



BRENTWOOD DIOCESAN EDUCATION SERVICE

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

Governor News – September 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.

Important changes to the CSI Handbook came into effect in September 2024. This webinar on **Thursday 13 February 2025** (17:30-19:00) will outline the key information for governors to develop their understanding of the Catholic School Inspection (CSI) process. [To book](#)

The government announced a Children’s Wellbeing Bill and a [Skills England](#) Bill in the King’s Speech. [What does it mean for education?](#) A [curriculum and assessment review](#) has also been launched

Education jargon is constantly changing and evolving and can be a cause of frustration, especially for new governors! Check out our [updated jargon buster](#)

DfE announcement, single-word judgements

The Department for Education announced on 2nd September that they are intending to introduce a School Report Card inspection system from September 2025. The details of this, and the necessary legislation to bring it about, will be worked out over the coming months. In the interim year, for state-funded schools, they have instructed Ofsted to scrap the use of the single-word overall effectiveness judgement grade. We understand that due to the current constraints of legislation, the overall effectiveness single-word judgement grade will remain for all other kinds of setting which Ofsted inspects, including sixth form colleges, non-maintained special schools, and non-association independent schools. Single-word judgement grades will continue to be given for the sub-categories until the current education inspection framework (EIF) is superseded in September 2025. In addition, schools that would have previously been graded as inadequate, will still be labelled either as ‘special measures’ or ‘requiring significant improvement’, with all the attendant consequences of such an outcome.

Ofsted have published [a blog outlining the changes they will be making to ungraded inspections in the autumn term](#)

DFE - Schools Music Development Plan

All schools should have a [music development plan](#), as set out in the [national plan for music education](#).

The DfE are asking schools to publish a summary of their music development plan on their website before the start of the 2024 to 2025 academic year. Schools should then update the summary before the start of each new academic year.

Publishing a summary will help schools to:

- raise awareness of their music development plan
- promote the school music offer to parents and prospective parents
- give greater opportunity for schools and music hubs to work together

[School music development plan: summary template](#)

Safeguarding: Ensure compliance with updated guidance – Keeping Children Safe in Education (KCSiE) has been published for 1 September 2024

- All staff to receive updated training which includes the new KCSiE guidance

- Child Protection/Safeguarding policy complies with the updated version of KCSiE – ensure the governing board approves the revised policy
- All Governors/Trustees have read the updated version of KCSiE
- All Governors/Trustees to have received appropriate safeguarding training

https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/media/66d7301b9084b18b95709f75/Keeping_children_safe_in_education_2024.pdf

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 – Monday 9 December 2024 (17:00-18:30)*

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

[To book a place](#)

Module 2: An Introduction to the Roles and Responsibilities of Governors – Monday 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.

[To book your place](#)

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

Diocesan communications are issued solely to support you to carry out your education functions as a Catholic school leader on behalf of your diocesan bishop. They may contain sensitive information and must be respected as private communications and not be shared with any third parties external to the diocese without written BDES consent.