



BRENTWOOD DIOCESAN EDUCATION SERVICE

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

Governor News – November 2024

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

National Audit Office SEND report: Special education system is ‘failing’?

The special educational needs (SEN) system is financially unsustainable unless reformed according to findings published this week by the National Audit Office (NAO). The [report](#) assessing the effectiveness of support for children and young people with SEN in England highlights significant financial pressures, with increased high-needs funding not translating into better outcomes.

OFSTED

Inspections in the Diocese have now started where there is no single word overall grade of effectiveness. Section 8 and Section 5 inspections have taken place. There will be no deep dives for section 5 inspections except for maths and early reading. The tone of the inspection appears to be different. Schools are being notified on a Monday, and inspections on the Tuesday and Wednesday followed by feedback on the Wednesday. There have been in some weeks 3 inspections of Diocese schools in different locations. There are [links to webinars on the OFSTED](#) site and the Diocese have some training planned for Governors and Directors on the 6th November 24. The government intend to introduce a school report card inspection from September 2025. The DFE will be consulting on the new system in the coming months.

Regional Prevent education coordinators: How [regional Prevent education coordinators \(RPECs\)](#) can help education providers with the Prevent duty at Regional Prevent education coordinators - GOV.UK (www.gov.uk)

NGA has published its landmark report [The Mature MAT Model](#), reflecting on the evolution of the multi-academy trust model to the present day, where more schools are part of a trust than not, and where a clear majority of pupils are educated within one.

The DFE has [announced £15 million to fund a further specialist attendance mentor programme](#) where persistently absent pupils will be supported over a 12 to 20 week period and will have a specific plan to help them.

[The Department for Education academy conversion](#) - will end its grant scheme for schools choosing to become an academy at the end of this year and has “no plans” to continue to run its trust capacity and trust establishment and growth funds. Trusts



waiting to hear about capacity and growth funding bids for this summer's funding round of both funds have also been told no cash will be handed out.

It comes as the new Labour government seeks to rationalise the dual school system in England.

How will the Employment Rights Bill impact schools?

The government published its plan for workers' rights this week, with the business secretary describing it as "the biggest upgrade in employment rights for a generation".

Consultations on the Employment Rights Bill are expected this year, but the government said the measures will not come into force earlier than 2026.

The education secretary, Bridget Phillipson, confirmed this week that the bill will kickstart the restoration of the School Support Staff Negotiating Body (SSSNB). [Employment Rights Bill explained](#)

Governor Development

Upcoming Training and Events - for all training and events see

website <https://www.dioceseofbrentwood.net/departments/education/events/>

Booking via links on website.

NEW: Preparing for Ofsted – 6th November 2024 (17:00-18:30)

It is important that governors and directors understand the process for Ofsted inspections and their involvement in ensuring the school is working under the framework.

This webinar gives an overview of the role of Ofsted, the criteria on which schools will be assessed and the expectations of governance.

Facilitators: Cathy McKenna, Secondary Schools Link Adviser and Grace Corry, Primary Link Adviser.

Booking: [To book your place](#)

Reserved post appointments in Catholic Primary schools – 29th November 2024 (09:00 – 12:00)

This course will cover.

- Application form;
- Supporting statement;
- Shortlisting process; and
- Interview day and tasks.

Facilitators: Maria Shepherd, Diocesan Deputy Director of Education and Grace Corry, Diocesan Primary School Link Adviser.

Booking: [link](#).

Induction - Being an Effective Governor in a Catholic School

As well as in-school induction, it is important that new governors attend Induction training to gain confidence and knowledge of their role within a Catholic setting.



Diocesan Induction training consists of **two modules** and the expectation is that governors attend both to complete their induction training. **Whilst it is preferable to attend Module 1 first, they can be done in any order.**

NEW DATE: Module 1: The Distinctive Nature of Catholic Schools – 9th December 2024 (17:00-18:30)

This module explores the distinctive ethos of church schools and the role of governance within a Catholic setting.

Booking: [To book your place](#)

Module 2: An Introduction to the Roles and Responsibilities of Governors – 20th January 25 (17:00-18:30)

This module will help governors gain confidence and knowledge of the 3 core functions of governance and share good practice.

Booking: [To book your place](#)

NEW DATE: Role of Trustees in a Catholic MAT – 11th February 2025 (17:30-19:00)

This webinar is a short course intended for those new to the trustee role within a Catholic MAT (CMAT) or as a refresher for trust boards as part of their ongoing training requirements.

The training will cover:

- What are the basics of good governance?
- How Trust Boards work
- The core functions of a Catholic multi academy trust board

Facilitator: Stephen Adamson, Diocesan MAT Development Officer

Booking: [To book your place](#)

NEW DATE: CSI for Governors – 13th February 2025 (17:30-19:00)

How do you as governors promote, monitor and evaluate the provision for the Catholic life and mission of the school, RE and collective worship, prayer and liturgy?

Important changes to the CSI Handbook came into effect in September 2024. This webinar will outline the key information for governors to develop their understanding of the Catholic School Inspection (CSI) process - so that they can effectively play their part in preparing for inspection and during inspection.

The aim of this course is to gain a greater knowledge and understanding of the role of governors in relation to the Catholic Life of the School, RE and Prayer and Liturgy:

- The distinctive nature of Catholic education
- Expectations in relation to Classroom RE
- Expectations in relation to Catholic Life
- Expectations in relation to Prayer and Liturgy

Facilitator: Maria Shepherd, Deputy Director of Education

Booking: [To book your place](#)

Webinars on Premises Related Issues

Four webinars are being run for governors and trustees next academic year on premises related issues. Please see details below and note the dates for your diaries:



NEW DATE: School Building and Premises Training – Autumn 2 – Statutory Compliance Guidance – 19th November 2024 (16:00-17:30)

This training is suitable for headteachers, school business managers and governors (maintained schools and academies).

The course will explain how to use the [DfE's Compliance Excel spreadsheet](#) to ensure your premises comply with H&S regulations and are properly maintained. Using this spreadsheet will enable easy sharing of information with SLT, governors and diocese.

Facilitator: David Gatheral, Diocesan Buildings Development Officer

Booking: [To book your place](#)

NEW DATE: School Building Premises Training – Spring 1 - Using DfE Good Estate Management for Schools (GEMS) for Governance – 22nd January 2025 (16:00-17:30)

This training is designed specifically for governors and trustees (maintained schools and academies).

This is an introduction for governors to a really useful government website “[GEMS](#)” that contains lots of great information to help ensure your school buildings are being properly developed and maintained.

Facilitator: David Gatheral, Diocesan Buildings Development Officer

Booking: [To book your place](#)

REPEAT WEBINAR: School Building Premises Training – Spring 2 – Schools Governance Responsibilities in Managing Asbestos – 11th March 2025 (16:00-17:30)

This training is for chairs of governors and governors with responsibility for premises issues (maintained schools and academies).

An important course for governors, particularly chairs of governors and those in H&S roles. This course will explain what documentation schools need to have in place (Asbestos Management Plan and Register), the importance of processes to ensure those at risk from asbestos are provided information and sign that they have seen it. Clarity over who is responsible for managing asbestos in Diocese of Brentwood schools, how often to commission an asbestos resurvey and the required training for responsible persons and duty holders and where to access this.

Facilitator: David Gatheral, Diocesan Buildings Development Officer

Booking: [To book your place](#)

Online Learning

Gift-ED

The Gift-ED library of online courses, supporting governors in their role, has been funded for 4 years but [there is now a subscription for this valuable training](#).

You will not be able to access Gift-ED courses without a subscription. **Does your school subscribe?** Completed order forms should be returned to info@anspear.com

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