



WITNESS

to the word



27th March 2024

Spring Term Issue 6

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](#)

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

Day and Time	Course	Booking Link
Tuesday 23 rd April	<p>Preparing for Deputy Headship</p> <p>Time: 6.00pm to 7.30pm</p> <p>Course Aim: How to prepare for making an application for Deputy Headship</p> <p>Course Content: Identify skills and knowledge needed for headship. Suggestions for selecting schools and making applications.</p> <p>Target Audience: All considering moving into Deputy Headship in the next academic year.</p> <p>Location: Online</p>	Click Here: Booking Link
Monday 29 th April	<p>RJED – What can RECs and Chaplains Do?</p> <p>Time: 3.45pm to 5.00pm</p> <p>Course Aim: To ensure RECs and Chaplains are informed about issues concerning RJED and know how to champion and support RJED within their schools</p> <p>Course Content:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Relevant and useful RECs/Chaplains training from an RJED expert. • Practical suggestions about how to monitor, support and develop RJED. • An opportunity to ask questions to gain a great insight into the role of RECs/Chaplains in RJED. <p>Target Audience: RECs and Chaplains</p> <p>Location: Online</p>	Click Here: Booking Link

<p>Friday 10th May</p>	<p>Creating a Culture of Accompaniment in Primary Schools</p> <p>Time: 9.30am to 3.30pm</p> <p><i>Please note that this is a repeat run of the course from February 2023 for those who were unable to attend.</i></p> <p>Aim:</p> <p>This day aims to help schools to create a culture of accompaniment in relation to LGBT+</p> <p>Content:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Theology, Accompaniment and Pastoral Guidance • Creating a Culture of Accompaniment • Tackling homophobic language / bullying • Supporting families <p>Target Audience: Headteachers and other senior leaders</p> <p>Location: London Jesuit Centre, 114 Mount Street, London W1K 3AH</p>	<p>Click Here: Booking Link</p>
<p>Thursday 16th May</p>	<p>Understanding the Theology - Year 7 across Branch 6 Session 6: Understanding the Theology - Year 7 Branch 2</p> <p>Online Session: 3.45pm to 5.00pm</p> <p>Course Aim: 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"> • Engaging explanation of the theology in Year 7 across Branch 6 • Opportunities to ask questions to develop understanding of the Catholic beliefs and practices in Year 7 across Branch 6, • Practical suggestions for teaching Year 7 across Branch 6 <p>Target Audience: Secondary non-specialist RE teachers</p> <p>Location: Online</p>	<p>Click Here: Booking Link</p>

<p>Monday 20th May</p>	<p>Prayer and Liturgy Day Conference Time: 9.30am to 3.30pm</p> <p>Conference Aim: To provide schools with relevant and useful training in regards to Prayer and Liturgy and give participants the opportunity to share good practice and network.</p> <p>Conference Content:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Relevant and useful training from experts that will help support Prayer and Liturgy within school community. • Practical suggestions to develop Prayer and Liturgy. • Opportunities to share good practice and network. <p>Target Audience: Headteachers, RECs, Primary and Liturgy Coordinator, Chaplains, Senior Teachers in Charge of Catholic Life and Mission</p> <p>Location: Cathedral Hall, Ambrosden Avenue, London, SW1P 1QJ.</p>	<p>Click Here: Booking Link</p>
<p>Thursday 23rd May</p>	<p>Getting to know the new RED: Branch 5 (To the ends of the Earth) Time: 9.30am to 12.30pm</p> <p>Course Aim: Getting to know the new RED: Branch 5 (To the ends of the Earth) - Subject Knowledge for RECs</p> <p>Course Content:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To support RECs to get to know the content of the new RED. • To provide subject knowledge input for RECs on Branch 5 (To the ends of the Earth) of the RED. • To empower RECs to support teachers in school. <p>Target Audience: RECs</p> <p>Location: Online</p>	<p>Click Here: Booking Link</p>

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

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

Click here to book your place:

<https://courses.rcdow.org.uk/event/diocesan-deputy-headteachers-conference/>



Click Here: [Booking Link](#)

Leadership and Governance Update

Leadership

Many thanks to all of you who attended the Head Teacher conference in Oxford; I hope that you found it useful and that it gave you a chance to re-charge both mentally and Spiritually.

The Deputy heads conference will be taking place soon after we return in April. You should have received an email with the programme and booking can be made [here](#)

If you are looking to replace longstanding members of staff, please remember that we need to be present at appointments for Senior leaders and Heads of RE. Please get in contact as soon as possible, as dates during these next few months are very busy.

We can advertise vacancies on our website. Please complete this form: [School Vacancies in the Westminster Diocese \(office.com\)](#)

Governance

Many thanks to all our governors for the work you do supporting our schools and the school leadership teams. We wish you all a happy and Holy Easter.

Date/Time	Online Courses	Booking
Thursday 2 nd May	<p>RSE Updates for Link Governors</p> <p>Time: 5.30pm to 7.00pm</p> <p>Course Aim: To provide governors with key information to enable them to fulfil their responsibilities in relation to RSE</p> <p>Course Content: To explore key documentation relating to RSE within a Catholic school To explore CSI and diocesan expectations in relation to RSE To discuss emerging issues relating to RSE and available support and guidance</p> <p>Target Audience: Governors (Particularly those with responsibility for RSE)</p> <p>Location: Online</p>	<p>Click Here: Booking Link</p>
Tuesday 7 th May	<p>Appointing Head and Deputy's Online Course</p> <p>Time: 6.00pm to 7.30pm</p> <p>Course Aim: To help Governors understand the processes in advertising and appointing for Senior Leadership roles</p> <p>Content: Requirements for leadership in a Catholic School Shortlisting Planning the interview</p> <p>Target Audience: Chairs of Governors and those on interview panels</p> <p>Location: Online</p>	<p>Click Here: Booking Link</p>

<p>Wednesday 8th May</p>	<p>Admissions Online Training Course</p> <p>Time: 6.00pm to 7.30pm</p> <p>Course Aim: The AIM of this course is to enable governors/schools/academies to act confidently in the context of the School Admissions Code and Diocesan Guidance on admissions and for governors to understand the new annual timescales for consultation and determination of admission policies.</p> <p>Course Content:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • An update on recent legislation and guidance. • Admission policies in the context of the School Admissions Code. • The Diocese as religious authority and the Certificate of Catholic Practice. • In-Year Admissions. • The role of the Admissions Committee. <p>Target Audience: Governors</p> <p>Location: Online</p>	<p>Click Here: Booking Link</p>
<p>Wednesday 15th May Monday 20th May Wednesday 22nd May</p>	<p>Introduction to Governorship</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>Session 1: Wednesday 15th May Session 2: Monday 20th May Session 3: Wednesday 22nd May</p> <p>Course Content:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Governance in a Catholic context. • Understanding the language of governance. • Committees and school visits. Legal duties and responsibilities. • Strategic v Operational issues. <p>Target Audience: Newly appointed governors</p> <p>Location: Online</p>	<p>Click Here: Booking Link</p>

RE and Catholic Life Resources

Pope Francis Prayer Intentions: April - For the role of women

Let us pray that the dignity and worth of women be recognised in every culture, and for an end to the discrimination they face in various parts of the world.

PRAYER INTENTIONS (Based on the liturgical year)	LITURGICAL COLOUR
New Members of the Church	WHITE/GOLD RED
Vocations Especially on the World Day of Prayer for Vocations (4 th Sunday of Easter)	
Human Work Especially on St Joseph the Worker (1st May)	
The Right Use of Media Especially on World Communications Day (Ascension)	
The Church Especially on Pentecost Sunday	
LITURGICAL YEAR	SUNDAYS IN APRIL
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - St Francis of Paolo (2nd April) - St Isidore (4th April) - St Vincent Ferrer (5th April) - St Stanislaus (11th April) - St George (23rd April) - St Mark, Evangelist (25th April) - St Catherine of Siena (29th April) 	Easter Sunday 4th Sunday of Easter – Good Shepherd Sunday

NATIONAL AND INTERNATIONAL DAYS	OTHER RELIGIONS
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - International Day of Sport for Development and Peace (6th April) - World Health Day (7th April) - Chinese Language Day (20th April) - World Creativity and Innovation Day (21st April) - World Mother Earth Day (22nd April) - Spanish Language Day (23rd April) - World Malaria Day (25th April) - International Chernobyl Disaster Remembrance Day (26th April) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Eid al-Fitr (End of Ramadan – 9th-10th April) - Vaisakhi (Sikh Birth of Kahlsa – 14th April)

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

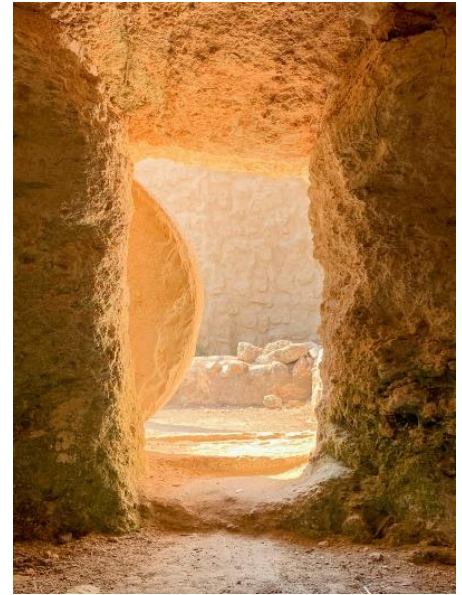
Easter

As we look with hope towards Easter Sunday, we are reminded of the profound significance of Jesus' resurrection. By rising from the dead Jesus demonstrated victory over sin and death and gives us hope in the promise of eternal life.

But Easter does not finish at Easter Sunday...

The Easter Season (Eastertide) or Paschal Season, is a liturgical period that **begins** on Easter Sunday and lasts for fifty days, concluding with the feast of Pentecost. It is one of the most significant seasons in our liturgical calendar. Throughout the Easter Season, we celebrate the resurrection of Jesus and reflect on the implications of this event for our faith and lives. It should be a time of joy, renewal, and spiritual growth, marked by special liturgies and traditions that emphasise the victory of Christ over sin and death. The Easter Season culminating in the celebration of Pentecost, which commemorates the outpouring of the Holy Spirit upon the apostles and the beginning of the Church.

We hope this Easter Season is a time of joy and spiritual renewal for your school community.



Easter Season Resources

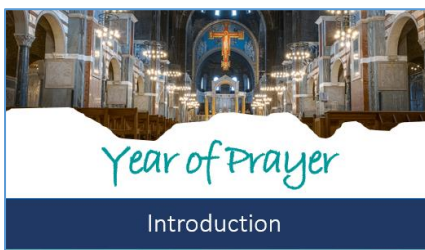
[CAFOD Primary](#)

[CAFOD Primary and Secondary](#)

[Missio Primary and Secondary](#)

[Catholic Teacher Resources](#)

The Year of Prayer - 2024



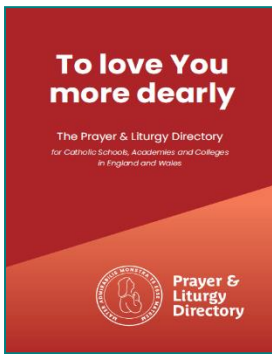
In preparation for the 2025 Jubilee Year 'Pilgrims of Hope', 2024 has been designated a Year of Prayer by Pope Francis. There is a particular focus on the Lord's Prayer (Our Father) this year, and this presents us with a great opportunity to reinvigorate the centrality of prayer within our schools. We have produced primary and secondary resources to support schools with the Year of Prayer. These have been emailed to all schools.

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

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

Lent prayer resources

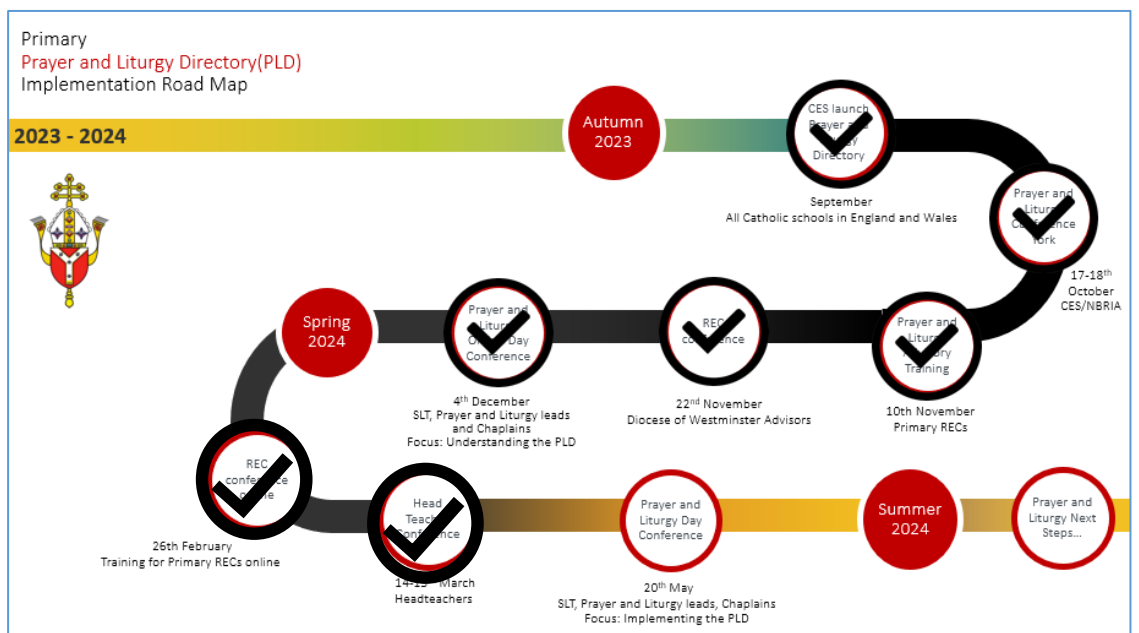
Prayer and Liturgy Directory Updates



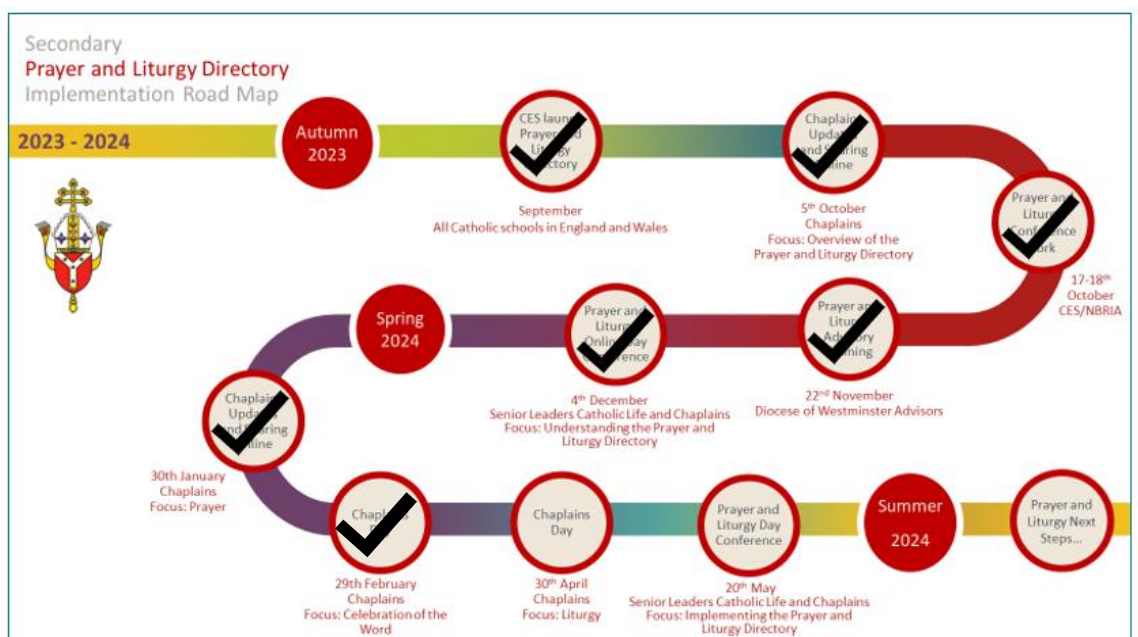
The Prayer and Liturgy Directory has now been launched. It is an important and informative document which aims to enhance the excellent practices that already exists for Prayer and Liturgy within our schools and across the diocese. Please click [HERE](#) for the Prayer and Liturgy Directory. It includes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



Embedding Catholic Social Teaching into the Curriculum

St Joseph's Catholic Primary School, Ealing Deanery

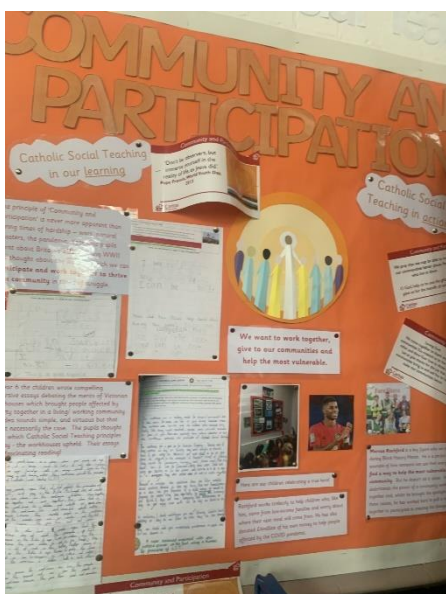
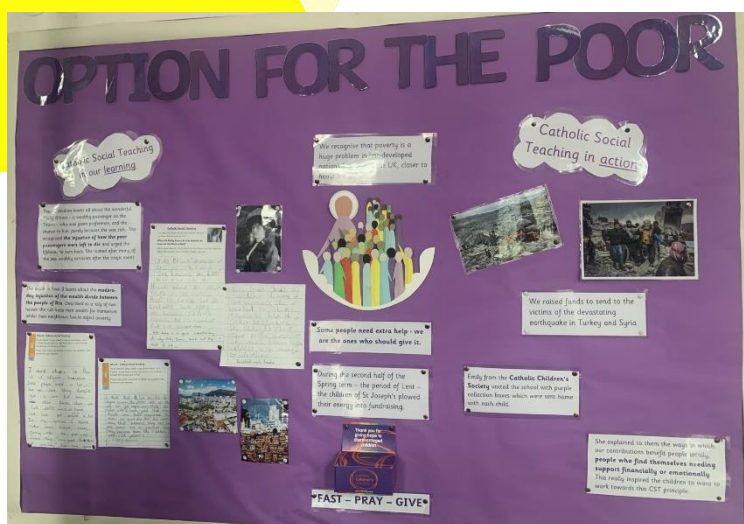
We're all on a journey! 'Catholic Social Teaching' was a phrase we became aware of about six years ago. Most schools are working towards children understanding what it is and why we do it; some are ready to go further and begin embedding CST across their wider curriculum. At St Joseph's, we seem to have done it the other way round! Following a visit by our advisor, Jo Browne, we were invited to share what's going on in our school, so here goes...

In the beginning, we thought the way forward would be to make some relevant links between what we were already teaching, and the six principles of CST helpfully presented by Caritas Westminster. Each year group planned how and where a related question could be explored in a lesson

For example:

In Y1 Geography 'Weather and Climate', a link has been made with Community and Participation with the question: How can we behave as Catholics to help others faced with the effects of extreme weather?

In Y3, a link has been made between the Local History topic, the founding of the local convent and the CST principle 'Preferential Option for the Poor' by asking the question: Why should we follow the nuns' example?

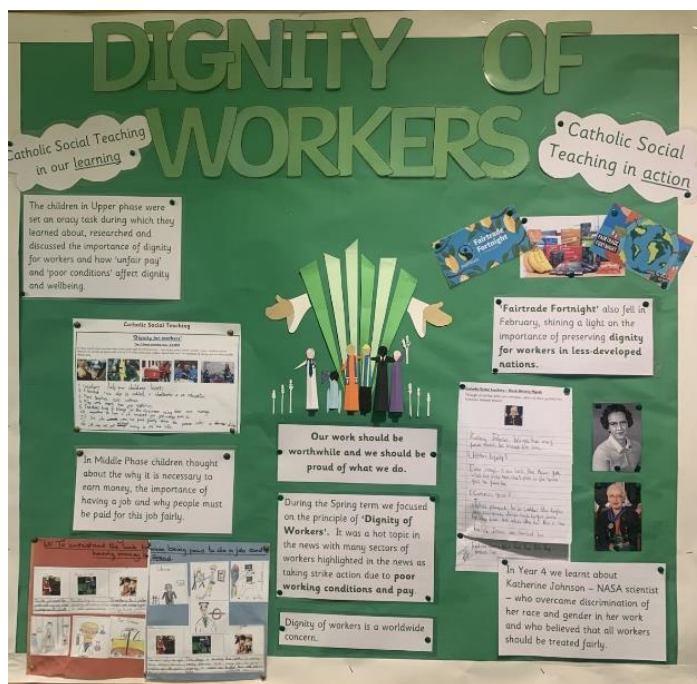


Human Dignity has been explored through the choice of text in Guided Reading in Y4 and asking, 'How can we develop as a community which cares for those with a disability?'

These are just a few examples – we call them 'Catholic Link Lessons' and have a sticky label in the subject book where any work/evidence is presented. Links are not forced – they all make sense in the context of the topic and the CST principles – nothing is shoe-horned in! We are currently reviewing whether the links still fit as the curriculum develops and cohorts of children move through the school.

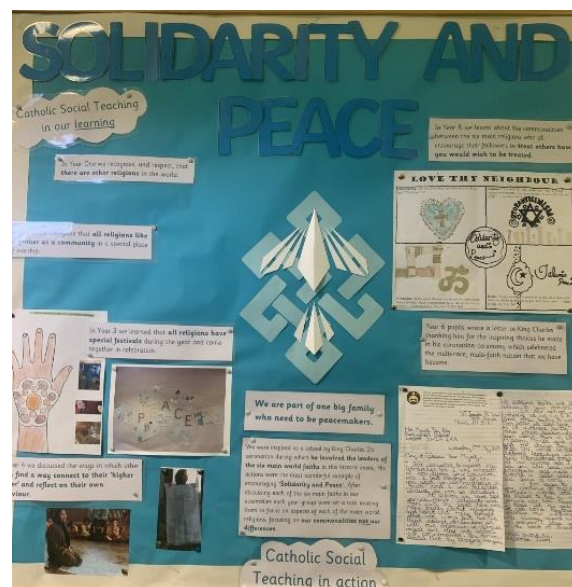
Separately, we have begun using the ‘Rooted in Love’ resources produced by Caritas Westminster – available on the DOWES website. These lessons are taught in the first week of each half term following a launch assembly and work/evidence is recorded in the RE books with a special ‘margin marker’ to show it as special and separate from the ongoing RE topic.

We also learn a hymn which fits the theme and sing it every week in hymn practice. During the rest of each half term, family activities related to that principle are shared in our weekly newsletter (available on our website). Our next steps are to actively promote this and ask children to bring things in to show how they’ve participated as a family.



Around the school site, we have display boards dedicated to each principle (see photos). These are updated with examples of the Rooted in Love lessons, family activities and Catholic Link Lessons.

Earlier this term, our Deputy Head devised a quiz trail where children went around and focussed their attention on the displays to be able to answer some questions engaging them with the content – they found out what other year groups had done and enjoyed looking at work done in other classes.



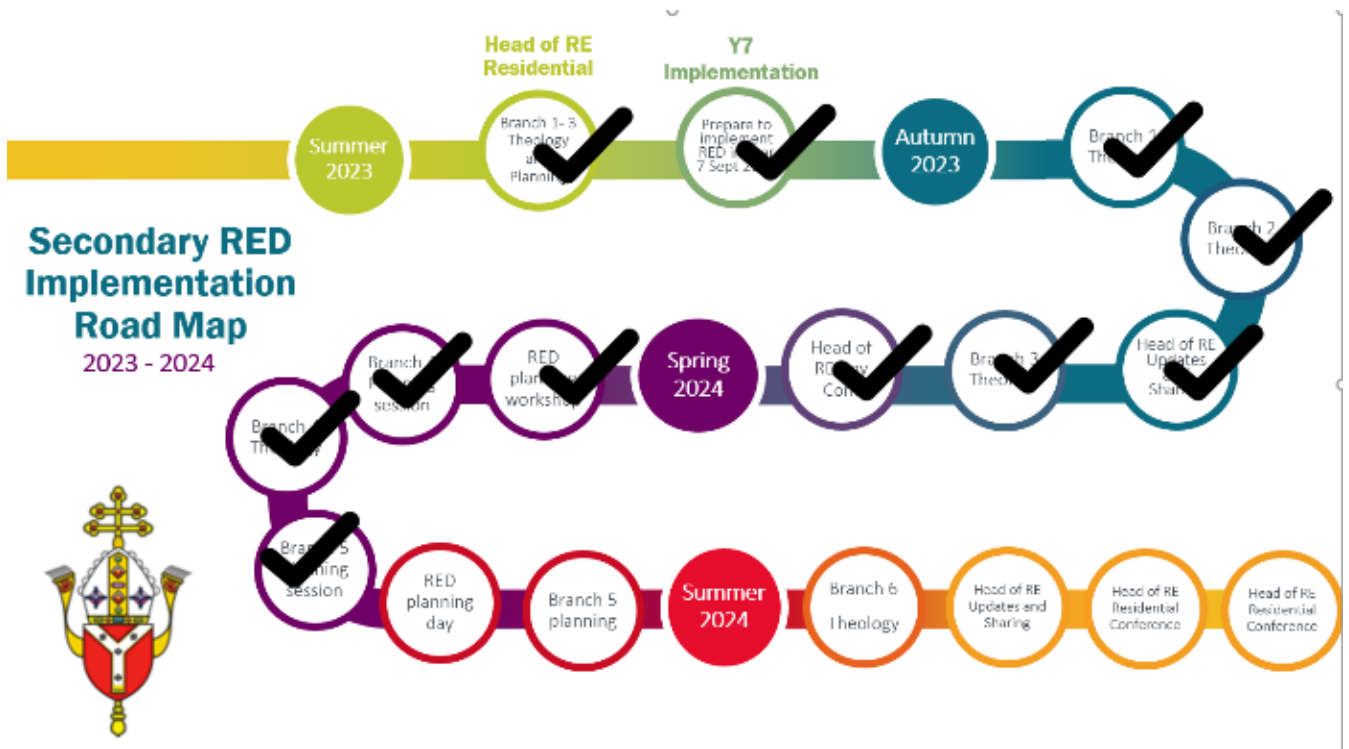
We’re still on the journey, but I hope to have been helpful in some way by sharing!

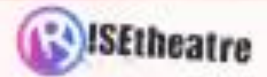
Louise Ingham, REC

Secondary RED Implementation

We continue to run ‘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 session for Branch 6 on 16th May at 3.45pm [HERE](#).

We are also taking bookings for the Summer Heads of RE conference that take place on 27th and 28th June. The full programme will follow but we will focus on continuing to support schools with the implementation of the RED, opportunities to share good practice and time for prayer and reflection. So that your school can remain up to date and benefit from the opportunity to network, please ensure your Head of RE can attend, or if that is not possible, a suitable member of staff deputises. The booking link is [HERE](#).





SECONDARY SCHOOL RETREAT / ENRICHMENT DAYS

BRAND NEW immersive & interactive retreat days for whole year groups, delivered at your school/college to support your Catholic Ethos

What to expect of a RISE Theatre retreat/enrichment day

- Original RISE Theatre film or live theatre performance • An immersive theatre experience
- Group discussions • Short sketches • Art Activities • Prayer and reflection • Testimonies



Years 7-9



Click to view trailer...

THE HAPPINESS SHOW

Based around a live theatre performance of a quirky fictional TV show - 'The Happiness Show'. This **fun & energetic day** explores how each of us is invited by God to **experience life to the full**, with a thought-provoking mix of short sketches, videos, interactive classroom sessions & reflection.

£950 per day + travel www.risetheatre.co.uk/thehappinessshow



Years 9-11



Click to view trailer...

THE ROOM

Based around a dramatic RISE film - 'The Room' - students follow the story of the central character, Daniel, as he navigates his way through a captivating game show & **explores The Bible's salvation story** through 8 unique rooms. In this interactive retreat day, students are invited to **reflect on their own life story**.

£950 per day + travel www.risetheatre.co.uk/theroom



Years 11-13



Click to view trailer...

THE MASTERPIECE

Students are taken on an **immersive journey** based on the RISE film - 'The Masterpiece' - an intriguing story of three strangers brought together by a mysterious commissioner. Each student is given the opportunity to creatively explore themes around their **God-given identity** as a unique masterpiece.

£950 per day + travel www.risetheatre.co.uk/themasterpiece



Years 7-13



90 MINUTE SESSIONS

All retreats days are available as shorter 90 minute interactive sessions, enabling you to cater for **multiple year groups in a day**. Perfect for a **mission week** or as **part of a school event** - let us tailor to your requirements, including offering shorter sessions where necessary.

Prices from £600 + travel www.risetheatre.co.uk/retreat-sessions

Discounts available for schools booking multiple Rise Theatre Retreat Days in an academic year!

Visit: www.risetheatre.co.uk/secondary or **Email:** schools@risetheatre.co.uk

RSE Update

Cross Phase RSE conference

On February June 11th 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 get as many RSE leads together as possible to help to support them in their role and to have the opportunity to network with colleagues. We are delighted to have David Wells as our key note speaker on the Theology of Dignity and its importance in relationships. Please book your RSE lead onto the attend the conference [HERE](#).

Racial Justice, Equality and Diversity Update



Racial Justice Sunday (RJS)

The theme for RJS is: seeing one another in the life of the Church. This theme is relevant for the whole year and the bishops of England and Wales are encouraging all schools and parishes to celebrate the diversity of those who have led holy and exemplary lives. Our Catholic saints walked in this world as we do and were men and women of heroic virtue that can intercede for us to bring our prayers to the Lord. Here are some resources to support this:

See resources for primary and secondary schools: [HERE](#)

See Saints of Colour resources [HERE](#)

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

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

Caritas Update

Volunteering Awards

Nominations are now open for the Diocese of Westminster 'Love in Action' Volunteering Awards 2024!

Caritas Westminster invite you to nominate the special volunteer(s) in your school and wider community for an award.

This year's award categories are: **School Social Action Award, Parish Social Action Award, Young Volunteer of the Year Award, St Thérèse of Lisieux Award** and **Ron Palmer Lifetime Achievement Award**.

For more information and the nomination form please visit the Caritas Westminster website [here](#) or contact Elke and Juliet at cvs@rcdow.org.uk.

Nominations close on **30 June 2024**.

Save the Date! This year's awards ceremony will take place at Westminster Cathedral Hall in the evening of 14th November 2024.

Be inspired by last year's winners of the School Social Action Awards:

- School Social Action Award (Primary school): Holy Family primary School West Acton, for hosting a tea-party for isolated elderly people, and a whole range of other social outreach activities.
- School Social Action Award (Secondary School): The Chaplaincy Outreach Team at Douay Martyrs school in Ickenham, for collecting items to send to Ukrainian Refugees, and supporting the local food bank, and setting an example for all students in the school.

A blog post with all of last year's winners is [here](#)

SPEC Update



Dear Headteachers

OF OUR WONDERFUL DIOCESAN SCHOOLS



It was lovely to see so many of you at the headteachers conference in Oxford a few weeks ago. We were delighted to be able to present the work we do at the Westminster Youth Ministry, especially within the SPEC Retreat Centre, and we were grateful to our friends and colleagues at the Education Department for giving us the space to do so.

As you may remember, our mission is to accompany the children and young people from your schools into a Spiritual and Personal Encounter with Christ.

We shared some of the impact of our work here at SPEC, especially around inspiring your children and young people's mind, to build a better tomorrow.

We can only do this together! Hence, we would like to renew the invitation we made to you in Oxford: *To take a leap of faith and allow us to serve your school!*

Following the link below, or scanning the QR code, you will be able to access a short film showing what some of our retreat experience entails.

Short Film: <https://youtu.be/IIEJU0Ym40w>



Bookings are now being accepted for Academic Year 2024-25!
Get in touch: spec@rcdow.org.uk
0203 757 2503