



WITNESS

to the word



8th May 2024

Summer Term Issue 2

Dear Colleagues in Catholic Education

Every second Wednesday, the Education Service provides schools with a wide variety of materials, resources, advice and updates on all matters relating to our schools and colleges. The content of these bulletins are for Headteachers, Senior Leaders, Teaching Staff, Governors, Clergy and anyone who may benefit from them.

Please feel free to share.

SUBJECT CONTENT IN THIS ISSUE

Upcoming Training Opportunities are [here](#)

Leadership and Governance Updates are [here](#)

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

Racial Justice, Equality and Diversity 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

[Book your place here](#)

PRAYER AND LITURGY DAY CONFERENCE

20TH MAY 9.15AM TO 3.15PM

IMPLEMENTING THE PRAYER AND LITURGY DIRECTORY

Conference Aim: The aim of this conference is 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.

Conference Content:

- ✓ 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.

Target Audience: Primary and Secondary Headteachers, RECs, Liturgy Coordinators, Chaplains, Senior Teachers in Charge of Catholic Life and Mission.

www.coursesrcdow.org.uk



Day and Time	Course	Booking Link
Thursday 16 th May	<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>	Click Here: Booking Link
Monday 20 th May	<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>	Click Here: Booking Link

<p>Thursday 23rd May</p>	<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>
---	---	---

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

Teacher Trainee Opportunities

Notre Dame University in Australia is looking to bring some Teacher training students over to the UK for a placement next year. They hope to be based at St Mary's University and to spend time in schools "commutable" from there. They will have primary and secondary trainees and they will work in pairs.

If you would be interested in hosting them, please contact catherinemcmahon@rcdow.org.uk

'The Big Listens' - official and alternative

If you have not already done so, please consider completing the surveys below and share with other interested parties.

Ofsted's 'The Big Listen' is open until 31 May, 2024. The consultation was produced in response to the Coroner's Report, following Ruth Perry's tragic death.

The survey asks about:

how Ofsted report inspection findings

how Ofsted carry out inspections

how Ofsted can have a positive impact on the sectors they inspect

what Ofsted need to do to be a world-class inspectorate and regulator, trusted by parents, children and the sectors they work with

There are two surveys, one for educational professionals, carers, employers, social workers and parents/carers and the other is for children up to the age of 18.

[Ofsted's Big Listen](#)

You may also have read about the 'Alternative Big Listen', launched on May 1st by former senior HMI who think Ofsted's Big Listen has avoided asking important questions about the future of school inspection. The survey closes on June 12, 2024.

[The Alternative Big Listen](#)

Admissions

Now is the time to start thinking about admissions arrangements for 26/27. Admission authorities MUST go through the process EVERY year to ensure arrangements are compliant and then formally determine ahead of publishing. Any changes must be consulted on and the consultation window opens on October 1st Please start reviewing your arrangements this term and all schools should be sending policies and SIFs across to Deb Long at schooladmissions@rcdow.org.uk for her to check ahead of the consultation window opening. As per the Diocesan Protocols, admission authorities are expected to follow the model policies and SIF and these and admissions guidance can be found here: [Diocese Admissions Documents](#).

Governor Training

Click Here: [Summer Term Governor CPD Programme](#)

Date/
Time

Online Courses

Booking

<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: May - 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 May
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 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"> - 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"> - International Day of Families (15th May) - International Day of Living Together in Peace (16th May) - World Bee Day (20th May) - World day for Cultural Diversity (21st May) - Laudato Si Week (24th May) - International Day of UN Peacekeepers (29th May) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Shavuot (Jewish Pentecost - June)

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](#)



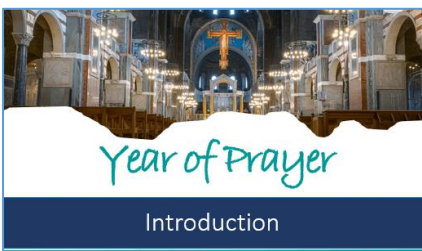
Ascension of the Lord Resources



Mark Ten Missions have some wonderful free resources [HERE](#) to help you mark this day in your schools.

Also find Mission together resources for Ascension and Pentecost [HERE](#)

The Year of Prayer - 2024

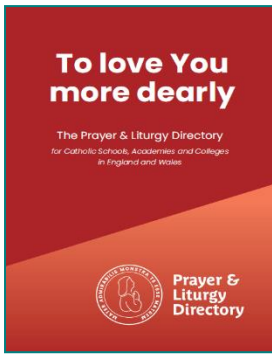


In preparation for the 2025 Jubilee Year 'Pilgrims of Hope', 2024 has been designated a Year of Prayer by Pope Francis. There is a particular focus on the Lord's Prayer (Our Father) this year, and this presents us with a great opportunity to reinvigorate the centrality of prayer within our schools. We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

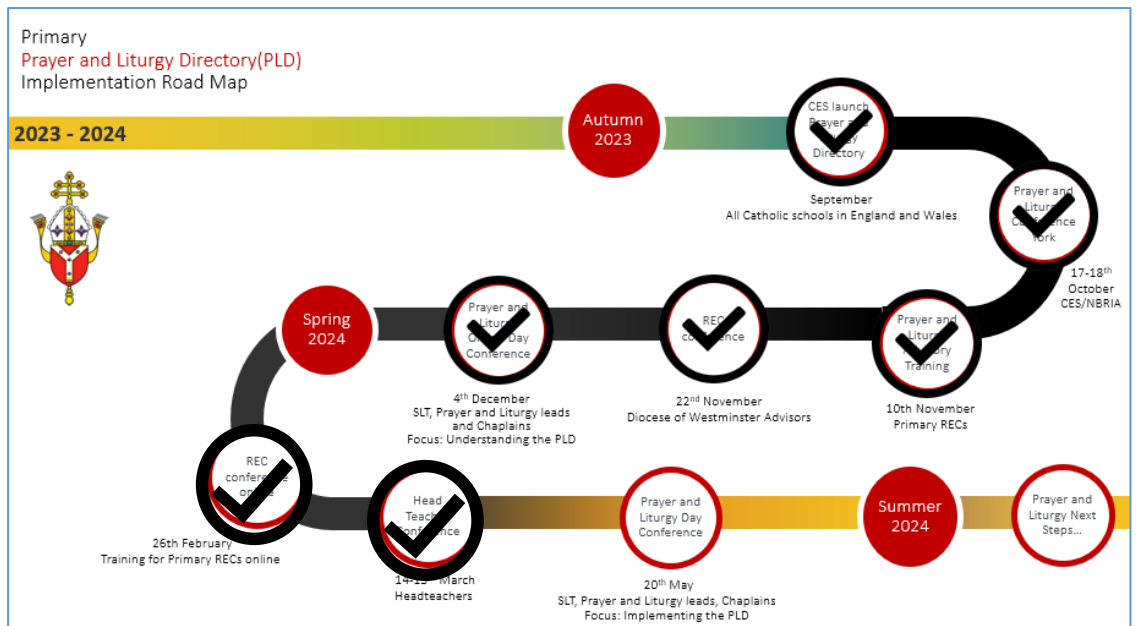
To support our schools, the Education Service provided training on understanding the Prayer and Liturgy Directory on 4th December. Further training will take place on **20th May – Book [HERE](#)**. This will provide support on implementing the Directory. Please do ensure your REC, Chaplains and Senior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

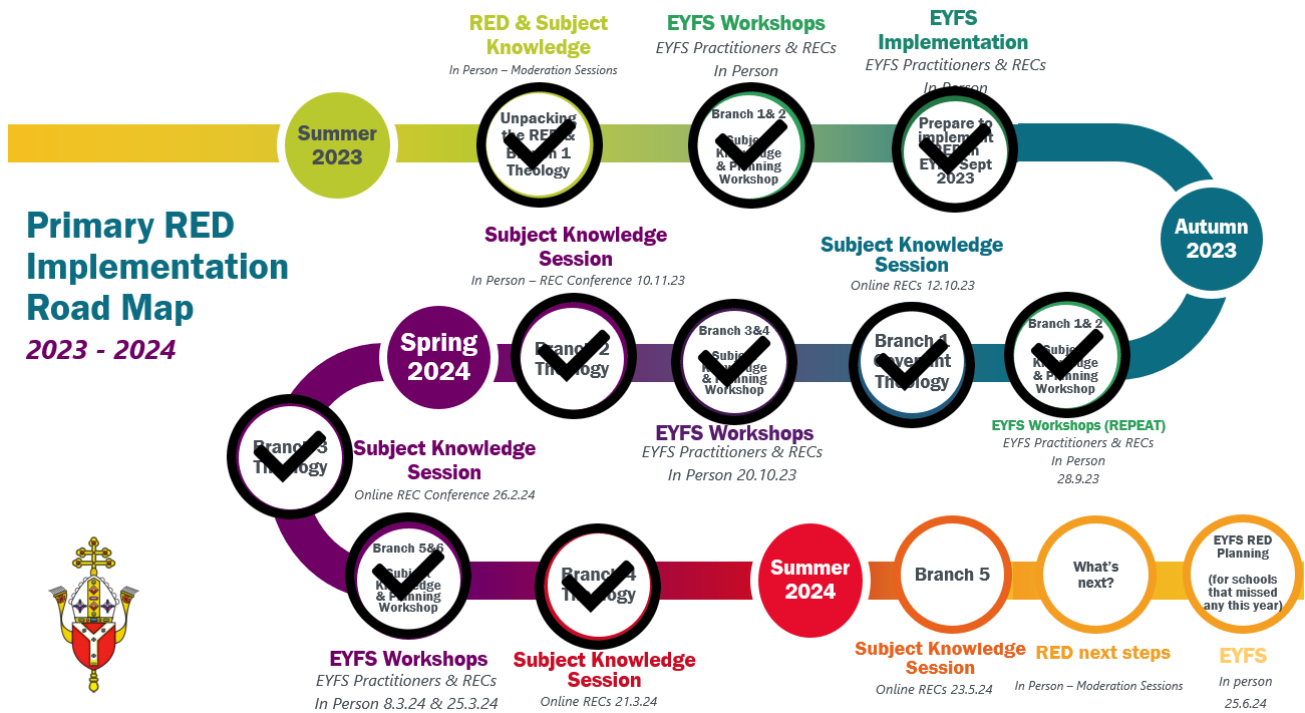
Here is the Primary Road Map for the Prayer and Liturgy Directory:



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



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/

EYFS Materials

The EYFS materials for each branch are now on the DOWES Hub (sharepoint site). Primary Heads and RECs should already have received their invitation to access the site. If not, please can they contact amandacrowley@rcdow.org.uk to request a link.

Mustard Seed Resources

Mustard Seeds video resources aim to nurture faith in young Catholics whilst supporting the RE curriculum. Our innovative, engaging and contemporary videos carry an authentic Catholic message and help young people grow in their understanding of the Catholic faith. Aimed at KS2 & KS3, we offer series that guide viewers through the important seasons of Advent and Lent, a Sacramental Preparation series exploring Confirmation and our latest release "Big Questions", designed to encourage group discussions of some of the big issues connected to our Catholic faith. You can contact Chris at Mustard Seeds website www.mustard-seeds.co.uk, or email info@mustard-seeds.co.uk and you can follow our latest news on X (Twitter) @MSeedsVideo.

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).

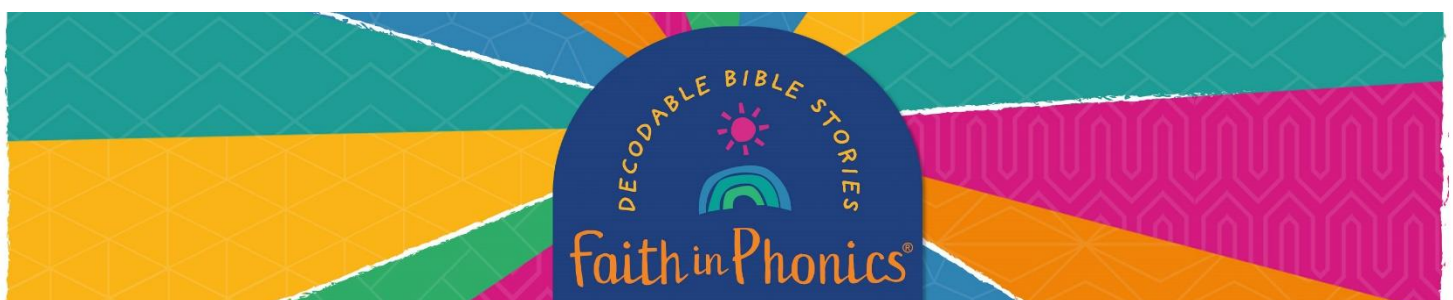
Here are some resources you could use:

[CAFOD - Laudato Si for schools](#)

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

[CES - Laudato Si resources](#)

[CBCEW - Laudato Si Week Resources](#)



Faith in Phonics

Faith in Phonics, is a series of educational reading aids for early readers from Redemptorist Publications. The *Faith in Phonics* reading resource, not only inspires children to engage in Bible stories, but encourages early readers to read.

First of its kind, *Faith in Phonics* is a provision that primarily appeals to faith schools, however, is a versatile resource that ALL schools can use and is designed to complement any existing reading scheme. Please see the link for further details: <https://www.rpbooks.co.uk/faith-in-phonics>

The God Who Speaks

Our May focus is on Ascension and Pentecost [HERE](#)

Ascension articles [HERE](#)

Clouds in Scripture [HERE](#)

Pentecost articles [HERE](#)

The Holy Spirit in Art [HERE](#)

Breaking down barriers to communication among children and adults who use non-verbal language [HERE](#)

Primary school Bible activity sheets including a Pentecost Dove [HERE](#)

New Bible timeline posters on Kings and Prophets [HERE](#)

Pope Francis' new address on Sickness and Suffering in the Bible [HERE](#)

May Sunday Reflections [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 6 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

Pax Christi

Pax Christi have been involved with the creation of *Teach Peace Secondary* which contains over 50 lessons authored by diverse organisations. They are free to download via TES Resources at [Teach Peace Secondary Brochure - find your next lesson | Teaching Resources \(tes.com\)](#).



The sequel to the award-winning primary pack, *Teach Peace Secondary* offers a huge range of cross-curricular lessons from Peace Education Network members including Amnesty International UK, War Child, Peacemakers, Values Based Education, Pax Christi, Facing History & Ourselves UK and more. Categorized by inner, interpersonal and global peace, the lessons cover themes including war and peacebuilding, violence and nonviolence, conflict resolution, identity and inclusion and much more.

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](#).

Registration for Flame 2025

Booking is open for next year's Flame event, titled Unstoppable: Fan The Flame Of Hope, which will be held at the OVO Arena, Wembley, on 15 March 2025, and is being sponsored by the Catenians, Salesians of Don Bosco, and Cymfed. Discounts for early booking are available. [BOOK EARLY BIRD](#)

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.”

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](#)

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

[Catholic Bishops' Conference
www.cbcew.org.uk](http://www.cbcew.org.uk)

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.

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



School Context:

St Vincent's is a 1.5 form entry school with 286 children ranging from 4 -11 enveloped in a 15-acre site and with Forest School underpinning our curriculum. Children come predominantly from the parishes of Sacred Heart in Mill Hill and St Anthony's in Edgware. Numbers on roll have been fluctuating but have remained at the same level for the past three years. We are not currently at capacity with approximately 30 places to be filled, mainly in Reception and KS1. The cost of living and the building of higher end housing in the area has meant that we have been affected by some families moving away and new families into the area choosing to send their children to local private schools. This past year there have been some lower cost and social housing options in the new developments and we have seen a small influx of families from this group enrolling their children into Reception - that is likely this will continue opening the doors for us to offer a 24 place Nursery from September 2024.

Children currently come from a diverse range of socio-economic backgrounds; they speak 29 different languages and hail from 23 different ethnic groups. While predominantly Catholic (81%), we also have families who are from other world faiths or none. (Christian 6%, no religion 3%, other religion 3% Muslim 2%, Hindu 1%). The curriculum we present, and promote, to the children is an endeavour to reflect these differences by providing opportunities to explore the different countries, languages and customs our children are part of through the projects they investigate.

We have looked closely at the context of our school, the backgrounds of the children and how life is for a child growing up in North London today. We have used the underlying principles of our Catholic Faith and the example of our namesake, St Vincent, to devise a set of values which lie at the heart of our curriculum. With the diverse range of families in our school community we work to ensure that all children feel represented in the curriculum and have opportunities to share of themselves, their backgrounds, traditions and history.

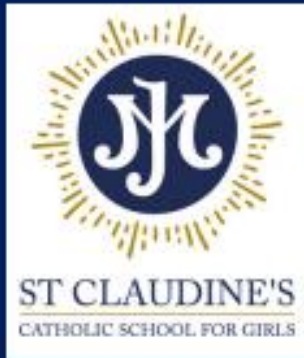
Racial Justice Equality and Diversity naturally weave through everything we do on a daily basis. As a Vincentian School, following our own special Vincentian Values, we attempt to foster a sense of community, belonging and acceptance amongst our pupils, staff and wider community.

Our journey officially began in the Summer Term of 2022 with a whole staff meeting introducing RJED and spending time recognising the makeup of our school through analysing data. We shared the Action Plan, talked about our current position and identified next steps. At our school, our Subject Leaders work together in 'working parties' and the Cultural Group (made up of the RE, Literacy, SEND, Creative Arts and Humanities Subject Leaders), took on the day to day implementation of the RJED initiative with full support from the Senior Leadership Team.



What have we done:	Valuable learning from this process:
<p>At the end of 2022, we held an ‘Open Road Week’ for our Year 6 pupils in preparation for their transition to secondary school. This included wellbeing, STEM and cultural activities. As part of the event, parents brought in food from their cultures for a tasting morning with the children.</p>	<p>We were impressed with how respectful the children were and how they had a go at tasting everything. The parents were pleased to be able to come in and share with the children. Some let the children help them take part in the making and others prepared mini lessons.</p>
<p>We created a list of significant individuals from different backgrounds to support teachers in representing different cultures in their planning.</p>	<p>The teachers were grateful for this resource as it saved them time, guided their planning and ensured they were representing different cultures.</p>
<p>Each class was also provided with a large map for display. Each child was given a pin to stick on the map showing the country they were from – some children required more than one pin and this was celebrated.</p>	<p>The children enjoyed this activity (which we are repeating at the start of each academic year) as it prompted conversation and questions. The children were proud to talk about their home countries and share information with their peers.</p>
<p>During Advent 2022, our corridor display told the Nativity story through images from around the world. Each class was given a painting of part of the Nativity story from a different country to study. They compared their painting to the Gospels and commented on the artists views and choices.</p>	<p>This was probably the first time that our pupils (and maybe some of our teachers) had even seen Nativity images from around the world – particularly from Africa and Asia. It was very powerful in how it encouraged children’s and adults’ conversations in the corridor!</p>
<p>Racial Justice Sunday 2023 was marked by all phase groups across the school. The children prayed for equality and took part in the Diocesan competition.</p>	
<p>Following on from this, the cultural working party made suggestions of topics, texts and resources to make projects more diverse across the school. For example, in Spring 2023, UKS2 studied the Kingdom of Benin and wrote letters to the Prime Minister explaining why they believed he should return the Benin bronzes to Nigeria. In Autumn 2023, UKS2 studied the story of the Hidden Figures as part of their work on earth and space. They explored racial segregation and the discrimination shown towards these special women and how this affected their work at NASA.</p>	<p>This topic began with an understanding of the British Empire. The discussions that were had from our study of Benin were invaluable. The children felt passionate about how the British disrespected the people of Benin and their culture, and made their own links to their work on Catholic Social Teaching – Dignity of the Human Person – and it was their decision to write letters to the Prime Minister.</p>
<p>To celebrate 125 years of our school in the summer of 2023, we took the children on a journey through time sharing the history of our school. This culminated in a special celebration focussing on the wonderful diverse community we are today. During mass, the children read the prayers of the faithful in their home languages, we said the Hail Mary in Italian and the hall was decorated with flags from around</p>	<p>The thing we really learned from this celebration, was how much the community enjoyed getting involved and sharing food from their own cultures. We were so surprised by how many parents turned up with food to share. Everyone was so respectful and enjoyed tasting foods that were new to them.</p>

<p>the world. This was followed in the afternoon with a cultural feast. The school hall was full of parents who had cooked delicious meals from their own cultures which pupils and their families were invited to share in a picnic on the school field.</p> <p>This Advent, December 2023, we emailed parents to ask them to share images from the Holy Family from their cultures. Rather than 'guessing' what sort of images our pupils might see at home during Advent and Christmas, we asked parents to share their own with us to ensure that all pupils feel represented in the images they are seeing at school.</p> <p>For the entry point to our Spring Term projects – Why should we not judge others? – all classes across the school explored racism using an Usborne text called 'What is Racism?'</p> <p>In February 2024, the cultural team worked with SLT and the PSHE lead on the RJED policy. We audited our progress so far and set our next steps. This is currently being reviewed by all stakeholders.</p> <p>In February 2024, we sent out an equality and diversity questionnaire to parents.</p>	<p>The parents were keen to get involved and we were overwhelmed with the number of images that were shared. We used the images in our teaching, on resources, in our Advent Family Prayer Packs and in our newsletters. It was important that children were seeing images they recognised and images that they could see themselves in.</p> <p>This was a special week, as each day we explored one or two of the big questions in the book. Our whole week focussed on this text which incorporated all subjects, including RE. We met in an assembly at the end of each day to share our learning with each other and our special 'show racism the red card' books were sent home each evening to share with parents too. We had really positive feedback from pupils and their families and felt that addressing some of the ideas, including unconscious bias, has helped our community to recognise racism and discrimination in different forms.</p>
<p>Our next steps:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Review results from parental questionnaire and share results with all stakeholders. - Review our recruitment / appraisal processes. - Continue to ensure that pupils can see themselves 'in the church' by celebrating the feast days of saints from around the world. - Continue to build in other cultures and significant people from other cultures into projects across the school, consistently. 	<p>Useful links/resources:</p> <p>Show Racism the Red Card</p> <p>In the Image and Likeness of God Images</p>



A Conference for Schools

Reckoning with Race

Anti-racism in schools: *pain, perspectives, and possibilities*



Keynote speaker

Jeffrey Boakye



Keynote speaker:

Annie Tagoe



Keynote speaker:

Jahnine Davis



Early Bird Discount!
First 50 tickets at £49

Friday 5th July 2024

**Venue: St. Claudine's Catholic School for Girls
Crownhill Road, London NW10 4EP**

Cost: £75 (£50 concessions; £25 student) Tickets available via [Eventbrite](#)

For more information please contact
researchschool@stclaudines.co.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



Now offering...
**School Staff
Retreats!**



Team-Building



Adoration and Reflection



Shared Meal

...most importantly, a chance for your school staff to come together to have a Spiritual and Personal Encounter with Christ, focusing on their mission as staff of a Catholic School, to re-discover that God is with them every step of the way!



YOUTH.RCDOW.ORG.UK

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.

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