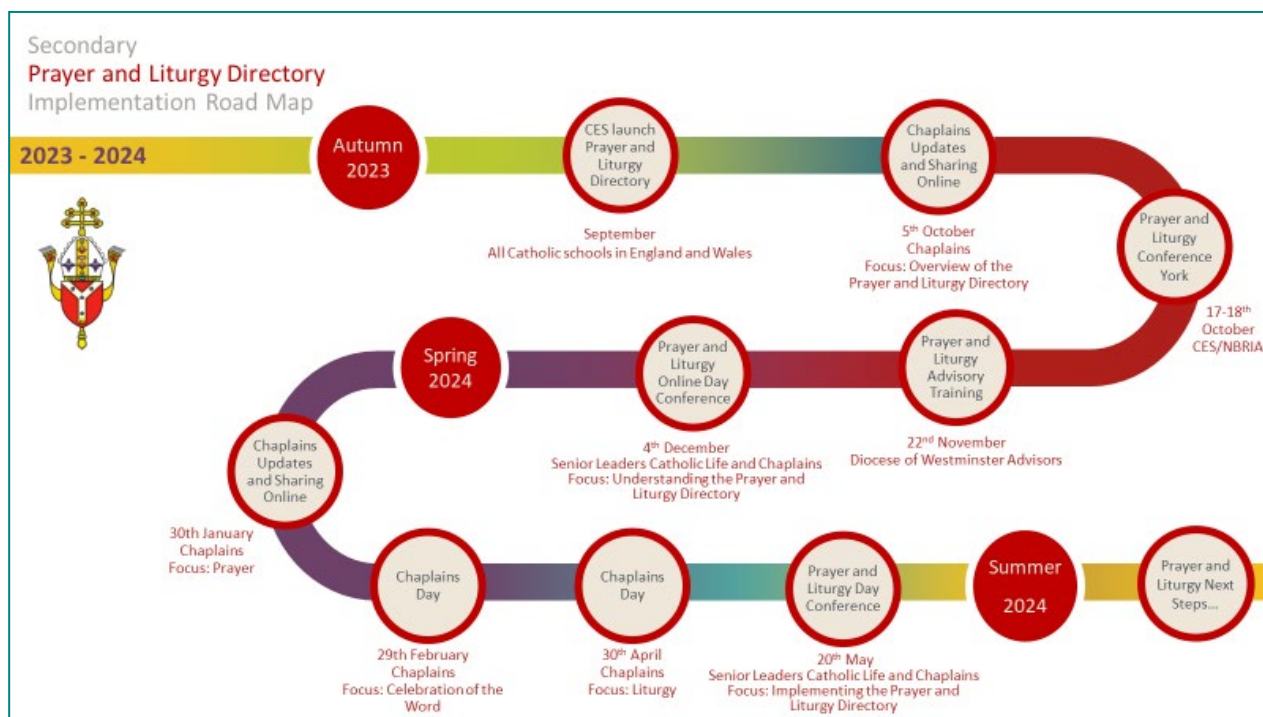
The NEW Prayer and Liturgy Directory has now been launched. It is an important and informative document which aims to enhance the excellent practices that already exists for Prayer and Liturgy within our schools and across the diocese. Please click [HERE](#) for the Prayer and Liturgy Directory. It includes a model policy (p69) as well as progression of prayers (p72) at the back of this document.

To support our schools, the Education Service provided training on understanding the Prayer and Liturgy Directory on 4th December. Further training will take place on 20th May – Book [HERE](#). This will provide support on implementing the Directory. Please do ensure your REC, Chaplains and Senior Leaders in Charge of Catholic Life can attend.

Here is the Primary Road Map for the Prayer and Liturgy Directory:



Here is the Secondary Road Map for the Prayer and Liturgy Directory:



Racial Justice Sunday – 28th January

Some resources have been created by our Education Service and can be found on the Bishops' Conference website. This includes PowerPoints which can be used for worship led by staff or pupils as well as an Activities Pack. Following the success of this initiative last year, it is hoped that all schools will create a Racial Justice, Equality and Diversity board once again this year and then share a photo of this with us for our website later in the spring term. More details will be shared in future bulletins.

The amendable PowerPoints for prayer have been sent to all primary and secondary schools along with some resources on diverse saints. Please contact elainearundell@rcdow.org.uk or claireoneill@rcdow.org.uk if you need any further support.

The link to the resources for schools is [HERE](#)



Peace Sunday 2024

'Artificial Intelligence and Peace'

Promoted by Pax Christi
with the support of the
International Affairs Department,
Catholic Bishops' Conference, England and Wales



[The importance of racial justice and why we work for it - Catholic Bishops' Conference](#)

www.cbcew.org.uk

The link to the overall page is [HERE](#)

The CBCEW suggest that, at Masses on Racial Justice Sunday, parishes are encouraged to mark the day by praying the following words. Perhaps these could be used in schools also.

*God of light and truth,
you call all men and women
to live lives of holiness and justice.*

*Help us to see in one another:
a heart which is tender,
a mind which is humble
and a care for our brothers and sisters;*

*so that together we may build up the Body of Christ
as a sign of hope and mercy for all.*

We make this prayer through Jesus our Lord.



Spread the Word – the RE bursary is back!

**Seeking a new generation
of RE teachers**

**A BURSARY OF £10K
IS AVAILABLE FOR
THOSE PLANNING
TO START INITIAL
TEACHER TRAINING
IN SEPTEMBER
2024.**

**Visit our website
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information...**

www.cstg.org.uk/becoming-a-teacher

A portrait of a woman with long dark hair, smiling, wearing a bright blue blazer over a white top. She is standing in front of a red brick wall. The image is part of a yellow-bordered promotional graphic.

Primary RED Implementation

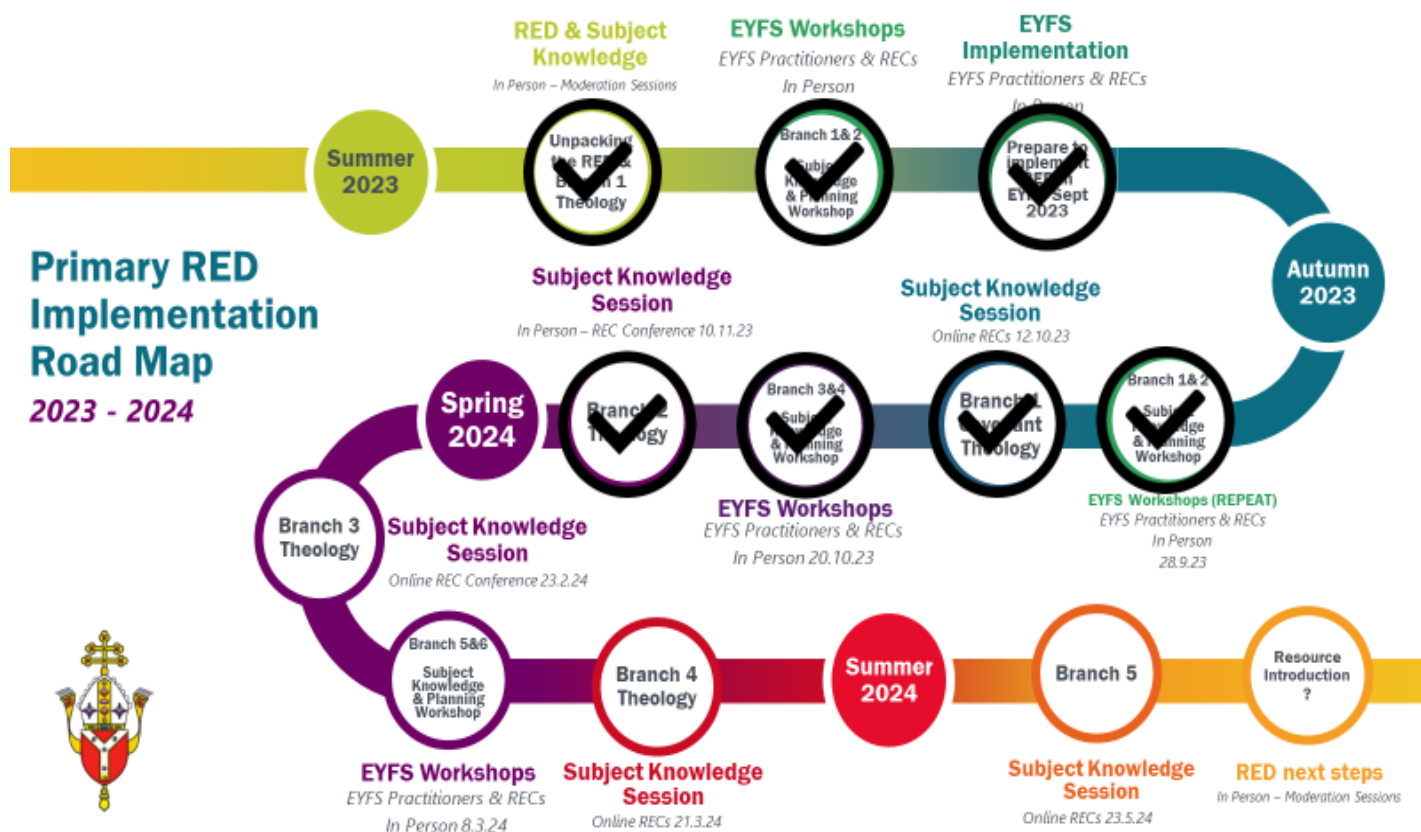
As advisors continue to support RECs with **Theology / subject knowledge sessions** to support the forthcoming implementation of the RED, please book on the following sessions. This year is a great opportunity for RECs to familiarise themselves with the subject knowledge required in the RED in preparation for implementation and to support planning for school team CPD.

Branch 3 – Galilee to Jerusalem	Online (REC Conference)	26.02.24	https://courses.rcdow.org.uk/event/primary-rec-online-conference-monday-26th-february/ (Please note date change due to clashes with some schools' half term dates)
Branch 4 – Desert to Garden	Online	21.03.24	https://courses.rcdow.org.uk/event/getting-to-know-the-new-red-branch-4-desert-to-garden-subject-knowledge-for-recs/
Branch 5 – To the Ends of the Earth	Online	23.05.24	

EYFS Branch Planning Workshops

The next planning workshops will take place on the following dates (please book through the CPD booking link) – the workshops have been very popular so an additional date will be added.

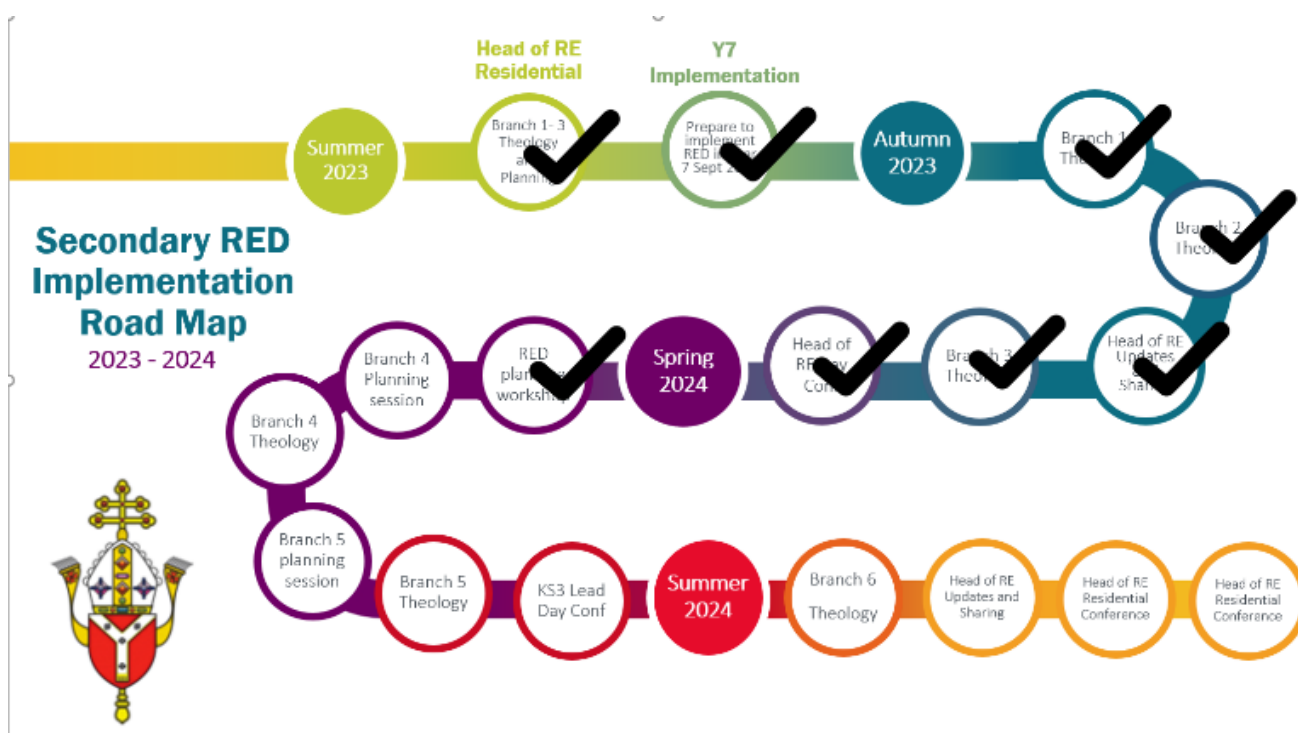
Branch 5 & 6 Planning Workshop	In Person	8.3.24	https://courses.rcdow.org.uk/event/eyfs-planning-workshop-for-the-new-red-reception-and-nursery-branch-5-6/
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Secondary RED Implementation

In order to continue to support Heads of RE and RE teachers with the implementation of the new RED the following sessions are taking place soon.

- Branch 4 Planning workshop Wednesday 24th January and 29th January (repeated) 3.45-5.00pm. This session is aimed at those who would like to work together on planning and putting ideas and guidance into practice. The aim is to help schools to respond to some of the challenges they have raised regarding planning. Any number of staff can attend the session. Use [THIS](#) link to attend.
- Understanding Theology – Year 7 across Branch 4. These theology sessions are aimed at helping teachers to enhance their subject knowledge in relation to the year 7 RED. The session specifically focused on theology in branch 4 will take place on 6th February from 3.45- 5pm online. Book [HERE](#) for this session.



2024 Christian Leadership Formation programme – Application deadline: 25th February

For students in Year 12 who wish to bring their Christian faith to bear in the public square, this programme offers a unique combination of academic, spiritual, practical and inter-personal development. With a certificate validated by St Mary's University, Twickenham, the programme lends weight to any UCAS form, promoting students' critical and analytical skills as well as their understanding of the Catholic foundations for the common good.

For more information visit: www.christianleadershipformation.com

"Everyone who struggles for justice, everyone who makes just claims in unjust surroundings is working for God's reign."

Saint Oscar Romero



Oscar Romero Award – Eileen Dhak (St Anselm's, Southall)

St Anselm's Primary School, Southall recently received the Oscar Romero Award (Developer Level) in recognition of the school's commitment to Catholic Social Teaching. Please read this short piece by Eileen Dhak (REC at St Anselm's) which explains how the school has benefited by taking part in the award.

The Oscar Romero Developer Level Award has allowed the school to assess the strategic strategy, curriculum, and opportunities for pupils to engage practically in Catholic Social Teaching. At St. Anselm's we work collaboratively with all stakeholders to determine our key priorities and ensure the continued implementation of Catholic Social Teaching on previous progress from the Participator Award.

Social justice and equality for all are at the heart of our curriculum, and we believe the real impact of our curriculum comes through our pupils' strength of character and determination. Their love for learning, curiosity and a deep sense of responsibility for themselves, others, and the world around them.

St. Anselm's is committed to ensuring that education sits within a flourishing and supportive environment that respects all students and their families' dignity and aspirations. Pupils at St Anselm's are aware of what is happening in the world, their community and our school and use this to serve God by serving others.

Oscar Romero Award



The Oscar Romero Award
Aspire to be more

What is The Oscar Romero Award?

Pope Francis has called on all Catholic communities to become places where "faith illumines life and society". As Catholic schools, we recognise this as our commitment to Catholic Social Teaching because our faith demands that we stand up for justice.

The Oscar Romero Award will support your school in realising and living this unique calling of a Catholic school to empower young people and all who work in the school, to become true agents of the change they want to see in the world by putting their faith into action.

Award Levels

The Oscar Romero Award will recognise the school's commitment to Catholic Social Teaching. The Award is available at three levels; Participator, Developer and Innovator.

Sign up

To sign up for the Oscar Romero Award click [Here](#)

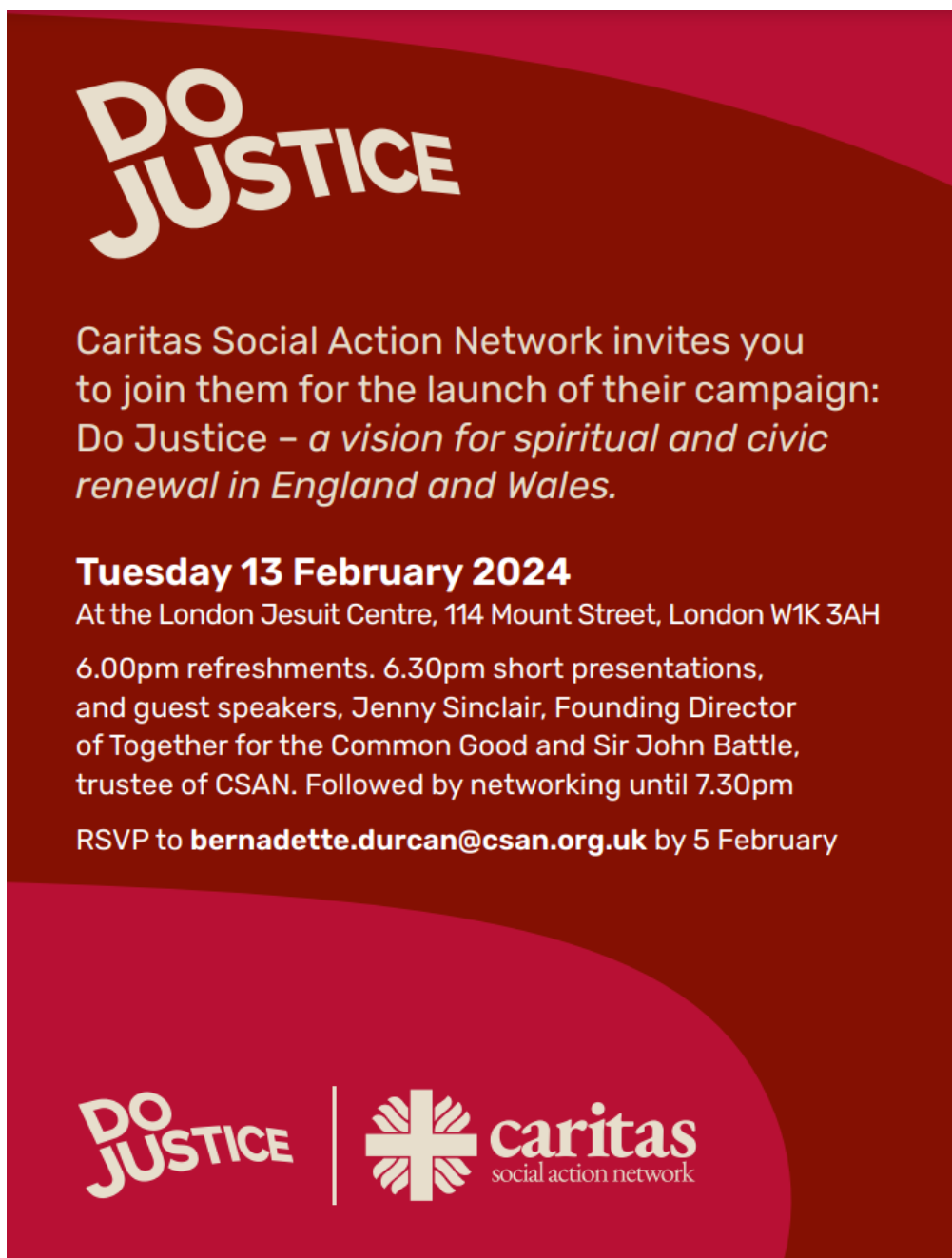
Catholic Life and Mission Conference Day – Thank you!

A huge thank you to all the schools who joined us for our Catholic Life and Mission conference. It was wonderful to see so many schools represented from across the diocese.

A special thank you to: Julie Toner from The Rosary Catholic Primary School, Camden who shared with us the steps they have taken to embed Catholic Social Teaching within their school, Elliot Van Stone who spoke to us about The Importance of Inter-religious dialogue, James Holland who provided us with an insight into the types of dialogue and James Johnston from Bishop Challoner who shared with us the initiatives they have introduced in their school.

A big thank you also to our guest speakers – Davis Wells and Raymond Friel. Once again, thank you to everyone involved for your support and for making this a very successful day!

CSAN – Do Justice Launch – 13th February, London.

A poster for the 'Do Justice' launch event. The background is a gradient of dark red and maroon. At the top left, the words 'DO JUSTICE' are written in a large, white, stylized font. Below this, in a smaller white font, is the text: 'Caritas Social Action Network invites you to join them for the launch of their campaign: Do Justice – a vision for spiritual and civic renewal in England and Wales.' Further down, the date 'Tuesday 13 February 2024' is written in a bold white font. Below the date, the location 'At the London Jesuit Centre, 114 Mount Street, London W1K 3AH' is written in a smaller white font. Then, the event details are listed: '6.00pm refreshments. 6.30pm short presentations, and guest speakers, Jenny Sinclair, Founding Director of Together for the Common Good and Sir John Battle, trustee of CSAN. Followed by networking until 7.30pm'. Finally, the RSVP information is at the bottom: 'RSVP to bernadette.durcan@csan.org.uk by 5 February'. At the very bottom, there are two logos: 'DO JUSTICE' on the left and the 'caritas social action network' logo on the right, which includes a stylized cross icon.

Muslim Studies

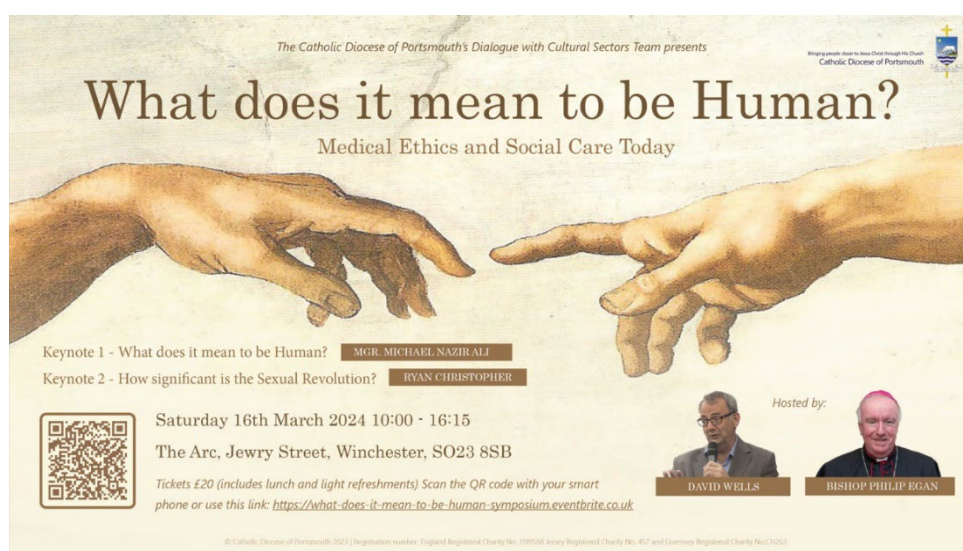
Muslim Studies is a brand-new course and is hosted by the Centre for Catholic Education, Research and Religious Literacy, as part of its outreach programme in developing faith literacy. It offers an exciting opportunity to study a religion that roughly one in four persons in the world adheres to in varying ways. The course in Muslim Studies assumes little or no knowledge of Islam and will explore topics at an introductory level. It will seek to explore historical and socio-cultural paths of religious teachings and to bring contemporary and practical relevance to them, whilst also keeping an eye on Catholic or Christian touchpoints or needs concerning Islam or Muslims. More information is available [here](#)



What does it mean to be human?

This is an in-person event being held in Winchester on **Saturday 16th March 2024** focusing on modern medical ethics and social care.

The event has been crafted as part of the work of our Dialogue with Cultural Sectors Team, members of whom work across a range of fields (including education, medicine, business, the law and politics) and who seek to bring the Catholic tradition into critical conversations with the thinking and philosophy behind these professional sectors.



Over the past couple of years the team have successfully organised two symposia featuring key note addresses, workshops and critical discussions – *Science and Religion* featured celebrity scientist and professor, Dr Brian Cox and Fr Andrew Pinsent, Catholic priest and CERN physicist. *Politics and Religion*, featured Jacob Rees-Mogg MP, Ruth Kelly MP and Lord David Alton.

Given the relevance and importance of the subject, we are naturally really keen to optimise the number of attendees. Whilst many in the audience will be Catholic, we hope many others will come so that they can hear Catholic viewpoints expressed by experts in their respective fields. The Symposium will feature presentations from well-known experts and is led by David Wells, the popular motivational speaker. It is open to people of all faiths and none, specialist and lay, to students and to anyone with an interest in medical and social care.

Tickets cost £20, including sandwiches and refreshments, and are available on-line via Eventbrite [here](#)

Racial Justice, Equality and Diversity Update



In order to support our schools more fully, we are conducting an audit about the following information. To help with this, please see the resources below the table. For further information and support, please contact your advisor.

	Not started	Ongoing	Completed
We have a named RJED coordinator and have shared details with DOWES			
We have shared the diocesan RJED Strategy with relevant governors and staff			
We have a named RJED governor			
We have a RJED (or equivalent) policy			
We have a RJED whole-school approach			
We have reviewed the curriculum so that it is more diverse			
We have reviewed the literature in the school			
We have shared Bishop Paul's talk/video with members of the school community			
We have shared the RJED Catholicism Unpacked resource with staff			
We have shared the RJED in Sacred Scripture resource with staff			
We attend relevant diocesan RJED CPD			
We attend LA RJED CPD			
We attend diocesan RJED forums			
We have taken steps to ensure that our governing body is more diverse			
We have taken steps to ensure that our recruitment process encourages greater equality and diversity of staff			
We have included RJED on our website and our images/photos show diversity			
We have included RJED on our School Development Plan			
We have included RJED on our CSED			
We learn about diverse saints and inspirational people			
We have enhanced our environment so that it reflects our diverse community			
We have involved a diversity of people and cultures (visits, visitors, speakers etc)			
We have engaged with the Racial Justice Sunday theme			
We have submitted a RJED pledge			
We have made progress towards our RJED pledge			

Support links and resources for the audit

For the link to the audit, see [HERE](#).

Send RJED coordinator details to: eduadmin@rcdow.org.uk

Resources

Diocesan RJED Strategy with mission and vision: [HERE](#)

RJED Whole school approach: [HERE](#)

RJED policy: [HERE](#)

RJED in Sacred Scripture: [HERE](#)

RJED Catholicism Unpacked: [HERE](#)


Racial Justice Sunday theme and Education resources for 2023: [HERE](#)

Bishop Paul's video: Expected soon


Diverse images of Mary and the infant Jesus: [HERE](#)





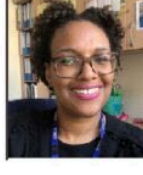
Non-white depictions of the Blessed Virgin Mary: [HERE](#)

Diverse artwork for Advent and Christmas in Catholicism Unpacked: [HERE](#)



RACIAL JUSTICE, EQUALITY AND DIVERSITY CPD PACKAGE 2023/24



ONLINE COURSES, ACADEMIC YEAR 2023/24

Session 1	9th October: 7.00pm to 8.30pm	What can Governors do? Guest Speaker: Shonagh Reid
Session 2	11th December: 1.30pm to 3pm	What can CEOs and Headteachers do? Guest Speaker: Rosemary Campbell-Stephens MBE
Session 3	5th February: 3.45pm to 5.00pm	What can Senior Leaders do? Guest Speaker: Aisha Thomas
Session 4	29th April: 3.45pm to 5.00pm	What can RECs and Chaplains do? Guest Speaker: Lat Blaylock
Session 5	24th June 3.45pm to 5.00pm	What can Classroom Teachers do? Guest Speaker: Orlene Badu

SINGLE AND SCHOOL PACKAGES AVAILABLE

Course enquiries, please contact Linette Blackmore:

0207 978 9189 | linetteblackmore@rcdow.org.uk

[Register Now](#)

www.courses.rcdow.org.uk

Inspection Updates

Ofsted, the Prevention of Death order, and the Catholic Schools Inspectorate:

As many of you will be aware, the coroner concluded that the Ofsted inspection was a contributory factor in the tragic death of Ruth Perry. As a consequence, they have been issued with a Prevention of Future Deaths order. The report is available [here](#):

Ofsted was obliged, in light of this, to state what actions it will take to prevent future deaths. Initially it responded by suspending inspection and by providing all of its inspectors with mental health awareness training before inspections resume in the week beginning 22 January 2024. It also provided a full and detailed response to the coroner's recommendations on Friday 19 January which can be found [here](#).

As well as the coroner's report, a number of other reports have been published in the last month or so that make recommendations for the future of school accountability systems, and of Ofsted in particular. Three of the most significant are:

1. The NEU report, Beyond Ofsted. (available [here](#))
2. The Institute for Public Policy Research report, Improvement through Empowerment. (available [here](#))
3. The Institute for Government report, How could Ofsted and the Department for Education reform school inspections in England? (available [here](#))

This last report in particular is realistic about the complexity and extent of any reform to the accountability system for schools, but all three reports provide different and important perspectives on the future of accountability and statutory inspection of schools.

In this context of big questions about the future of inspection, we have been asked how the Catholic Schools Inspectorate should respond to all of this.

First, it is our view that dioceses should not postpone scheduled inspections for this term,

especially as the Ofsted pause is of a limited duration. Of course, individual dioceses may make their own decisions about the timing and scheduling of inspections over the next two terms, as long as they ensure that no school falls outside of the statutory window for inspection.

Second, as an inspectorate, we are confident that all of our inspectors already approach school leaders during inspection with compassion, humility and sensitivity. This is certainly part of the training they all receive, and we, and diocesan officers, will be reminding them to remember the pressures school leaders are under, especially during inspection. Of course, they must always report without fear or favour, but honest and impartial inspection can and should still be carried out with empathy, respect and love.

Third, as an inspectorate, moving forward we will:

1. Explore, with Ofsted, the training they are providing for inspectors on recognising and supporting school leaders who are experiencing debilitating levels of stress during inspection and use it as the basis for future training we will provide for Catholic Schools Inspectorate inspectors nationally.
2. Amend future editions of the handbook to make clear that school leaders can share provisional inspection outcomes in confidence with those who are part of their wider support network, even if they do not work in the school, before the final report is shared with parents, as is the approach now with Ofsted. We already allowed the head teacher to share provisional outcomes with governors and relevant staff, but these additional allowances will be part of the training we provide for inspectors this term.

3. Extend all inspections, even inspections of small schools, to two days from September 2024 to ensure a greater reliability in inspection outcomes and to allow all schools to provide additional evidence on the second day of inspection, reducing the pressure on both school leaders and inspectors.

4. Attend carefully to the outcomes of the parliamentary enquiry into the work of Ofsted and to the response the DfE and Ofsted make to the reports already published while we discern – with diocesan officers and school and system leaders – what future iterations of our framework will look like. The outcome of the parliamentary enquiry will be published here as soon as it is available [here](#).

Please be assured that inspection is an act of service not of power and is an expression of the commitment of all those involved to ensuring the best education possible for the pupils in our Catholic schools. As an inspectorate we are deeply aware of how crucial Catholic school leaders are to the educational mission of the Church and inspection should always support, and not hinder, this vital apostolate.

Revised Inspection Cycle

Please consult the table below to determine when you are due your CSI inspection. If there is any uncertainty, please get in touch.

Westminster CSI Cycle	
<p>An inspection under the National Framework <u>normally</u>* operates according to the following cycle for all Catholic schools, colleges and academies:</p> <p>5 years for schools judged to be good or better.</p> <p>3 years for schools judged to be less than good.</p>	
Last Inspected	Next Inspection Due (Academic Year)
12/01/17 - 07/12/17	2023 - 2024
07/01/18 - 06/12/18	2024 - 2025 (Including schools awarded RI in 2021-2022)
07/01/19 - 11/12/19	2025 - 2026 (Including schools awarded RI in 2022-2023)
07/01/20 - 13/03/20	2026 - 2027 (Including schools awarded RI in 2023-2024)
01/09/21 - 15/07/22	2026 - 2027
01/09/22 - 15/07/23	2027 - 2028
01/09/23 - 15/07/24	2028 - 2029
01/09/24 - 15/07/25	2029 - 2030
<p>*Following the Covid 19 pandemic, the DfE granted a 3-year extension to the inspection cycle to enable dioceses to catch up. However, schools inspected from 01/09/21 onwards (judged to be good or outstanding), will be re-inspected according to the normal 5-year cycle (or 3 years for schools judged to be less than good).</p>	

Nancy Conoboy

Chief Inspector of Schools

PPP and Capital Project Updates

Statlog

This year, we are requesting evidence from school and academies to demonstrate how Statlog data is represented in Head teacher Reports and Governing Body Minutes. The intention is to identify examples of good and effective practice to support all schools. We are particularly interested in the monitoring and management of Statutory Compliance data and how it is used by those accountable for premises and resources.

We are now entering our 5th year of using Statlog as a resource in our Diocese and we are pleased to report continuing improvement as school level expertise increases. Of particular note is the positive use of the system within Academy Trusts. This is usually because they have the capacity to appoint and train individuals to manage the system on behalf of all of their schools.

RAAC – Reinforced Autoclaved Aerated Concrete

We have not identified any further cases of RAAC in the last 2 months. The engagement with the DfE to provide targeted surveys has been effective and reassuring. School where RAAC has been identified continue to receive support from Diocesan colleagues, external consultants and the DfE. The Development of the Work Funding Agreements has taken longer than expected but we are expecting the majority of those to be in place this term.

Diocesan School Regeneration Programme

The pilot schemes are all making progress. The priority this term is to establish an Oversight and Scrutiny Committee that will represent the Trustees and the Archbishop and protect the assets of the Church.

VASCA

As this financial year draws to its conclusion, our focus is divided. We are endeavouring to complete projects commissioned in 2023 whilst planning for new investment. The new School Capital Allocation is expected in April.

SPEC Updates



Following the great success of Flame 2023, where over 900 young people from the Diocese joined the crowd of 8000 in Wembley Arena for a full day event full of energy, prayer, joy and hope, we are excited to be preparing for 2025, with content that is ideal for young people from Year 10 to Year 13 (age approx. 15 – 18).

Full of inspiring speakers from all around the world, representatives from a number of organisations, award winning musicians and so much more, we cannot wait to be a part of this fantastic event once again!

The event is ideal for Confirmation and post-Confirmation groups, or school groups. It is a vibrant experience of young Church, concluding with Adoration led by most of the Bishops of England and Wales; the whole day really opens the young people's horizons about what the Church is, and their part in it.

The sale of Flame 2025 passes will start on 31 January 2024.

For Super Early Bird group prices please book through Diocese of Westminster Youth Ministry website: <https://youth.rcdow.org.uk/> or email: youth@rcdow.org.uk