



WITNESS

to the word



24th April 2024

Summer Term Issue 1

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

Upcoming Training Opportunities

Day and Time	Course	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>	<p>Click Here: Booking Link</p>
Friday 10 th May	<p>Creating a Culture of Accompaniment in Primary Schools</p> <p>Time: 9.30am to 3.30pm</p> <p>Please note that this is a repeat run of the course from February 2023 for those who were unable to attend.</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>

Thursday 23 rd May	<p>Getting to know the new RED: Branch 5 (To the ends of the Earth)</p> <p>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>
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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 help you to 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.

New groups will commence in October 2024.

One group will run online, on a Monday, 4-6pm, for 5 x Mondays per module, 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 per module, 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 either of the new groups in October, 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

Leadership

Lost Property

We have some lost property from the Heads' conference: an empty Prada glasses case and an A5 sketch pad with drawings and notes in it. Please contact eduadmin@rcdow.org.uk if they are yours so that we can return them to you.

Recruitment

As we head into prime recruitment time, please remember that we have a dedicated page on our website where you can advertise vacancies. [Current Vacancies.. – Diocese of Westminster Education Service \(rcdow.org.uk\)](https://www.rcdow.org.uk/current-vacancies) . We can also use our social media accounts help get as much notice as possible. It would be good to have as many jobs as possible on the site so that potential teachers know they can find all Diocesan jobs in one place.

The DfE runs a free service for advertising vacancies. <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/list-a-teaching-job-at-your-school-on-teaching-vacancies> and many local authorities have a site for advertising.

Wraparound Childcare

The government has recently produced [Information Sheet](#) relating to wraparound childcare for primary school aged children, in advance of the national rollout in September 2024. The Information Sheet contains information as to early adopters of the programme, with links to both the *Programme Handbook* and *Guidance for Schools and Trusts*.

The *Programme Handbook* is aimed to support schools, providers and local authorities in working together to deliver expanded wraparound in their area, and describes the programme's vision and objectives, expectations of the programme, and includes details about what funding can be used for. The handbook also encourages providers to promote the availability, where appropriate, of government childcare subsidies to parents, including Tax-Free childcare and Universal Credit childcare.

The *Guidance for Schools and Trusts* outlines their role in providing wraparound childcare, reiterating messages in the handbook on roles and responsibilities across the system, as well as offering practical guidance for schools and academy trust companies to support parents in accessing wraparound childcare provision on a school site. The *Programme Handbook* and the *Guidance for Schools and Trusts* can also be accessed via:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/wraparound-childcare-guidance-for-local-authorities>

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/wraparound-childcare-guidance-for-schools>

Schools and academy trust companies are being requested to contact their local authority to discuss the support (including funding) available through the programme, and the places they currently have available and / or could create through the programme, to support the wraparound expansion.

A contact address at wraparound.programme@education.gov.uk is also provided for any questions there may be.

The DfE has also just published the updated version of the *Childcare Choices communication toolkit* for use in the promotion of the wider childcare reform programme, which includes wraparound and can be accessed at [Childcare Choices communications toolkit](#), and please similarly circulate to all schools in your diocese.

Governance

Please see the information above concerning the national rollout of wraparound care from September 2024.

Admissions

Please book in for Admissions training on May 8th - useful for any governors and school staff who are involved in the annual admissions process, making sure you get it right! Booking details are below.

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> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Content: • Requirements for leadership in a Catholic School • Shortlisting • Planning the interview <p>Target Audience: Chairs of Governors and those on interview panels</p> <p>Location: Online</p>	<p>Click Here: Booking Link</p>
Wednesday 8 th May	<p>Admissions Online Training Course</p> <p>Time: 6.00pm to 7.30pm</p>	<p>Click Here: Booking Link</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>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 Formation of Men and Women Religious and Seminarians

Let us pray that men and women religious and seminarians, grow in their own vocational journey through human, pastoral, spiritual and community formation, that leads them to be credible witnesses of the Gospel.

Prayer Intentions during Easter (Based on the Liturgical Year)	Liturgical Colours
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/May
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - St Mark, Evangelist (25th April) - St Catherine of Siena (29th April) - St Joseph the Worker (1st May) - Ss Philip and James (3rd May) - Feast of English Martyrs (4th May) - St Damien de Veuster (10th May) - Our Lady of Fatima (13th May) - St Matthias (14th May) - St Bede (25th May) - St Augustine (27th May) - Visitation (31st May) <p>Ascension Thursday The date of Easter changes every year and the Ascension is celebrated 40 days after Easter Sunday.</p> <p>Mary, Mother of the Church Monday after Pentecost</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Easter Sunday - 4th Sunday of Easter - Good Shepherd Sunday - Pentecost - Pentecost is 10 days after the Ascension (50 days after Easter Sunday)

National and International Days	Other Religions
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - World Malaria Day (25th April) - International Chernobyl Disaster Remembrance Day (26th April) - International Day of Families (15th May) - International Day of Living Together in Peace (16th May) - World Bee Day (20th May) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Yom HaSho'ah (Jewish Holocaust Remembrance Day) 5-6th May - Shavuot (Jewish Pentecost - June)

- | | |
|--|--|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - World day for Cultural Diversity (21st May) - Laudato Si Week (24th May) - International Day of UN Peacekeepers (29th May) | |
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Other religions/worldviews: For a brief overview of each of other faith festivals see [HERE](#).

Month of Mary

May and October are months traditionally dedicated to Our Lady and the Rosary. Mary, the mother of God, was a loving mother and a model for missionaries. The Rosary is a form of prayer that helps us to reflect on the life of Mary and Jesus.

Here are some Marian resources that will help children to deepen their appreciation of Mary and learn how she can help us to become missionaries of God's love too -

[Mission Together](#)

[The Mark 10 Mission - Rosary Challenge](#)

[Education Service - Marian Resources](#)



Alleluia – it is the Easter Season!

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](#)

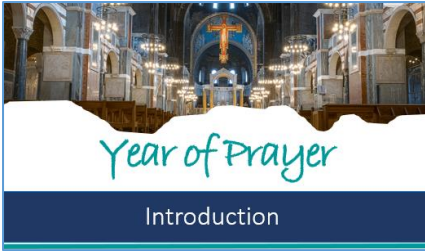
[Missio Primary and Secondary](#)

[CAFOD Primary and Secondary](#)

[Catholic Teacher Resources](#)



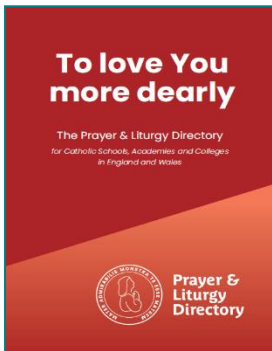
The Year of Prayer - 2024



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](#)

Prayer and Liturgy Directory Updates



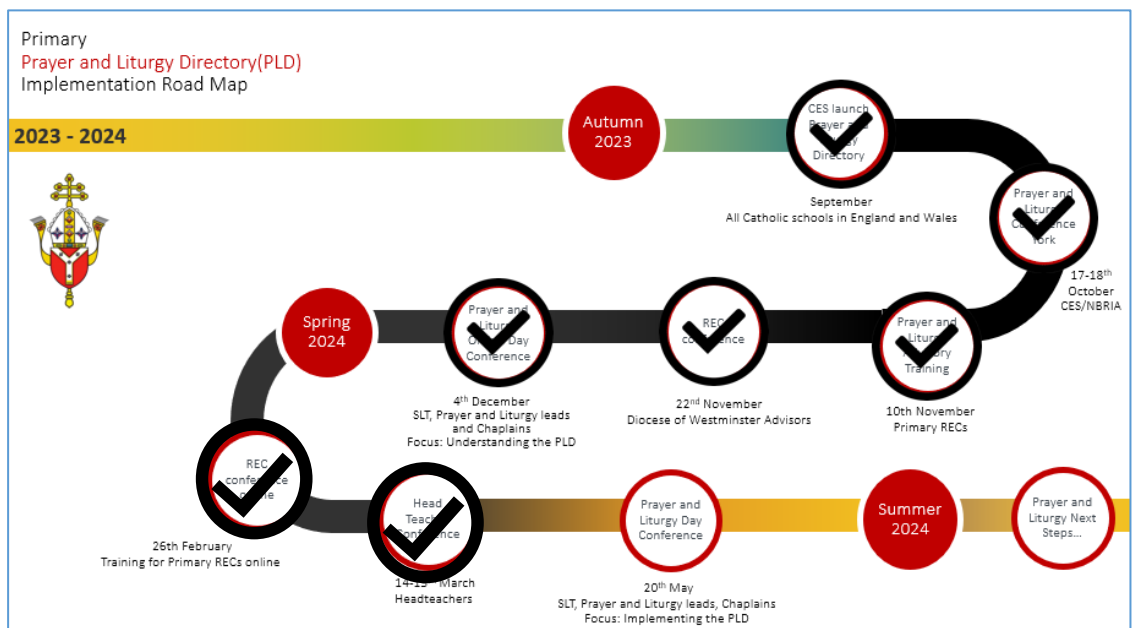
The Prayer and Liturgy Directory has now been launched. It is an important and informative document which aims to enhance the excellent practices that already exists for Prayer and Liturgy within our schools and across the diocese. Please click [HERE](#) for the Prayer and Liturgy Directory. It includes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

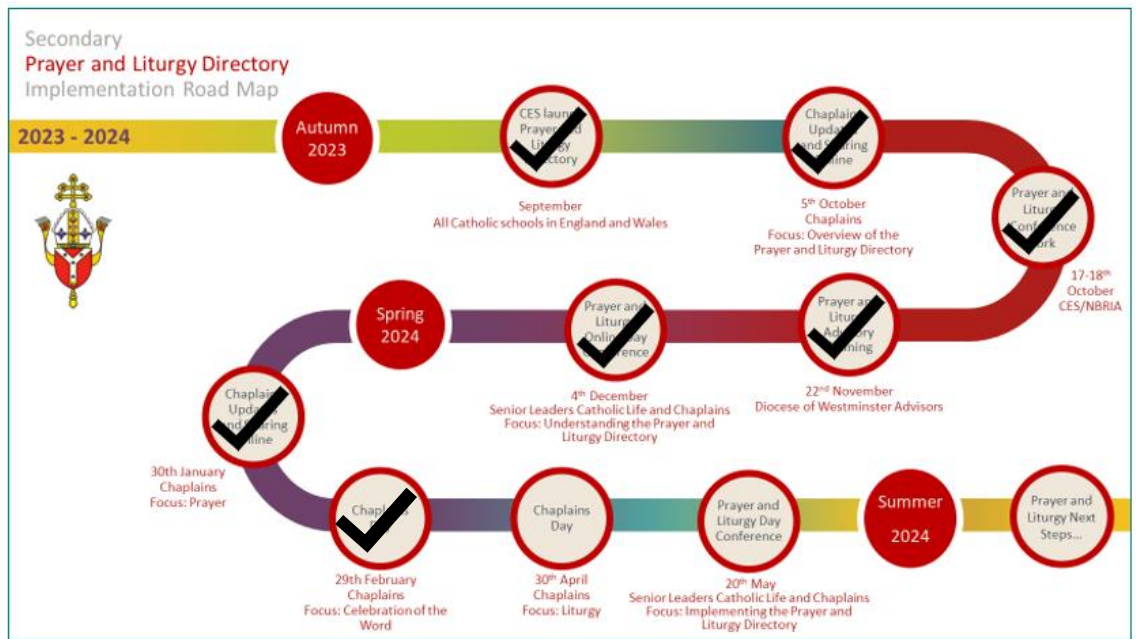
We are working together ensure our schools Prayer and Liturgy supports the work our schools are doing to be anti-racist, so do attend our next RJED CPD session which will be directly addressing this and providing sharing to promote this work through Prayer and Liturgy.

It is taking place online on the 29th April from 3.45pm. Please book using this link: [HERE](#)

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



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



Laudato Si’ Week (19-26th May)



“There are no lasting changes without cultural changes ... and there are no cultural changes without personal changes” (LD, 70)

Laudato Si’ Week is taking place from the 19th-26th May and the theme for this year is Seeds of Hope. It is a reminder about the urgency of the Laudato Si’ message and the need for both personal and local transformation amidst our ecological and climate crises.

The Church encourages us to gather in our school communities to contemplate and nurture seeds of hope for our “suffering planet” (LD 2).

Here are some resources you could use:

[CAFOD - Laudato Si for schools](#)

[CES - Laudato Si resources](#)

[CBCEW - Laudato Si Week Resources](#)

[FCJ - Celebrating Laudato Si Week 2024](#)

World Children's Day (25-26th May)

“Like Jesus, we want to put children
at the centre and care for them.”

Pope Francis

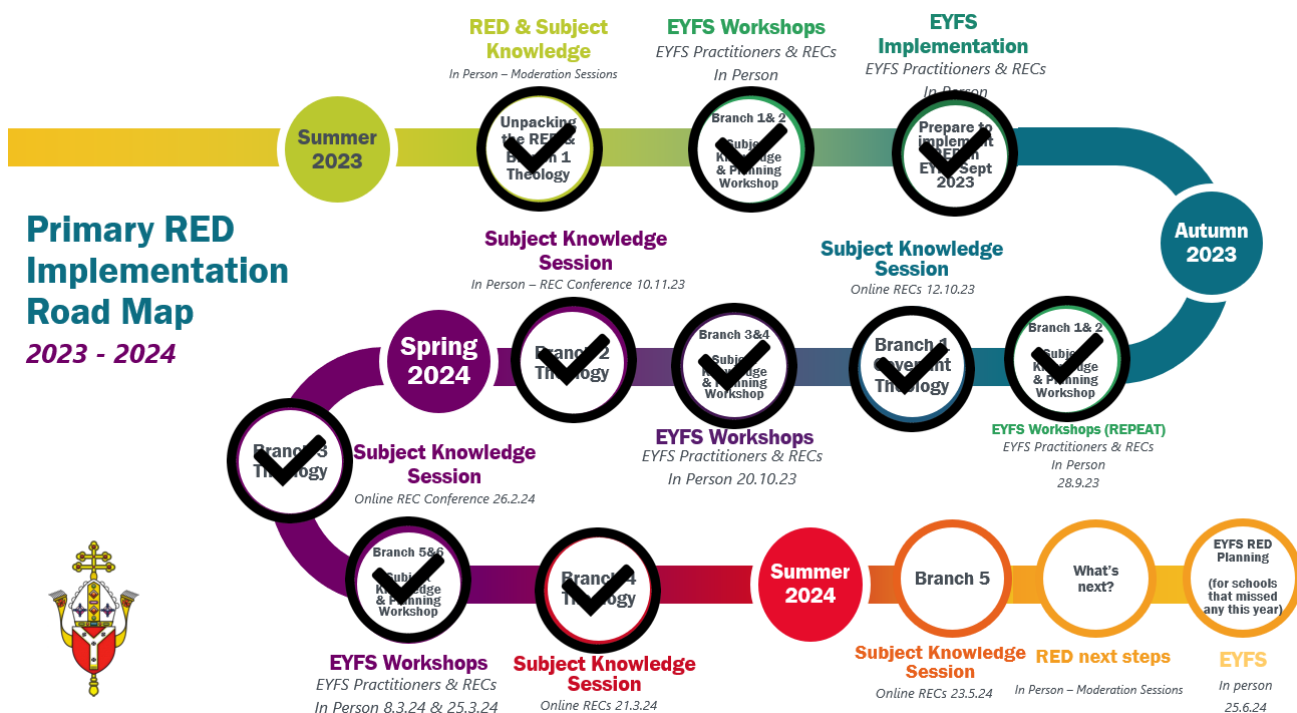


In 2023, Pope Francis declared that the Catholic Church's first World Children's Day would take place on 25-26 May, 2024. The Pope calls on Catholics around the globe to celebrate this special day in their own communities. World Children's Day invites children from around the globe, including those of other faiths, to join together in friendship and prayer.

Mission Together is encouraging pupils to join with their global sisters and brothers and celebrate World Children's Day in their school. They have produced several resources to assist this which can be found [HERE](#)

Also find out more about World Children's Day by visiting the official website [HERE](#)

Primary RED Implementation



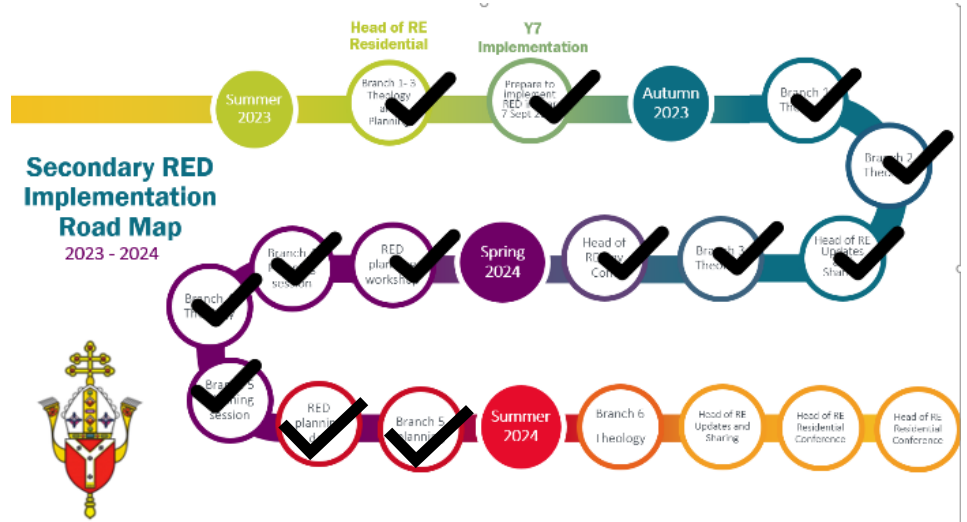
This term there are several CPD sessions planned to support with preparation for the implementation of the RED:

Branch 5 – To the Ends of the Earth	Online	23.05.24	https://courses.rcdow.org.uk/event/23rd-may-primary-getting-to-know-to-the-new-red-branch-5-online-course/
Moderation & RED Update	In Person (Jesuit Centre)	13.06.24	https://courses.rcdow.org.uk/event/13th-june-primary-diocesan-moderation-day/
Moderation & RED Update	In Person (Jesuit Centre)	20.06.24	https://courses.rcdow.org.uk/event/20th-june-primary-diocesan-moderation-day/
Moderation & RED Update	In Person (Nilands Centre)	27.06.24	https://courses.rcdow.org.uk/event/27th-june-primary-diocesan-moderation-day/
EYFS RED Planning Workshop (for schools who missed any or all of the previous sessions)	In Person	25.06.24	https://courses.rcdow.org.uk/event/25th-june-primary-eyfs-workshop-for-new-red/

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

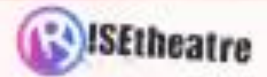
We are also taking bookings for the Summer Heads of RE conference that take place on 27th and 28th June. The full programme will follow but we will focus on continuing to support schools with the implementation of the RED, opportunities to share good practice and time for prayer and reflection. So that 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](#).



Pearson Religious Education ELC

In recent months, the CES has worked with Pearson as they developed the Edexcel Entry Level Certificate Religious Studies. We are now pleased to confirm that the qualification complies with the Bishops of England and Wales requirements. You can access the specification [here](#).

The specification is an ELC, so it will not lead to a GCSE qualification but may offer an accessible qualification for some students, where deemed appropriate. For more details on how this might be used in your school please contact your adviser.



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



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.”

Our next session is for RECs and Chaplains and will take place online on the 29th April. Please do book using this link: [HERE](#)

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 is the next meetings:


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

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](#)



Saints of Colour

We celebrate the many saints of colour in the Catholic Church who have inspired the faithful in their devotions.



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

Caritas Update



Diocese of Westminster 'Love in Action' Volunteering Awards 2024

The aim of these awards is to recognise the incredible work of volunteers across Westminster diocese, individuals and teams, in parishes, schools, community groups and charities, working in visible roles in social action projects, or behind the scenes, week in week out in. Each one is valuable, but perhaps you know someone who deserves a little extra recognition?

This year we are inviting nominations in five categories:

1. School Social Action
2. Parish Social Action
3. Young Volunteer of the Year
4. St Therese of Lisieux Award (*new* "open" category)
5. Ron Palmer Award for Lifetime Achievement

[Who will you choose? Click here for details and the nomination form.](#)



Need a little inspiration? A blog post with all of last year's winners is here:

<https://caritaswestminster.org.uk/news/volunteers-win-awards-from-the-diocese-of-westminster/>

The deadline for nominations is 30th June and the awards ceremony will take place on 14th November at Westminster Cathedral Hall

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

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

Agency for Evangelisation Update

Thy Kingdom Come: Prayer for Evangelisation

Thursday 9th – Sunday 19th May 2024

Greetings from the Agency for Evangelisation. We would like to invite your school to light up the world in prayer for people to encounter Christ so that they can experience something of what Jesus offered, when he said, 'I came that they might have life and have it to the full.' (John 10:10)

It is a simple request, that Christians pray for five people they know to come to faith in Jesus Christ from the Ascension (Thursday 9th May) to Pentecost (Sunday 19th May). It could be as simple as praying the Our Father, our own favourite prayer or joining in prayers with others. Christians from many denominations around the world have been part of the wave of prayer for the last eight years. Here is a video from Pope Francis encouraging us to get involved: [Short Message from Pope Francis](#)

We are keen to help as many people engage with this time of prayer because we know that it is through the gentle action of the Holy Spirit that faith comes alive and want to give everyone the opportunity to experience this. To help students and staff who would be interested to engage with this the following resources are on offer.

Primary School Assembly from Mark 10 Mission

Greg and this team from Mark 10 Mission have put together an inspiring video assembly for use in primary schools to help pupils join in this wave of prayer.

We don't currently have a similar resource for secondary schools, but I would love to hear from staff about what would help secondary schools promote Thy Kingdom Come in future years. Please do email teresa@rcdow.org.uk with your thoughts. In the meantime, if you pledge to pray on the Thy Kingdom Come website, you will receive daily video reflections. Here is an example of one from last year, with [Cardinal Vincent Nichols](#).

Prayer Aids

In families – We have created a simple prayer sheet to help families to pray for five people daily from the Ascension to Pentecost

In school – Thy Kingdom Come have devised some beautiful prayer stations based on the Our Father that would be an inspiring way to help people in school join in this time of prayer.

In personal time – Thy Kingdom Come have produced some great printed resources, including a prayer journal that can be given away to those who would like to join in this time of prayer in their personal time.

Video based resources are available on [YouTube](#), including the Cheeky Panda series for children.

For the Catholic resources mentioned above on our diocesan website please click [here](#).

To find out more about Thy Kingdom Come, please visit www.ThyKingdomCome.global