



WITNESS

to the word



7th February 2024

Spring 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

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Leadership and Governance Updates are [here](#)

Religious Education and Catholic Life 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

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

Day and Time	Course	Booking Link
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>	Click Here: Booking Link
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 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>	Click Here: Booking Link

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>
Wednesday 6th March	<p>Primary RSE Leads Update and Sharing Online Forum</p> <p>Time: 3.45pm to 5.00pm</p> <p>Course Aim: The aim of this course is to give RSE leads diocesan and national updates and an opportunity to ask questions, share good practice and network.</p> <p>Course Content:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To provide relevant and useful updates regarding RSE. • To provide an opportunity for advisors to address any question or concerns regarding RSE. • To provide time to share good practice and network with other RSE leads. <p>Target Audience: Primary RSE Leads.</p>	<p>Click Here: Booking Link</p>
Friday 8th March	<p>EYFS Planning Workshop for RED (Reception and Nursery / Branch 5 & 6)</p> <p>Time: 9.30am to 3.30pm</p> <p>Course Aim: The aim of this course is to understand the content of the RED for EYFS and Develop Planning for Branches 5 & 6 (To the ends of the Earth & Dialogue & Encounter)</p> <p>Course Content:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To provide subject knowledge for Branches 5 and 6 with an exploration of a suggested planning approach. • To provide an opportunity for the sharing of resources of the new RED. • To provide practical planning time with colleagues for implementation in school. <p>Target Audience: EYFS Practitioners (teachers, nursery nurses, TAs), EYFS Leads, RECs.</p> <p>Venue: Vaughan House, Diocese of Westminster, SW1P 1QN</p>	<p>Click Here: Booking Link</p>

Monday 11th March	<p>Understanding the Theology - Year 7 across Branch 5</p> <p>Session 5: Understanding the Theology - Year 7 Branch 2 / Monday 11th March 2024</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 6.</p> <p>Course Content:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> To provide an engaging explanation of the theology in Year 7 across Branch 6. To provide opportunities to ask questions to develop understanding of the Catholic beliefs and practices in Year 7 across Branch 6. To provide practical suggestions for teaching Year 7 across Branch 6. <p>Target Audience: Secondary non-specialist RE teachers.</p>	<p>Click Here: Booking Link</p>
Tuesday 12th March	<p>Secondary RSE Leads Update and Sharing Online Forum</p> <p>Time: 3.45pm to 5.00pm</p> <p>Course Aim: The aim of this course is to Give secondary RSE leads Odiocesan and national updates and an opportunity to ask questions, share good practice and network.</p> <p>Course Content:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> To provide relevant and useful updates regarding RSE. To provide an opportunity for advisors to address any question or concerns regarding RSE. To provide time to share good practice and network with other RSE leads. <p>Target Audience: Secondary RSE Leads.</p>	<p>Click Here: Booking Link</p>
Thursday 21st March	<p>Primary Online Course - Getting to know the new RED: Branch 4 (Desert to Garden) - Subject Knowledge for RECs</p> <p>Time: 9.30am to 12.30pm</p> <p>Course Aim: The aim of this course is to develop and deepen RECs subject knowledge for Branch 4 (Desert to Garden) to support implementation of the RED.</p> <p>Course Content:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> To provide support RECs to get to know the content of the new RED. To provide subject knowledge input for RECs on Branch 4 (Desert to Garden) of the RED. To empower RECs to support teachers in school. <p>Target Audience: RECs</p>	<p>Click Here: Booking Link</p>

Monday 25th March	<p>EYFS Planning Workshop for the new RED (Reception and Nursery / Branch 5 & 6)</p> <p>Time: 9.30am to 3.30pm</p> <p>Course Aim: The aim of this course is to understand the content of the RED for EYFS and Develop Planning for Branches 5 & 6 (To the ends of the Earth & Dialogue & Encounter)</p> <p>Course Content:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To provide subject knowledge for Branches 5 and 6 with an exploration of a suggested planning approach. • To provide an opportunity for the sharing of resources of the new RED. • To provide practical planning time with colleagues for implementation in school. <p>Target Audience: EYFS Practitioners (teachers, nursery nurses, TAs), EYFS Leads, RECs.</p> <p>Venue: London Jesuit Centre</p>	<p>Click Here: Booking Link</p>
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CCRS

Are you aspiring to Senior Leadership in a Catholic School?

Are you a teacher or teaching assistant, teaching RE, and need an introduction to theology to support your work? Are you a Governor in a Catholic School and want to develop your understanding of the Catholic Faith?

CCRS can develop your knowledge of subjects covered in Religious Education and can also support your teaching in accordance with the RED. We are a supportive learning community for all participants.

There is an opportunity to join a group in April, joining at Module 3, running online, 4-6pm on Thursdays, making up Modules 1 & 2 at a later date.

New groups will commence in September 2024.

One group will run online on a Monday, 4-6pm, for 5 x Mondays, followed by time to work on an assignment before starting the next module.

The other group will run online on a Saturday, 9-12pm, for 3 x Saturdays, followed by time to work on an assignment before starting the next module.

Please get in touch by email if you are interested in joining the group in April, or either of the new groups in September, or if you would like to learn more about this certificated course.

Thank you to all the senior leaders who are supporting their staff to undertake this course.

Margaret Hanley, CCRS Co-ordinator, ccrs@rcdow.org.uk

Leadership and Governance Update

THURSDAY 25TH TO FRIDAY 26TH APRIL**Diocesan Deputy Headteachers Residential Conference**

Conference Aim: The aim of this conference is to explore major issues and challenges impacting upon the Catholic school and its distinctive nature. It also provides a much-needed opportunity for spiritual nourishment, reflection and prayer.

Conference Content:

- Keynote Speakers
- Sharing of Good Practice
- Opportunities for Networking
- Time for reflection, prayer and worship

Target Audience: Primary and Secondary Deputy Headteachers.

Venue: Oxford Spires Hotel, Abingdon Road, OX1 4PS.

(Registration and check in will open at 9:00am on Thursday 25th April)

**DEPUTY HEADTEACHERS
CONFERENCE - OXFORD**

Click Here: [Booking Link](#)

THURSDAY 14TH TO FRIDAY 15TH MARCH**Diocesan Headteachers Residential Conference**

Course Aim: The aim of this conference is to explore major issues and challenges impacting upon the Catholic school and its distinctive nature. It also provides a much-needed opportunity for spiritual nourishment, reflection and prayer.

Conference Content:

- Keynote Speakers
- Sharing of Good Practice
- Opportunities for Networking
- Time for reflection, prayer and worship

Target Audience: Primary and Secondary Headteachers.

Venue: Voco Oxford Thames, Henley Road, Sandford-on-Thames, Oxford, OX4 4GX.

(Registration and check in will open at 9:00am on Thursday 14th March)

**HEADTEACHERS
CONFERENCE - OXFORD**

Click Here: [Booking Link](#)

Leadership

There is still time to apply for this round of NPQs, but not much: the application window closes at the end of this week (9th Feb). These courses are still fully funded, but there has been no word as to whether this funding will continue past this round, so please take this chance to encourage *anyone* in your school who might be thinking of signing up for one of these to do it now!

More details can be found on the DOWAT site [National Professional Qualifications - The Diocese Of Westminster Academy Trust \(dowat.co.uk\)](https://dowat.co.uk) and the St John Southworth Academy site [St John Southworth Catholic Academy Trust - National Professional Qualifications NPQ \(sjscat.co.uk\)](https://sjscat.co.uk) both of whom deliver courses alongside the Church of England.

We're delighted to see that over 50 of you have already signed up for the [Heads conference](#) in March (and that nearly 20 [deputies and assistant heads](#) have signed up for April!). Please do take the time to refresh yourselves for the important role you carry out in our schools and learn about the new Prayer and Liturgy Directory at the same time.

Governance

As the recruitment season really gets going, please remember that any senior appointments in your schools should be made in dialogue with the Diocese. We will support you through the process from drawing up the advert to making the appointment- but we need you to tell us! PLEASE do not draw up your dates and publish your advert without checking availability with us first. Then we can make sure the right person is free to support you.

Please remind all governors that they should be updating their training records on Governor hub regularly. Governors who have not taken part in training sessions are unlikely to be re-appointed at the end of their term of office.

Governors are also reminded that safeguarding training should be up to date and that enough members of the Governing body have done Safer Recruitment training to be able to support the school when appointing new staff. Most LAs offer this training, but online alternatives are also available.

Upcoming Governor Training

Date/Time	Online Courses	Booking Link
Monday 26th February	<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 Governor</p>	Click Here: Booking Link
Tuesday 12th March	<p>Admission Appeals Online Course</p> <p>Time: 6.00pm to 7.30pm</p> <p>Course Aim: To provide Governing Bodies with information concerning the Admissions Appeals process.</p> <p>Course Content:</p> <p>Meeting the requirements of the School Admission Appeals Code including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The appeals process. • Formation of an Appeals panel. • The role of the clerk/chair of the Appeals panel. • Communicating the decision. <p>Target Audience: Governors / Admissions Committee</p> <p>Course Leader: Catherine McMahon</p>	Click Here: Booking Link

Tuesday 26th March	Safeguarding Training Online Course Time: 6.00pm to 7.30pm Course Aim: The aim of this course is to cover essential information you need in order to understand your responsibilities. Schools have a statutory duty to safeguard and promote the welfare of all pupils. Course Content: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• To provide latest updates on Keeping Children Safe in Education.• To provide examples of monitoring for Safeguarding governors.• To provide updates on Ofsted. Target Audience: All governors, but especially those responsible for child protection and safeguarding.	Click Here: Booking Link
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RE and Catholic Life Resources

Pope Francis Prayer Intentions: February

Intention for evangelisation – The terminally ill and their families.

In February, we pray with Pope Francis for the sick who are in the final stages of life, and for their families; may they always receive the necessary medical and human care, and the accompaniment they need.

‘That the vocation to love and care for another brings with it the rewards of eternity, is made explicit by the Lord of life in the parable of the final judgement: inherit the kingdom, for I was sick and you visited me (cf. Matthew 25: 31-46)’ – Pope Francis

See Pope Francis’ short 2 minute video on this theme: [HERE](#)

PRAYER INTENTIONS (Based on the liturgical year)	Liturgical Colour
Victims of Human Trafficking (Feast of St Josephine Bakhita)	<div>GREEN</div> <div>PURPLE</div>
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	OTHER FAITHS/CULTURES
February <ul style="list-style-type: none"> St Jerome Emiliani; St Josephine Bakhita (8th) Our Lady of Lourdes (11th) Ss Cyril and Methodius (14th) Chair of St Peter (22nd) 	February <ul style="list-style-type: none"> International Day of Women and Girls in Science; Safer Internet Day (11th) World Day of the Sick (11th) World Day of Social Justice (20th) International Mother Language Day (21st) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Chinese New Year (Buddhist) Magha Puka Day (Buddhist Important Event in Life of Buddha) Fast of Esther (Jewish Feb/Mar) Purim (Jewish Feb/Mar)

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

Prayer Intentions during Lent (Based on the Liturgical Year)
Penitents and Wanderers
The Needy and Hungry of the World especially on Lent Fast day (Friday after 1 st Sunday of Lent)
Candidates for the Sacraments especially on the Sundays in Lent
Women especially on Women's World day of Prayer (1 st Friday in March)

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 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, as a school you could increase the saying, singing or signing of the Lord's Prayer together.

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

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

Learn the Our Father in British Sign Language

For the Year of Prayer 2024, Caritas Deaf Service has produced a set of videos to enable students to learn the Lord's Prayer in British Sign Language. In particular you might like to use these during Sign Language Week 18-24 March.

Our Father who art in heaven: <https://youtu.be/uOM7jjBAr6Y>

Hallowed be thy name: <https://youtu.be/rJbG1rkOdPY>

Thy kingdom come: https://youtu.be/ni2J6n_uRwo

Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven: <https://youtu.be/RHhzuR-UU1w>

Give us this day our daily bread: <https://youtu.be/QGXweEAXQXA>

And forgive us our trespassers: <https://youtu.be/-LG0FKw-sok>

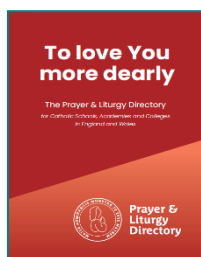
As we forgive those who trespass against us: <https://youtu.be/l2ozjqKy4I>

And lead us not into temptation: <https://youtu.be/9SAI-GsR5ko>

But deliver us from evil: <https://youtu.be/rOIY-yl6TFI>

And this is the link of all the clips run together: <https://youtu.be/qnww2ndRfzA>

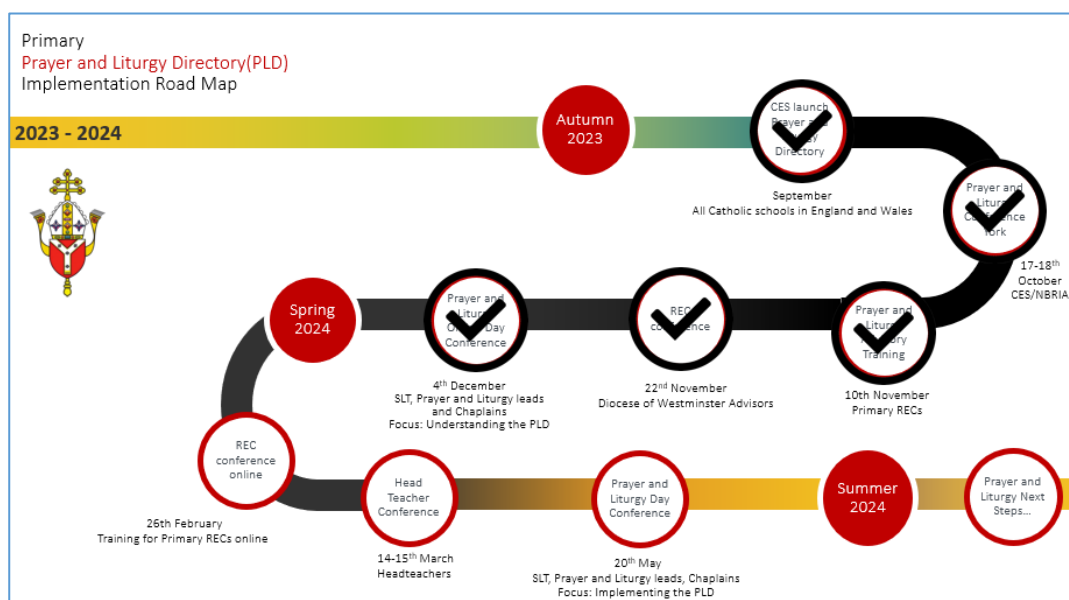
Prayer and Liturgy Directory Updates



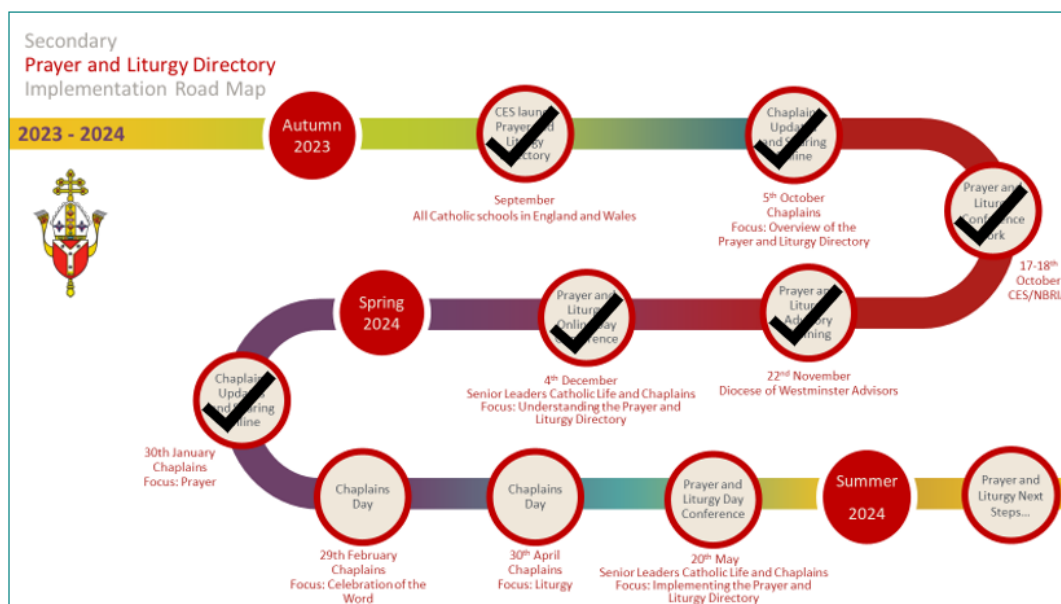
The NEW Prayer and Liturgy Directory was launched on October 2023. It is an important and informative document which aims to enhance the excellent practices that already exists for Prayer and Liturgy within our schools and across the diocese. Please click [HERE](#) for the Prayer and Liturgy Directory. 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:



Primary RED Implementation

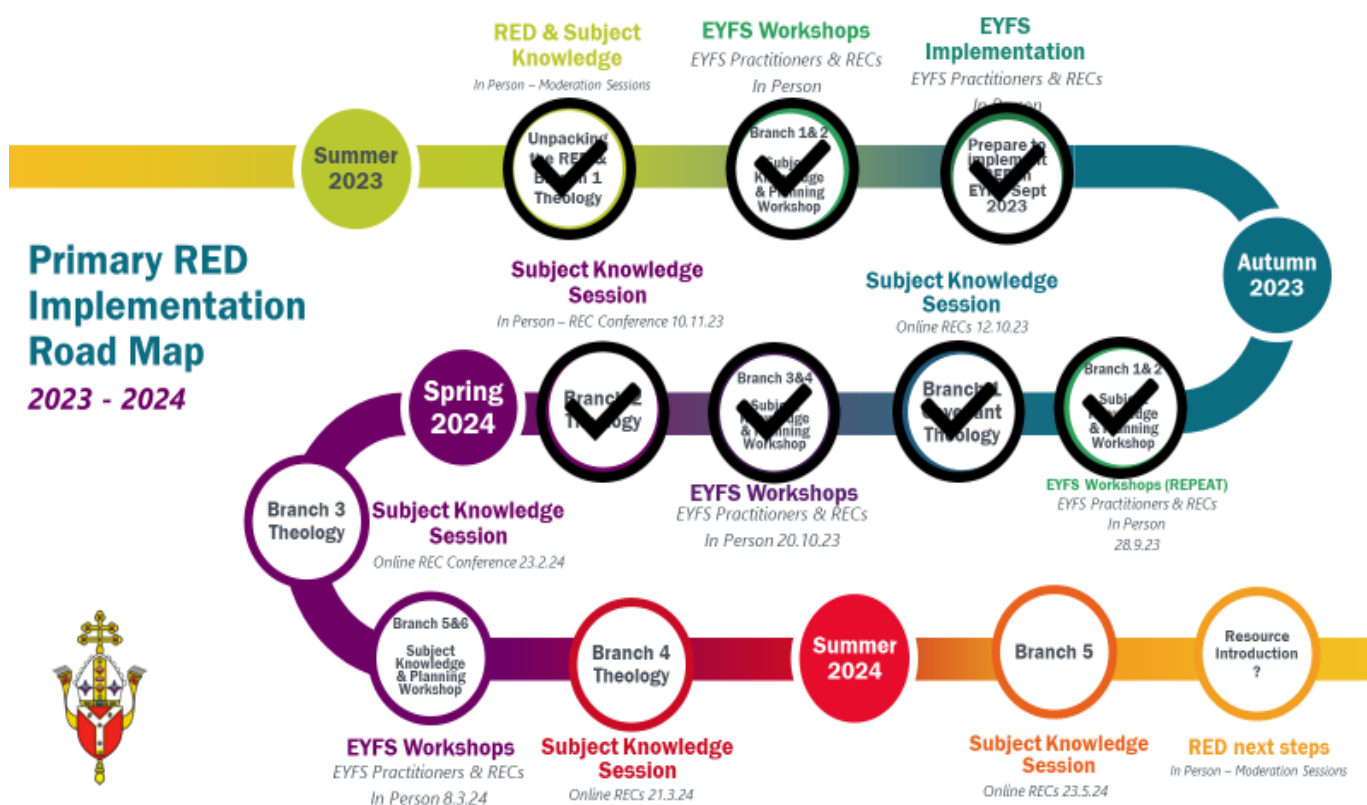
As advisors continue to support RECs with **Theology / subject knowledge sessions** to support the forthcoming implementation of the RED, please book on the following sessions. This year is a great opportunity for RECs to familiarise themselves with the subject knowledge required in the RED in preparation for implementation and to support planning for school team CPD. Don't forget to book on!

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/
REPEAT		25.3.24	

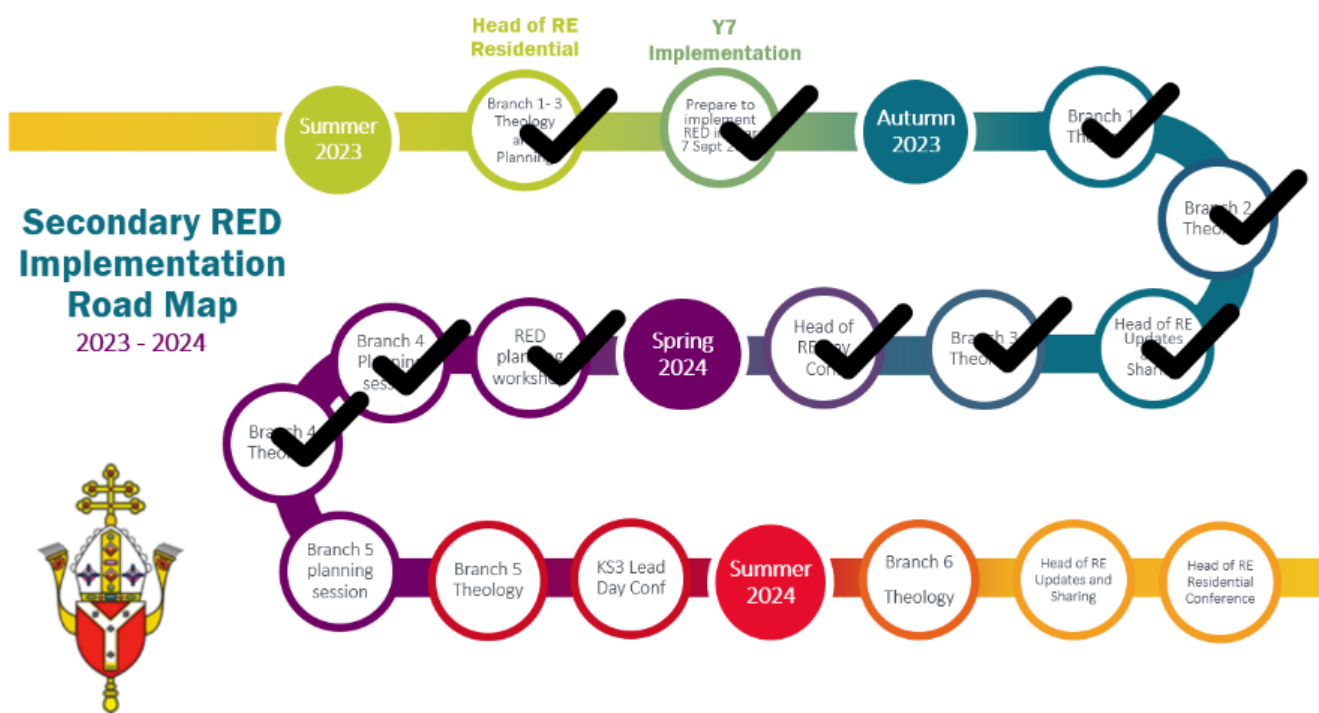


Secondary RED Implementation

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.

To respond to requests from schools for support with planning for the new RED the Second in Department day will now be dedicated to planning, monitoring and evaluating the new RED. Please ensure the person overseeing the implementation of the RED at KS3, or colleagues who you would like to develop regarding curriculum planning are booked on to this in person day on 5th March [HERE](#).

We are running 'Understanding Theology – Year 7' CPD aimed at helping teachers to enhance their subject knowledge in relation to the year 7 RED. If you think that your teachers for Year 7 would benefit please book on to the remaining sessions. Branch 5 [HERE](#) and Branch 6 [HERE](#)



GCSE Religious Studies

Eduqas Q and A Café:

On February 29th at 16.30 Eduqas are offering a free online session for teachers at 16:30 on February 29th to meet each other, ask questions and look at some resources. It will be run by Dave Jones, Eduqas Regional Support Officer. Details are [HERE](#).

Edexcel

Edexcel has produced support on their amended level descriptors and how they will be applied by examiners in the Summer exams. If you have not seen it, there is a recording available from 14th December in the drop down options [HERE](#) as well as other support documentation.

The Big Lent Walk 2024 - Who are CAFOD and SCIAF?

CAFOD and SCIAF are the official relief and development agencies of the Catholic Church for England and Wales (CAFOD) and for Scotland (SCIAF), and we are both members of the global Caritas Internationalis family.

We both believe that a green and just world, free from poverty, is possible. We are teaming up this year because we know that working together means that we can make an ever-bigger difference.

Our goal: to get thousands of teams or individual walkers all going, getting fundraising in and raising awareness of inequality across the world. Together means big change can happen.

The money you raise by taking part in the Big Lent Walk will enable us to continue fighting global poverty and working through expert local partners to bring real life change to communities overseas.

Why walk this Lent:

Your sponsorship can and will change lives. Every £1 raised through the Big Lent Walk will help fight poverty globally in countries like Afghanistan, Colombia, the Democratic Republic of the Congo and South Sudan.

This year these are our focus areas for Lent:

CAFOD's Lent Appeal is helping fishing communities feed their families in Liberia

SCIAF's WEE BOX Appeal is focused on women and girls in Rwanda facing gender-based violence.



Furthermore, CAFOD and SCIAF have a shared project in Ethiopia and are working together to respond to the devastating food crisis there. Years of drought caused by the climate crisis means families are no longer able to cope, but your support means they can provide water, emergency food, and healthcare.

With your hard work and sponsorship this Lent, help change families' lives for good and tell poverty to take a hike.

Sign up for The Big Lent Walk 2024 [HERE](#)

Racial Justice, Equality and Diversity Update



The Church's theme for Racial Justice for this entire year is:

'Seeing one another in the life of the Church.'

The supporting resources for schools can be found [HERE](#) and [beneath](#).



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

www.cbcew.org.uk

You can find the overall link to the page: [HERE](#)



[Racial Justice Sunday - Catholic Bishops' Conference](#)

Racial Justice Sunday is the day the Church focuses on the need to oppose racism and pursue racial justice with renewed vigour.

www.cbcew.org.uk

Schools can also champion the theme for this year by praying the following words:

God of light and truth,
you call all women and men
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 sisters and brothers;

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

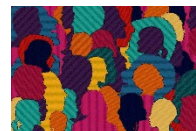
We make this prayer through Jesus our Lord.

A number of schools have already shared

what they created based on this year's

Racial Justice theme. Thank you to St Augustine's Priory for their contribution:

Racial Justice, Equality and Diversity: *Practice in Schools*



School Context:

St Augustine's Priory is an independent day school for boys and girls in Nursery and then all-girls from Reception to Year 13.

As a Catholic independent school we have a very wide profile of diversity – this has always been the case. ‘The Nuns made me the Sikh I am’ is a quotation from a parent who was a pupil at the school. Inter-faith dialogue is a rich part of our exceptionally strong culture which was recognised in our ISI inspection [ISI Inspection Report November 2021](#)

Images from Chapter Room display for Racial Justice Sunday





<p>What have we done:</p> <p>Student Inclusion Committee RE department has incorporated a wider and more ethnically diverse collection of images of Jesus, Mary and Saints in our resources. Faith Life leader has also ensured a wider variety of images in morning prayers. Director of Music using a wider range of hymns and worship music to reflect a more diverse community. For the Year of Prayer Head of Modern Languages has created an Our Father video with students saying the prayer in different languages</p>	<p>Valuable learning from this process:</p> <p>Conversations are vital Time needs to be given to this It needs a whole-school approach.</p>
<p>Our next steps:</p> <p>I will ask our SLT to ensure that RJED coordinator is incorporated into one of their roles.</p> <p>Check if we have an RJED Governor?</p>	<p>Useful links/resources:</p> <p>https://aleteia.org/2020/07/19/10-stunning-images-of-the-madonna-and-child-from-around-the-world/</p> <p>https://reteachingresources.co.uk/product/picturing-jesus-fresh-ideas/</p>

Please continue to share your school's RJED work with claireoneill@rcdow.org.uk or if you need any further support do email her.

RJED CPD

The online RJED CPD programme continues to run each half term, tailored to a different group of teachers within our school communities. Comments from the last session with Aisha Thomas included:

“Inspiring, thought provoking, awoke me to the importance of really understanding the impact of race.”

“Best talk I have ever been to about racial justice in schools.”

“I was hooked on every word, made me reconsider what I thought I knew.”

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

RJED Coordinators

Huge thank you to all the schools who have let us know who their RJED Coordinator is. If you have not yet please email claireoneill@rcdow.org.uk to let us know. Here are the upcoming meetings:

- RJED Update and Sharing Forum 2/3 - Representation Throughout the Curriculum
28th February 3.45-5pm Online
- RJED Update and Sharing Forum 3/3 - Embedding Policies, Procedures and Approaches
5th June 3.45-5pm Online

RJED Coordinators

The RJED Working Party is committed to making our schools anti-racist. To support this ongoing work we need to find out what is happening in our schools to support RJED. By completing this audit we can build an accurate picture. To complete it please click [HERE](#). The deadline is Friday 9th February.

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

Caritas Updates

Volunteering Awards

Nominations for this year's Diocese of Westminster 'Love in Action' Volunteering Awards will open on 1 March 2024 and close on 9 June 2024.

There will be separate categories for voluntary work undertaken in Primary and Secondary Schools. More details will follow, on our [Caritas Volunteer Service web page](#) but start thinking now - who will you nominate?

Advent Giving Calendar

Caritas Westminster's Advent Giving Calendar was downloaded more than 1,600 times from the Caritas website, a 38% increase from last year. This is in addition to the 4,000+ printed copies that were sent out to 55 schools and parishes in the diocese.

Did you use the Caritas Advent Giving Calendar?

Did you collect or receive donations from the calendar? Please help us to review the usefulness of the Advent calendar and improve the project by [answering the survey linked here](#).

Safe in Faith, Domestic Abuse Awareness Training

Do you know how to safely support a victim of domestic abuse?

And particularly if that person is a member of a faith community, it can make all the difference if someone is trained to respond well and signpost to suitable organisations for support. Domestic abuse affects one in four women and one in six men in the UK during their lifetime. There are likely to be people affected by domestic abuse in your school community.

[Read this message from Nikki Dhillon Keane](#), founder of Safe in Faith. And consider signing up for our training course for faith leaders – this includes teachers, chaplains and others in leadership roles – which will help you help victims and survivors, including recognising spiritual abuse, and to reassure them of God's love and the Church's support as they seek safety.

Learn the Our Father in British Sign Language

For the Year of Prayer 2024, Caritas Deaf Service has produced a set of videos to enable students to learn the Lord's Prayer in British Sign Language. In particular you might like to use these during Sign Language Week 18-24 March.

Our Father who art in heaven: <https://youtu.be/uOM7jjBAr6Y>

Hallowed be thy name: <https://youtu.be/rJbG1rkOdPY>

Thy kingdom come: https://youtu.be/ni2J6n_uRwo

Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven: <https://youtu.be/RHhzuR-UU1w>

Give us this day our daily bread: <https://youtu.be/QGXweEAXQXA>

And forgive us our trespassers: <https://youtu.be/-LG0FKw-sok>

As we forgive those who trespass against us: <https://youtu.be/l2ozjqKy4I>

And lead us not into temptation: <https://youtu.be/9SAI-GsR5ko>

But deliver us from evil: <https://youtu.be/rOIY-yI6TFI>

And this is the link of all the clips run together: <https://youtu.be/qnww2ndRfzA>

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



Follow Me

YEAR 7 RETREAT

Through this retreat, the young people explore what it is like to follow someone, ultimately Jesus.



The aim of this retreat is to explore the Bible verse of Matthew 4:18-22, which shows that Jesus is calling us to follow him as we are. He is also inviting us to bring others to follow him and help them do this.

This retreat reminds the young people that anyone can follow Jesus. We look at how we can follow Jesus in our life through the activities we do throughout the day.

ABOUT

At the beginning of secondary school young people may feel overwhelmed by all the change they are experiencing. Our year 7 retreat challenges the young people to think *who* or *what* they are currently following.

THEME

We then help them to explore the idea that Jesus is calling them to "Follow Him", providing them with a clear pathway to follow as they embark in this new exciting adventure, whilst helping them to make sense of an otherwise chaotic time. What are the advantages of following Jesus? Discover it by immersing yourself in this wonderful retreat experience...

HOW WE DO IT

An example of an activity we do on this retreat is called 'me in a hot air balloon' where the young people make a hot air balloon out of paper and on each side of the balloon they write about a different aspect of their life. For example, one side is about 'me' another side 'family' and 'faith'. The idea behind the balloon is that you do not always know where the balloon will end up because the wind directs it. Just like the wind, he gently directs us towards our destination: Heaven. It's up to us to make the first jump and decide to fly...

Just like in scripture when Jesus asked Andrew and Simon called Peter as well as James and John to follow him. However, they did not question where they were going, or why, they just left. Each aspect that is looked at in the balloon is unique, no two balloons are exactly the same. Jesus asks us to follow him as we are.

Bookings are now being accepted for Academic Year 2024-25!

Get in touch: spec@rcdow.org.uk

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