



BRENTWOOD DIOCESAN EDUCATION SERVICE

“Supporting Catholic schools to provide excellent education where pupils flourish, and Christ is made known to all.”

Governor News – May 2024

This is a monthly summary to help governors keep up to date with key themes of national education policy, the local Diocesan context, research and good practice.

I am sure that you will have picked up the [press reports](#) about a government [consultation by DfE on lifting the 50% cap on faith-based admissions criteria alongside proposals on opening special faith-based academies](#). The Catholic Church has been pressing for many years for the lifting of the 50% cap and the CES will be putting together a response to the consultation

Please remember that it is a requirement for all reserved posts in Catholic schools (RE leader, Deputy Headteacher, some Assistant Headteacher posts, Head of School, Headteacher, Executive Headteacher and CSEL) [to have a priest's reference to confirm the catholicity of the candidate](#). This reference is taken up for shortlisting purposes; no one can be shortlisted without a positive priest's reference

Are all your governors up-to-date with their statutory responsibilities around safeguarding? The next *Safeguarding Children* webinar on **Monday 7 October 2024** (17:30-19:00) will focus on the next KCSIE, due to be published in the autumn term. [Book your place](#)

DfE has published [audit and action planning tools](#) to help schools assess their behaviour culture, recognise good practice and identify areas that need attention

Ofsted have published their [subject report on religious education](#). While the report does not speak to religious education in Catholic schools, it is heartening that many of the criticisms they offer of the quality of religious education in other sorts of schools ought not to be true of Catholic schools. We anticipate this progress will continue as schools implement the RED and model curriculum

New guidance on [protective security and preparedness for education settings](#) has been published by DfE. This non-statutory guidance provides advice to help educational settings become better prepared for and able to respond to terrorism and other major incidents. **How effective are the security measures and emergency response plans in your school?**

DfE has published [new guidance](#) to help schools manage older buildings. This non-statutory guidance aims to help schools and trusts develop their knowledge of the types of construction commonly found on the school estate to prioritise future maintenance and repair and to monitor the buildings for any early signs of deterioration. It should be used in conjunction with DfE guidance on [good estate management for schools](#)

The Children and Young People's Mental Health Coalition and Centre for Mental Health (CYPMHC), has published a [report on the issue of school attendance which focuses on mental health barriers to attendance](#)

This is an optional service, sent once a month. If you prefer NOT to receive Governor News please e-mail victoriabarnes@brcdt.org with the subject heading UNSUBSCRIBE GN; please include your name and school

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