



WITNESS

to the word



29th February 2024

Spring Term Issue 4

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](#)

Leadership and Governance Updates are [here](#)

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

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

PPP and Capital Project Updates are [here](#)

Caritas Updates are [here](#)

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
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>	Click Here: Booking Link
Wednesday 6 th 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>	Click Here: Booking Link

<p>Friday 8th March</p>	<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>
<p>Monday 11th March</p>	<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>

<p>Tuesday 12th March</p>	<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>
<p>Thursday 21st March</p>	<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

We're delighted to see that over 70 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

We are very grateful to the governors who reply to the "pleas for help" which we sometimes post on behalf of various governing boards on Governorhub. Please make sure you reply to the email address given in the post, otherwise it goes via the diocesan email account first where it may get delayed or lost in the firewall.

We are running training for governors who may have to sit on admission appeals panels on the 12th March; earlier than last year in response to your feedback. Places can be booked here: [Admission Appeals Online Training Course – Diocese of Westminster \(rcdow.org.uk\)](#)

Admissions

Admission authorities (the school's governing body or academy trust) must determine their admission arrangements for 2025/26 by 28 February. This means that the admission authority must have met to formally determine the arrangements and that the meeting is minuted – this must be done each year even if no changes have been made.

Once you have determined your arrangements, they should be published on your website, sent to your local authority and to me as the representative of the Diocese – this must all be done by March 15th.

Any queries, please don't hesitate to get in touch at schooladmissions@rcdow.org.uk

Upcoming Governor Training

Date/Time	Online Courses	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	<p>Safeguarding Training Online Course</p> <p>Time: 6.00pm to 7.30pm</p> <p>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.</p> <p>Course Content:</p> <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. <p>Target Audience: All governors, but especially those responsible for child protection and safeguarding.</p>	Click Here: Booking Link

RE and Catholic Life Resources

Pope Francis Prayer Intentions: March - For victims of abuse

Pope Francis insists that the Church cannot hide abuse, no matter where it occurs, but instead must serve as a model in its response to abuse – including by shining a light on the issue of abuse in society and in families.

As part of that response, the Church must also offer safe spaces for victims to be heard, supported psychologically, and protected.

“Let us pray for those who have suffered because of the wrongs done to them from members of the Church; may they find within the Church herself a concrete response to their pain and suffering.”

Pope Francis

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

PRAYER INTENTIONS (Based on the liturgical year)	Liturgical Colour
Penitents and Wanderers	PURPLE/ ROSE
The Needy and Hungry of the World Especially on Lent Fast day (Friday after 1st Sunday of Lent)	
Candidates for the Sacraments Especially on the Sundays in Lent	
Women Especially on Women’s World day of Prayer (1st Friday in March)	

LITURGICAL YEAR	NATIONAL AND INTERNATIONAL DAYS	OTHER FAITHS/CULTURES
March <ul style="list-style-type: none"> St David (1st) St Casimir (4th) Ss Perpetua and Felicity (7th) St John of God (8th) St Frances of Rome (9th) St Patrick (17th) St Cyril of Jerusalem (18th) St Joseph (19th) Annunciation (25th) 	March <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Zero Discrimination Day (1st) World Wildlife Day (2nd) International Women’s Day (8th) Mother’s Day (10th) International Day of Happiness; French Language Day (20th) International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination (21st) World Poetry Day (21st) Remembrance of Victims of Slavery Day (23rd) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Pesach (Jewish Passover Mar/Apr) Holla Mohalla (Sikh Olympics – 17th) Holi (Hindu Festival of Colours) Laylat al-Mi’raj (Islamic Mar/Apr)

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

SEASON of Lent: Ash Wednesday – Holy Saturday

Lent is the time of preparation for the celebration of Easter and the Paschal Mystery. It begins on Ash Wednesday and ends on Holy Thursday. Holy Week begins on Palm Sunday and ends on Easter Saturday.

The last three days of Holy Week are called the Triduum and this begins with the Mass of the Lord's Supper on Maundy Thursday (following the Jewish counting of time with the day beginning at sunset) and continuing until the evening of Easter Sunday.

The Stations of the Cross are often reflected upon during this season as are the Sorrowful Mysteries of the Rosary and believers often attend the Sacrament of Reconciliation.

Lent Resources:

CAFOD resources can be found [here](#)

MISSION resources can be found [here](#)

LOYOLA PRESS resources can be found [here](#)

AID TO THE CHURCH IN NEED resources can be found [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 have produced primary and secondary resources to support schools with the Year of Prayer. These have been emailed to the schools and will be available on the Education Service website soon.

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

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

For Jesuit Year of Prayer materials click [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>

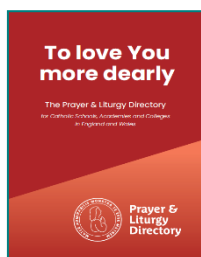
As we forgive those who trespass against us: <https://youtu.be/l2ozjqKy4l>

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>

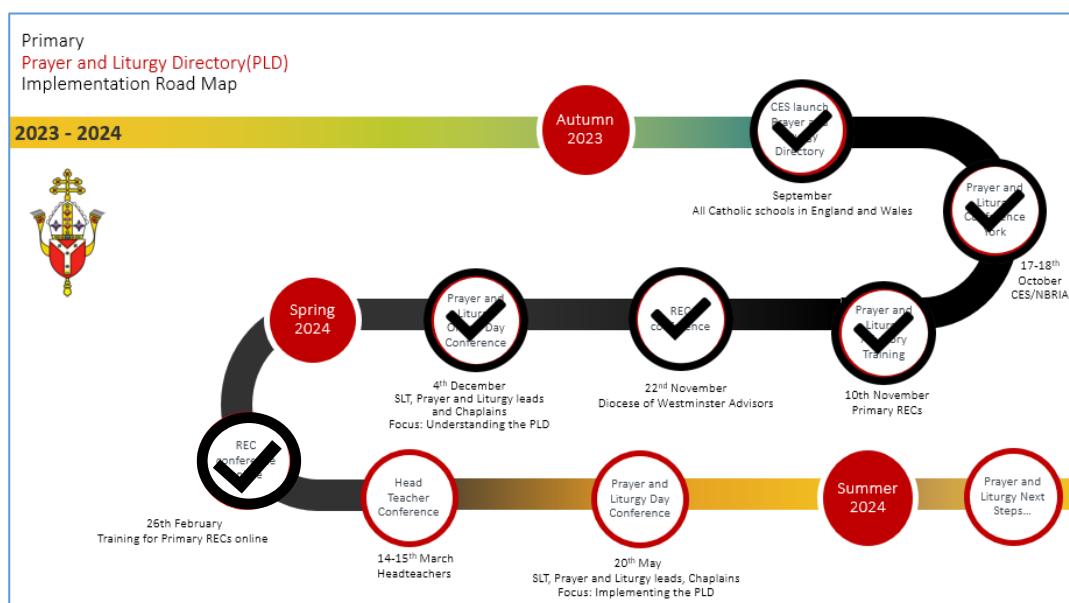
Prayer and Liturgy Directory Updates



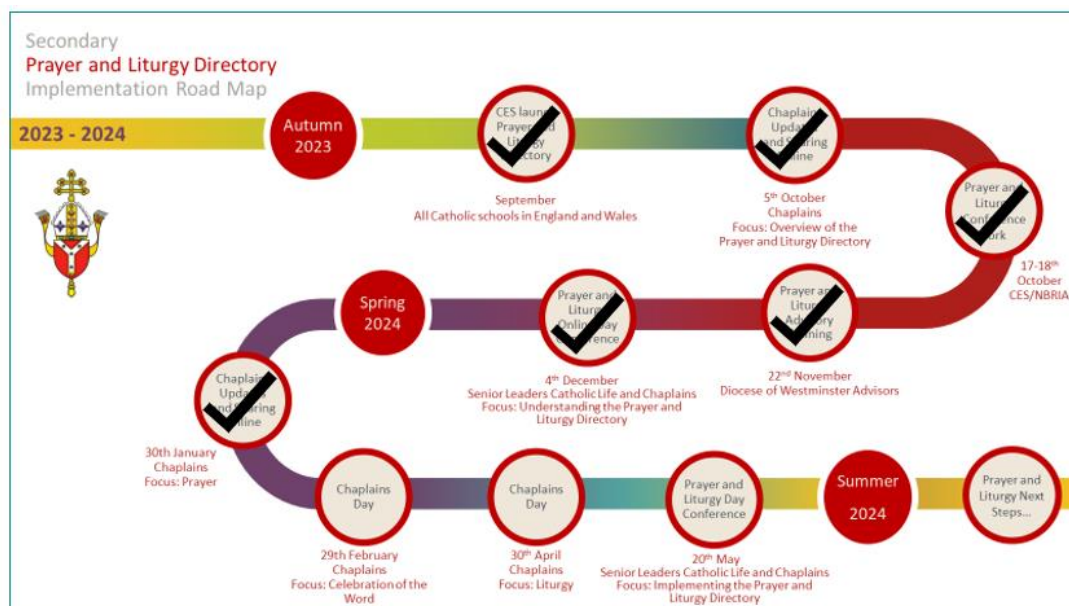
The NEW Prayer and Liturgy Directory was launched on October 2023. It is an important and informative document which aims to enhance the excellent practices that already exists for Prayer and Liturgy within our schools and across the diocese. Please click [HERE](#) for the Prayer and Liturgy Directory.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

Ten Ten Trial

All of our primary schools have now been invited to be part of the trial of resources prepared by Ten Ten. Please contact Amanda Crowley amandacrowley@rcdow.org.uk or your diocesan advisor if you did not receive an email inviting you to be a part of the trial.

Theology / Subject Knowledge Sessions

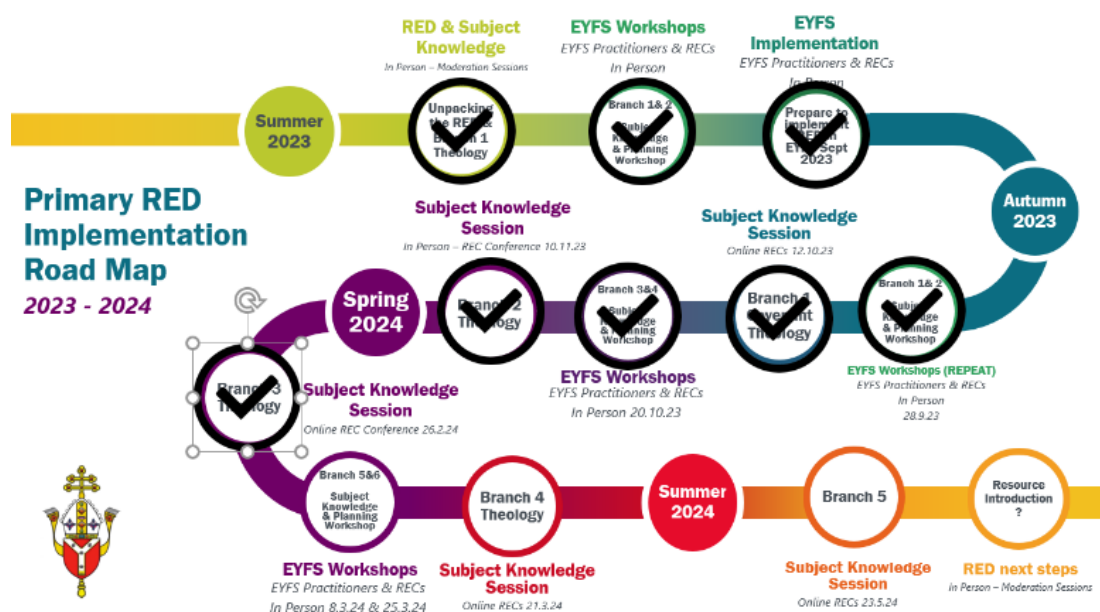
As advisors continue to support RECs with **Theology / subject knowledge sessions** to support the forthcoming implementation of the RED, please book on the following sessions. This year is a great opportunity for RECs to familiarise themselves with the subject knowledge required in the RED in preparation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

Branch 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	https://courses.rcdow.org.uk/event/eyfs-planning-workshop-for-the-new-red-reception-and-nursery-branch-5-6-2/



Secondary RED Implementation

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. We think it will be a great opportunity to plan together and share ideas and would aim to have every secondary school represented to address common goals. 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](#)

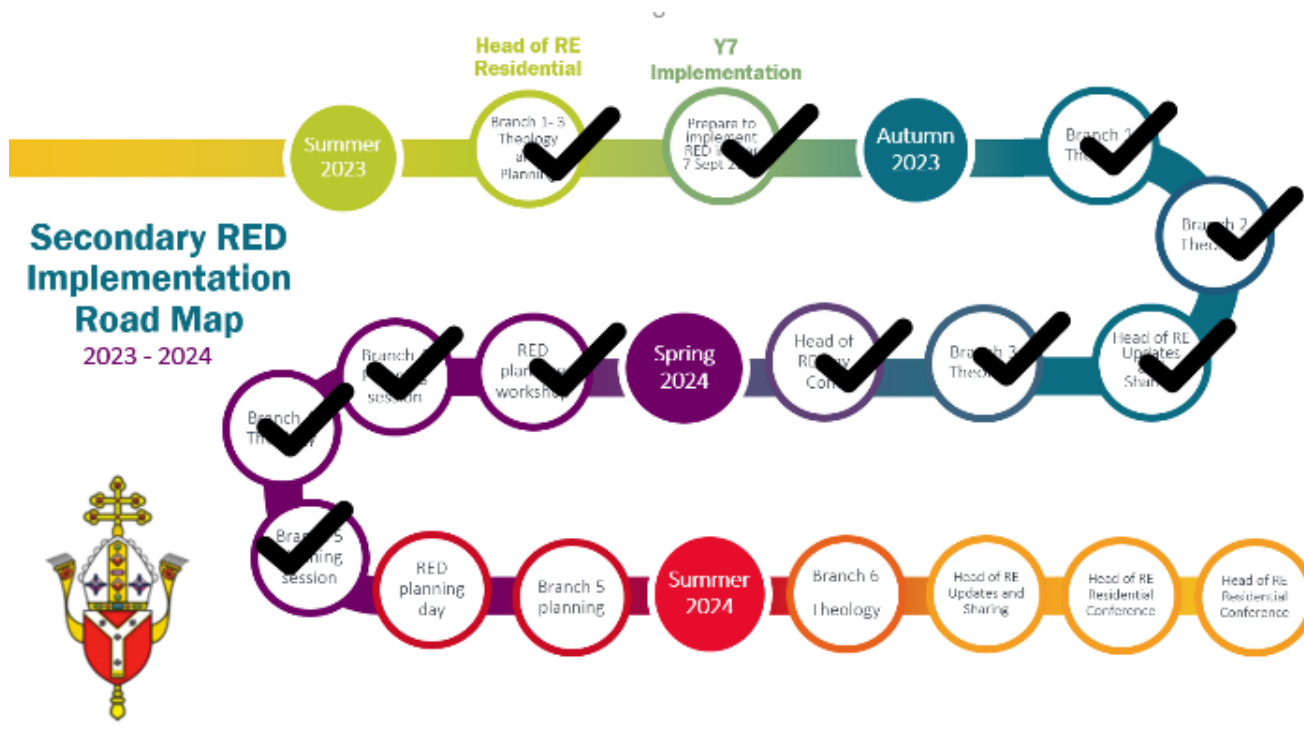
GCSE Religious Studies

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.



“Lent is a good time for sacrificing. Let us deny ourselves something every day to help others.”

Pope Francis

CAFOD's Big Lent Walk 2024

Walk 200km in 40 days to help fight global poverty

Challenge yourself and take on The Big Lent Walk! Walk when and where you choose over 40 days, alone or with friends. Raise money to help people as they overcome poverty. Sign up today - [here](#)



National Assembly

Join CAFOD's Primary School National Assembly live on 8 February. Find out how we can all help to fight global poverty this Lent: [Lent national assembly](#)

Missio

Lent Resources for Secondary Schools

Working hard and juggling commitments shouldn't mean you miss out on spending time with God! Missio have designed a Lenten journey that fits with you. The idea is to make space for prayer, abstinence, charity, scripture and, most importantly, the Sacraments, in a way that is entirely manageable and possible in our busy world.

- Plan time with God this Lent, download your free Lenten Journey Planner [HERE](#)
- For ideas on giving something up, doing something extra and prayer [HERE](#)
- Pray with Missio [HERE](#)
- Fundraise with Missio [HERE](#)
- Walk with the Saints –Pilgrimage and walks [HERE](#)
- Lenten reflections [HERE](#)



Mission Together

Lent Resources for Primary Schools

- Lent calendar, Lent Celebration of the Word, Lent Assembly, Stations of the Cross and many other useful resources [HERE](#)
- Holy Week and Easter resources [HERE](#)



CST Resources for Primary Schools

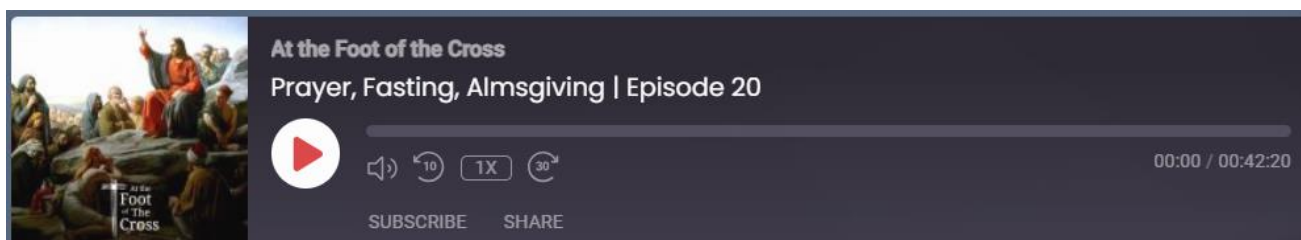
CST Prayers, and CST Films - *Caring for Creation in Cameroon* and *Community and Participation in Cameroon* are designed for KS1. [HERE](#)

Get Involved: Around the world, children pray and share to support Mission Together.

This helps local missionaries to work alongside global communities that are poor or in need, regardless of their background or belief. Your support of Mission Together provides children with food, shelter, education, healthcare, and supports their emotional and spiritual wellbeing too.

Prayer, Fasting, Almsgiving – At the Foot of the Cross Podcast

The latest *At the Foot of the Cross* podcast has been released and it's very apt as we embark on our 40-day journey to that very place. The focus falls on the three pillars of the season – prayer, fasting and almsgiving. Click image below to access.



New Lectionary to be launched in England and Wales for Advent 2024

The Dicastery for Divine Worship and the Discipline of the Sacraments has confirmed the approval by the Bishops' Conference of England and Wales for the new Lectionary.

The Lectionary, which includes the scripture readings for Mass and the sacraments, will come into use in Catholic parishes in England and Wales from Advent 2024.

The God Who Speaks

New Online Lent Calendar - [The God Who Speaks](#)

Lent resources here - [The God Who Speaks](#)

Lent posters here - [The God Who Speaks](#)

Scripture and Science: Is scientific knowledge safe in the hands of a fallen human race? - [The God Who Speaks](#)

February Sunday Reflections - [The God Who Speaks](#)

Planet Fraternity

A worldwide project from the OIEC to develop links between students from all over the world, including through charitable endeavours, climate action and more, in the spirit of the encyclicals *Laudato Si'* and *Fratelli Tutti*. [Find out more](#)

Mustard Seeds - Religious Education Resources That Engage, Educate & Inspire

Thoughtful and thought-provoking videos, creatively and imaginatively produced to support the RE curriculum for KS2-4. A series of resources to explore, the Sacrament of Confirmation, the Season of Advent, and the Season of Lent. There are free resources available [here](#)



Whoartful Galleries

School heads, chaplains, RE co-ordinators, and diocesan and parish priests in UK dioceses are among those who have welcomed a simple suggestion by a parishioner and former CAFOD Schools Volunteer - WhoArtful Galleries, a home-made version of the Church of the Paternoster on the Mount of Olives.

The idea is for schools to collect and display The Lord's Prayer in the languages found among pupils & staff, families & relatives, and local parishioners. These would be a celebration of their unique cultural diversity and community collaboration. Around Pentecost is suggested as a first aiming point - perhaps for sharing the languages in assemblies, on-screen, or in parish Masses.

The briefing information is at www.just1.org.uk/whoartful. This includes a PDF for an easy read on-screen or page. There's also a link to the origin of the idea - Hugh's own Paternoster Gallery of 20+ languages in detail at www.just1.org.uk/galleries. There's no registration or formality in taking part; though WhoArtful schools and parishes may like to let Hugh how they're getting on at hughgibbons@just1.org.uk.

Resources: Parental Imprisonment

One in 15 pupils will experience a parent being imprisoned, and to support teachers a toolkit has been developed by the Prison Advice and Care Trust (PACT) national Catholic prisons charity.

The toolkit's resources are curriculum-linked for both England and Wales, and also provided in Welsh. They include an animated short film; PSHE lessons plans from 3 to 16 years; a jigsaw and board game; jargon buster, and more. [Find out more](#)

Adventure Activities and School Trips

Rock UK is a Christian charity offering tailored school residential trips involving a choice of more than 40 adventure activities supporting the National Curriculum.

These include promoting decision-making; communications; trust and teamwork, all within a Christian environment. Financial support is also available. [Find out more](#)

2024 Christian Leadership Formation Programme for Year 12

Applications are open until 25th February for this unique programme, offered by The Christian Heritage Centre at Stonyhurst.

- The programme offers a holistic formation to prepare students for engagement in the public forum
- Engages students with the Catholic philosophical and theological tradition, and develops their analytical and critical skills
- Workshops on media training and virtuous leadership
- Students receive a certificate validated by St Mary's University, Twickenham on completion
- Meet and engage with Catholic, public figures and academics
- Bursaries available to cover any financial need of any successful applicant

Information and application form available at: www.christianleadershipformation.com

The Fantastic Fred Experience

The Fantastic FRED Experience is a live performance-led mental health resource for primary aged children delivered by a team of trained actors.



Children are able to take part in a live, interactive and engaging performance delivered inside an immersive mobile classroom, your school hall or a large classroom.

Ensuring the young children of our nation have the mental health support and resilience tools they need is more critical now than ever before.

The COVID-19 pandemic, combined with enforced lockdowns and disruption to everyday life, has had a major impact on children's mental health with many experiencing severe emotional challenges as a direct result.

The Fantastic FRED Experience is a mental health resource that's all about prevention. With half of all mental health problems being established by the age of 14, the younger we engage children to equip and build emotional resilience the more likely we are to prevent mental health challenges developing when they are older.

The Fantastic FRED Experience is available to book for eligible primary schools. [Book your visit today 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. Amen

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:

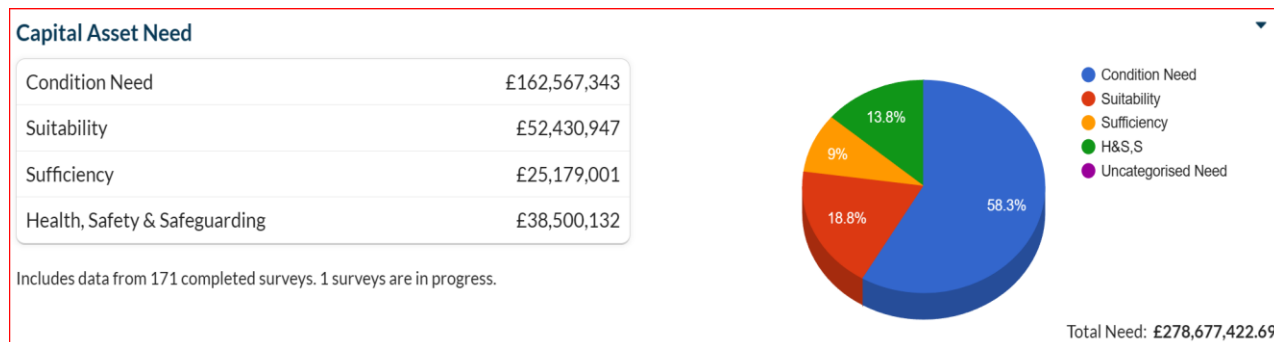
- RJED Update and Sharing Forum 3/3 - Embedding Policies, Procedures and Approaches
5th June 3.45-5pm Online

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.

Capital and PPP Updates

Statlog



RAAC – Reinforced Autoclaved Aerated Concrete

We are please to report that, as a direct result of the quality of the evidence we supplied, and the diligence of school and diocesan staff, RAAC is being resolved in all identified school. For most of the schools, the Diocese has been awarded a Grant to deliver the work locally. Three new schools have been added to the Government's School Rebuilding Programme to join St John's Rickmansworth. They are St Gregory's Science College (Brent), St John Vianney (Haringey) and St Ignatius College (Enfield). We look forward to working with these schools, and the Government Team, as they strive to address the impact of RAAC.

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 it 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.

Caritas Updates

Volunteering Awards

Nominations for this year's Diocese of Westminster 'Love in Action' Volunteering Awards will open on 9 March 2024 and close on 30 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?

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 four-part [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. The course starts on 11 March.

To mark International Womens Day, the Catholic Social Action Network, CSAN is holding an online event on the subject of Domestic Abuse with experts speaking on the issue of Faith and Violence Against Women and Girls (VAWG). Sara Kirkpatrick and Huda Jawad from the FAITH & WAWG COALITION, will be launching their guidance for faith leaders, and Nikki Dhillon Keane, who will be launching the Safe in Faith signposting toolkit. Please register [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/QGXweFAXQXA>

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>

Free in-person training from Citizen's Advice on benefits, housing and debt support

Several parish and parish project representatives, especially food banks have been on this training at their local Citizens Advice Bureau, and have found it very useful to support their communities.

Contact your local Citizen's Advice Bureau to find out the date of the next training. Some upcoming dates that we know of:

Enfield next training: 5 March, 9:30am-4:30pm (lunch provided), N9 0PZ

Sign up [here](#):

Harrow next training: 13 March, 10am–3:30pm, Greenhill Library

Email Angela at Citizen's Advice Harrow (angela.cook@citizensadviceharrow.org.uk) to reserve a space

We are in conversations with Citizen's Advice to try to facilitate this training to reach as many of the communities in our diocese as possible. For more information and any questions, contact Niki at Caritas:

nikipsarias@rcdow.org.uk

Supporting people in Asylum hotels and similar – new resource

Are there asylum seekers in your community who are living in home-office provided accommodation such as hotels?

Caritas Westminster have produced a new document entitled ***Building Community: Supportive Networks around Asylum Accommodation***

This resource is for volunteers and individuals who are supporting people staying in asylum accommodation. The resource was compiled from a meeting of people living in and volunteering in asylum accommodation – the document contains some of the ideas and experiences shared. We hope some of these might be helpful to you or resonate with your own experience, and to give you further ideas how to support these families.

You can find this document on the resources page of our new-look website [here](#)

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.

Please book through Diocese of Westminster Youth Ministry website:

<https://youth.rcdow.org.uk/> or email: youth@rcdow.org.uk