



WITNESS

to the word



26th June 2024

Summer Term Issue 5

Dear Colleagues in Catholic Education

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

Please feel free to share.

SUBJECT CONTENT IN THIS ISSUE

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Leadership and Governance Updates are [here](#)

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

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


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

Upcoming Training Opportunities

Day and Time	Course	Booking Link
Thursday 27 th June	<p>Primary - Diocesan Moderation Day</p> <p>Course Content:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Primary Road Map and next steps • Year 1 overview of branches 1 & 2 • Theology notes • RE-cap of EYFS workshops & content <p>Target Audience: RECs</p> <p><i>Please bring your own lunch with you, there is also opportunity to purchase lunch nearby.</i></p> <p>Venue:</p> <p>Niland Conference Centre Rosary Priory, 93 Elstree Road, Bushey Heath, Bushey, Herts, WD23 4EE.</p>	<p>Booking Link: Click Here</p>
Tuesday 2 nd July	<p>Secondary: 2nd in Charge of RE Updates and Sharing Forum</p> <p>Course Aim: To explain to teachers who are 2nd in charge of RE diocesan and national updates and give them an opportunity to share good practice and network</p> <p>Content:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Relevant and useful updates regarding RE 2. An opportunity for advisors to address any question or concerns regarding RE 3. Time to share good practice and network with other 2nd in charge of RE <p>Target Audience: 2nd in Charge of RE</p>	<p>Booking Link: Click Here</p>

<p>Monday 8th July</p>	<p>Headteachers Retreat</p>  <p>Retreat Aim: To provide Headteachers with opportunities to reflect, pray and be spiritually nourished.</p> <p>Retreat Content:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Headteachers will receive a relevant and well planned retreat day from an experienced retreat leader. This will support them in leading their faith community. 2. Time and space away from school to intentionally spend time with God. 3. Encouragement and ideas about ways to support their faith journey after the retreat <p>Target Audience: Headteachers.</p> <p>Venue: Waxwell House, 125 Waxwell Lane, Pinner, London, HA5 3EP</p>	<p>Booking Link: Click Here</p>
<p>10th July 3.30pm to 5.00pm</p>	<p>Primary: Getting to know the RED – Overview & Theology for Branch 1 for Year 1</p> <p>Course Content:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Overview of the RED for Year 1 • Engaging explanation of the theology content of Creation & Covenant. Investigating the themes of these branches. • Exploring scripture and key theological vocabulary. • Opportunities to ask questions. <p>Target Audience: Year 1 Teachers</p>	<p>Booking Link Year 1 Online Course</p>

<p>10th July 3.30pm to 5.00pm</p>	<p>Primary: Getting to know the RED – Overview & Theology for Branch 1 for Year 2</p> <p>Course Content:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Overview of the RED for Year 1 • Engaging explanation of the theology content of Creation & Covenant. Investigating the themes of these branches. • Exploring scripture and key theological vocabulary. • Opportunities to ask questions. <p>Target Audience: Year 2 Teachers</p>	<p>Booking Link Year 2 Online Course</p>
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CCRS

CONGRATULATIONS to Aleksandra Kalisz, St. Francis de Sales, Haringey, who was recently awarded the Catholic Certificate in Religious Studies. Well done, Alex!

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

Maths hub have asked us to share details of the fully funded support that they are able to provide to support the development of maths provision in schools. They work across 7 boroughs; Kensington & Chelsea, Hammersmith, Ealing, Brent, Harrow, Hillingdon, and Hounslow. Their recently updated [website](#) should be able to give you some more information if you'd like to understand more. Primary information can be accessed [here](#) and Secondary [here](#). *Please note: we are not recommending this programme, merely passing on information.*

You might like to draw the attention of your staff to the discount available to teachers to buy an annual [Art Pass](#). The pass allows free access to many Museums and art galleries and discounts to others. As they say, a great way to re-charge the mind and find relaxation!

The Department has received the following email:

Subject: Exchange programme with a French Catholic school

My name is Agnès Lefort and I am an English teacher in a French Catholic school, in the Basque Country to be more specific, next to the border with Spain.

My school is looking for partner schools to start an exchange programme for our Year 12 students (aged 16-17). They specialize in English literature that is why we are trying to look for partner schools in London or nearby.

You will find more information about our school below

<https://www.stthomasdaquin.fr/>

Would it be possible to pass on the message to the schools of your diocese?

Sincerely, Agnès Lefort alefort64@gmail.com

Again, we are not making a recommendation, just passing on the information

As we approach the end of term, a reminder that we can provide certificates for staff who are leaving our schools. We usually ask that they have completed at least 5 years of service but are always happy to discuss individual circumstances. Please email your requests to Faiza (eduadmin@rcdow.org.uk), but please also give her as much notice as possible as they do take at least a day to turn around.

Governors

Our next Chair of governors briefing will be this Thursday (27th June) at 5pm. Deb Long will provide a short training session at the start and Diocesan Officers will provide updates. If the chair is not able to attend, then please nominate someone else to attend in their place. The Zoom link is on governorhub and has been emailed to all Chairs, Vice-Chairs and Clerks. It is worth registering attendance in advance as this makes joining the actual meeting much more straight forward.

As we approach the end of the school year, please send in any re-appointment documents for governors coming to the end of their term of office this summer. The correct forms can be downloaded from our website [here](#) and should be submitted via the portal on the same page.

Governors for schools is an organisation which looks to match volunteers who would like to become governors with schools. They also provide training, but governors should note that the CES has not reviewed any of the governor training in order to ensure that it is appropriate for our context. More details can be found [here](#)

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

RE and Catholic Life Resources

Ordinary Time

Ordinary Time between Pentecost and Advent is the longest liturgical period in the Catholic Church. It begins the day after Pentecost, which celebrates the descent of the Holy Spirit, and continues until the eve of the First Sunday of Advent, which marks the beginning of the liturgical year. The primary theme of this period is spiritual growth through reflection on the teachings and miracles of Jesus Christ as recounted in the Gospels.

During these weeks, the Church emphasises what it means to be a disciple of Jesus. We are encouraged to reflect on how we can incorporate the teachings of Jesus into our daily lives, promoting a deeper commitment to living out the values of the Gospel. The readings and liturgies focus on various aspects of Jesus' ministry, including parables, healings, and interactions with his disciples and the broader community. This time is seen as an opportunity for spiritual growth, personal reflection, and community building, helping believers to strengthen their faith and prepare for the more intense liturgical seasons of Advent and Christmas. Through Ordinary Time, we are reminded of the continual presence of God in the ordinary and the call to witness to our faith in everyday circumstances.



Pope Francis Prayer Intentions:

June – For Those Fleeing Their Own Countries

Let us pray that migrants fleeing from war or hunger, forced to undertake journeys fraught with danger and violence, may they find welcome and new living opportunities in their host countries.

July - For The Pastoral Care of The Sick

Let us pray that the Sacrament of the Anointing of the Sick, bestows the Lord's strength to those who receive it and to their loved ones, and that it may become for everyone an ever more visible sign of compassion and hope.

Prayer Intentions during Ordinary Time Day After Pentecost Until First Day of Advent (Based on the Liturgical Year)	Liturgical Colours
Deeper Understanding Between Christians and Jews	GREEN
Those Who Suffer Persecution Especially on St John Fisher and St Thomas More (22 nd June)	
Those Who Suffer Oppression Especially on St John Fisher and St Thomas More (22 nd June)	
Those Who Suffer Denial of Human Rights Especially on St John Fisher and St Thomas More (22 nd June)	
Europe Especially on the feasts of St Benedict (11 July), St Bridget of Sweden (23 July), St Catherine of Siena (29 April)	
Human Life Especially on the day for Life (3 rd Sunday in June)	

Liturgical Year
- St Anthony of Padua (13 th June)
- St Aloysius (21 st June)
- Ss John Fisher and Thomas More (22 nd June)
- St John the Baptist (24 th June)
- St John Southworth (27 th June)
- St Thomas, the Apostle (3rd July)
- St Elizabeth (5th July)
- St Benedict (11th July)
- St Bonaventure (15th July)
- Our Lady of Mount Carmel (16th July)
- St Mary Magdalene (22nd July)
- St James (25th July)
- Ss Joachim and Anne (26th July)
- St Martha (29th July)

National and International Days	Other Religions
- International Day of Cooperatives (11th)	Tisha B'Av (Jewish tragedies)
- World Youth Skills Day (15th)	
- Nelson Mandela Day (18th)	

Other religions/worldviews: For a brief overview of each of other faith festivals see [HERE](#).

The Year of Prayer - 2024

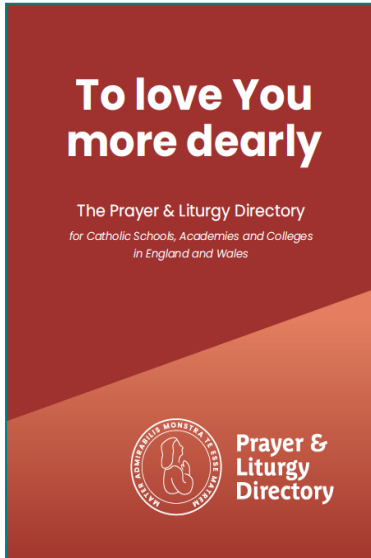


In preparation for the 2025 Jubilee Year 'Pilgrims of Hope', 2024 has been designated a Year of Prayer by Pope Francis. There is a particular focus on the Lord's Prayer (Our Father) this year, and this presents us with a great opportunity to reinvigorate the centrality of prayer within our schools. We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

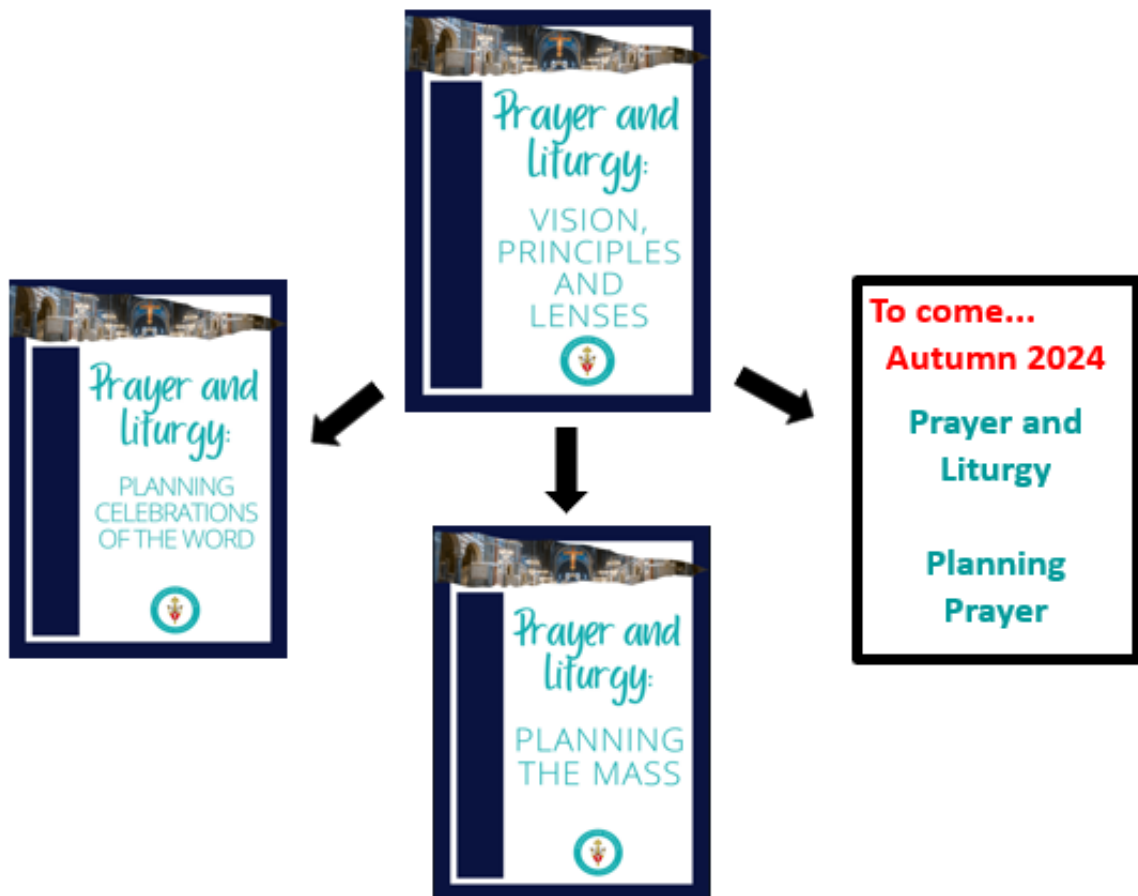


The Prayer and Liturgy Directory was launched in October 2023. It is an important and informative document which aims to enhance the excellent practices that already exists for Prayer and Liturgy within our schools and across the diocese. Please click [HERE](#) for the Prayer and Liturgy Directory. It includes a **model policy (p69)** as well as **progression of prayers (p72)** at the back of this document.

To support our schools, the Education Service provided training on understanding the Prayer and Liturgy Directory in December and May to support schools with the implementing the Directory.

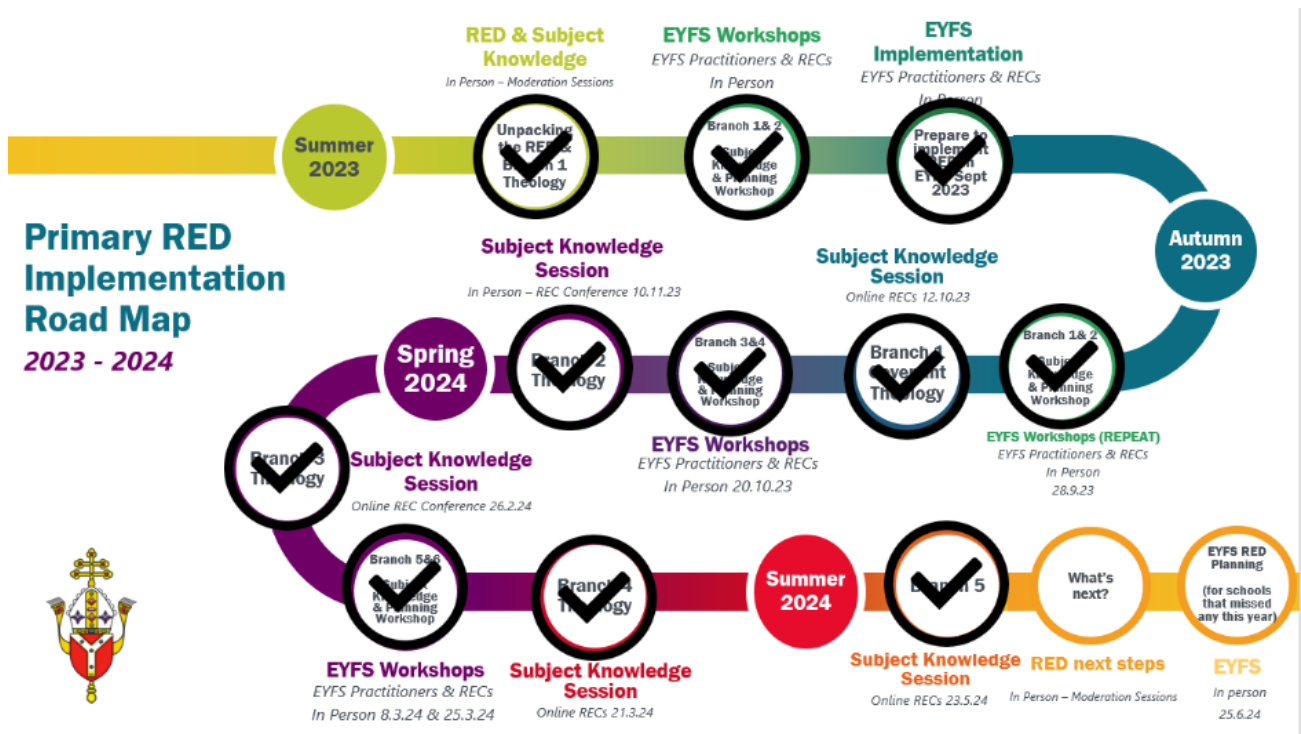
Resources from this day can be found on the Prayer and Liturgy Sharepoint Hub. Please contact Amanda Crowley amandacrowley@rcdow.org.uk if you need access to the hub.

The resources provided included these three documents, with a fourth to follow next term:



Each document contains an Appendix with useful planning sheets. Please refer to, and use, these documents when planning Mass and Celebrations of the Word.

Primary RED Implementation



As we continue to await an appropriate published resourced scheme for the RED, our support for RE will focus on the model curriculum including the ‘knowledge lenses’ and ‘ways of knowing’ since any published scheme will be expected to meet these.

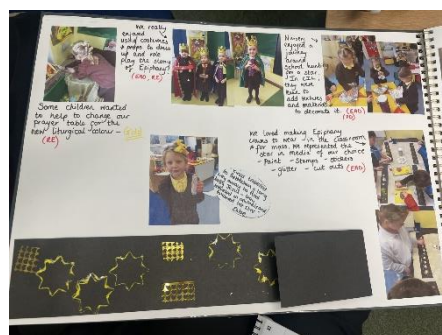
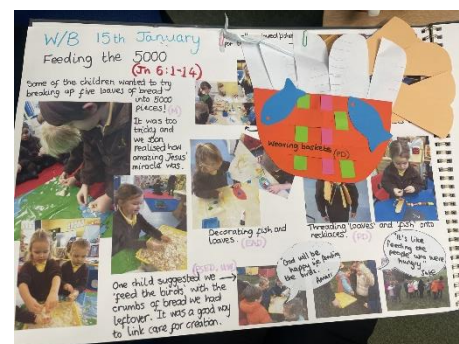
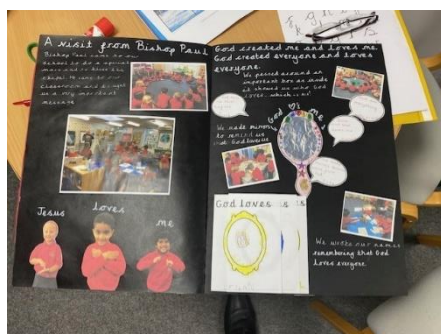
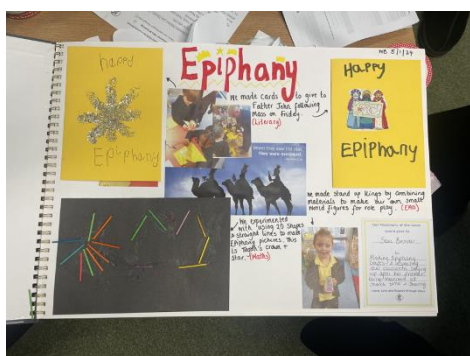
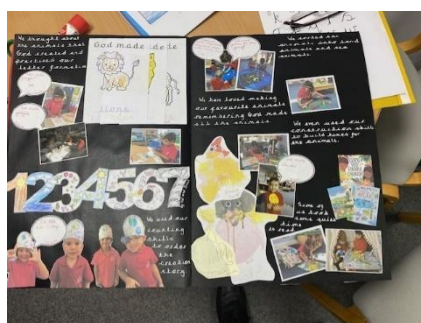
We recommend schools:

1. **Get to know the model curriculum** in preparation for implementation.
2. **Engage with diocesan support** for implementation in **EYFS and Key Stage 1**.
3. Refrain from making large financial investments in any published resources at this time.
4. When reviewing any available published materials, ensure that you reflect on the guiding principles below:
 - o Does it follow the model curriculum – branches, sequence?
 - o Does it make use of pure scripture? Encourage use of Bibles?
 - o Are images used diverse and appropriate?
 - o Does it incorporate the Ways of Knowing?
 - o Are lenses interpreted accurately?

Moderation & RED Update	In Person Niland 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/
Year 1 RED Branch 1 (Creation & Covenant) Overview and Subject Knowledge	Online Twilight	10.7.24	https://courses.rcdow.org.uk/event/primary-year-1-getting-to-know-the-red-overview-theology-for-branch-1/
Year 2 RED Branch 1 (Creation & Covenant) Overview and Subject Knowledge	Online Twilight	10.7.24	https://courses.rcdow.org.uk/event/primary-getting-to-know-the-red-overview-theology-for-branch-1-for-year-2/

EYFS RED Implementation

This year over 70 schools attended the RED EYFS planning workshops. The feedback from schools has been fantastic and EYFS teachers report that Nursery and Reception children are more engaged and excited by their learning as well as using religious vocabulary more confidently. Below are some examples of EYFS floor books showing a sample of the excellent work that has been done in St Anthony's Primary School, Watford and St Thomas of Canterbury, Puckeridge. Thank you to these teachers for sharing their children's work.



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.

St Mary's University Essay Competition

St Mary's have launched their Year 12 Theology Essay competition. The essay title will be 'Evaluate the significance of Mary's role in the work of redemption'. First prize is £250 and the deadline is Friday 12th July. More details can be found at [The St Mary's Theology Essay Competition 2024 \(stmarys.ac.uk\)](https://stmarys.ac.uk)



St Mary's
University
Twickenham
London

The Jerusalem Trust's Small Grants to Schools Scheme

The Jerusalem Trust's Small Grants to Schools Scheme supports the teaching of Christianity within Religious Education. The scheme operates by providing schools with grants of up to £600 to purchase resources for use in RE lessons. The scheme is open to state funded schools in England and Wales, with 40% awarded to secondary schools and 60% to primary schools. Grant availability during the school term, for both sectors, is notified on the website Home page.

For more information please go onto the website [here](#).

RE Hubs

RE Hubs is a one-stop shop for teachers and professionals of RE/RVE/R&W to find high-quality resources and support in your local area. The RE Hubs project is dedicated to supporting Religious Education teachers and practitioners in the UK. Their mission is to connect those who can provide resources with those who need them. They aim to create a neutral platform that brings all stakeholders together, filling the knowledge gap and equipping everyone within the RE ecosystem.



Visit their site at [Explore RE in your area \(re-hubs.uk\)](https://re-hubs.uk) for more details.

Rooted in Love

The Caritas website has been updated and new resources added! Check the website to find out more about the Rooted in Love Logo. Teachers notes have also been updated with an explanation of the Logo as well.

Also each theme now has a poster linked to the theme which can be found in the respective theme folder. So please check it all out [here](#)!

CAFOD – Young People Demand Change!

How can you make your voice heard? How can we change the world together?

Find out how your school can stand in solidarity with the world's poorest communities and put Catholic Social Teaching into action with CAFOD'S new campaign resources. To find out more click [Here](#)



For Primary School Campaign Resources Click [Here](#)

For Secondary School Campaign Resources Click [Here](#)

Send my friend to school campaign

Join thousands of other schools who are telling our government not to let emergencies prevent our friends across the world from learning.

Get your FREE campaign resource pack with everything you need to bring the campaign to life in your classroom. Ready-made learning resources, with accessible and easy actions to take that have a huge impact! Available whether you have 20 minutes, an hour, or want to create a whole scheme of work. To find out more click [Here](#)



Download your 2024 campaign pack [Here](#)

Fix the Food System

CAFOD's food campaign is urging the UK government to protect the right of farmers around the world to use their seeds. To find out more click [Here](#)



Catholic Listeners

Catholic Listeners are a Catholic phone service dedicated to being present when you want to talk to someone about faith. They are a helpline that exists to accompany people who are exploring or returning to the Catholic Faith, through compassionate conversations.

When COVID-19 lockdowns were causing churches across the world to close their doors, this team felt called to create a new way for those who were looking to explore or return to the Catholic Faith. They felt inspired to create a helpline for people to call and explore their questions with trained and compassionate listeners.

So after securing funding for the project, carrying out research and training a team of call handlers, Catholic Listeners was launched in the Holy Week of 2022 and have been taking calls ever since. You can find out more about their initiatives [here](#)

Mission Together

What is Mission Together? To find out more click [Here](#)

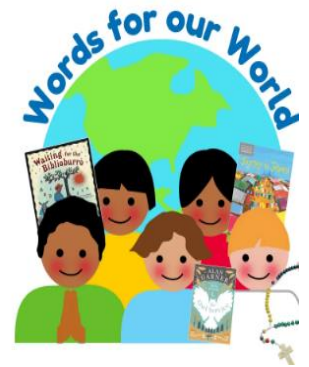
Mission Together is Pope Francis' charity for children. Through Mission Together, children around the world join in prayer and acts of charity, to help other children living in poverty overseas

Mission Together is the children's branch of Missio – the Catholic Church's official children's charity for overseas mission.

Words for our World

Mission Together's *Words for our World* challenge invites pupils to journey through our global home by reading books based within each of the [Mission Rosary](#) continents (Africa, Americas, Europe, Oceania, Asia).

The challenge for pupils is not only to read their way around the world but also to learn more about our global family. It is also to encourage pupils to pray for the children within those continents.



Day of Many Colours

The Day of Many Colours (#DOMC) is a day for children to celebrate their place within God's global family. Based on the five colours of the [Mission Rosary](#), this joyful day encourages children to unite in prayer with their sisters and brothers in Africa; the Americas; Europe; Oceania; and Asia.

The Day of Many Colours is celebrated on or around the feast [St Peter and St Paul on 29th June](#). You can [order posters and stickers](#) to support your Day of Many Colours. Mission Rosaries are also available to order.



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.”

We will have a NEW CPD package for next academic year coming out soon. Please look out for emails and book your school on.

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.

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 -](#)

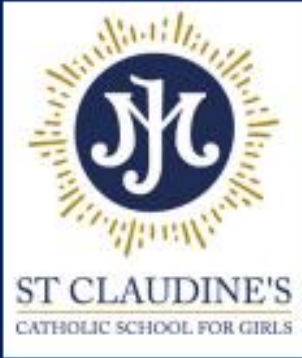
[Catholic Bishops' Conference
www.cbcew.org.uk](http://www.cbcew.org.uk)

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.



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

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.](#)



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?

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

'Love The Stranger' School Resources

Refugee Week 2024 will take place from 17–23 June, with World Refugee Day held on 20 June. Caritas Brentwood, with support from Clifton Diocese and the St Vincent de Paul Society (SVP), has produced resources for Refugee Week to introduce the principles of Love The Stranger to schools. The resources include a PowerPoint presentation and 5 worksheets, one for each day of the week, designed to inform and facilitate discussion, as well as a document signposting other available resources and support. Resources are available for both primary and secondary schools.

Resources can be accessed [here](#)

Agency for Evangelisation Update



Diocese of Westminster

AGENCY FOR EVANGELISATION

“Be holy, in all you do”

1 Peter, 1: 15

Retreat for Catechists

A day to refresh and renew

This retreat will be offered on two days:

Saturday 6th July, 10am-3.30pm

at Sacred Heart High School, London W6 7DG

and

Saturday 19th October, 10am-3.30pm

in Welwyn Garden City - location tbc

Tea/coffee provided. Please bring a packed lunch

To register email: catadmin@rcdow.org.uk

(please include the name of your parish)



Suggested donation: £10

(please pay using the QR code)