



BRENTWOOD DIOCESAN EDUCATION SERVICE

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

Governor News – January 2025

Blessings for a new term and the New Year 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.

Jubilee Year-Pilgrims of Hope (Reminder)

The launch day on 24th January 2025-will be about schools starting their Pilgrims of Hope journey. Everything can be found on the Jubilee Launch Day page: <https://cafod.org.uk/jubilee-schools/jubilee-launch-day>

Catholic School Inspection-updates

CSI inspections continue from w/b 20th January 2025 - It is really important that schools ensure they refer to the most up to date Inspection Handbook and Comparative Grade Descriptors- January 2025 v3.2. All inspection materials are available here <https://catholicschoolsinspectorate.org.uk/inspection-documents>

There is a helpful change log which lists the changes made in the updated handbook – a shortened version of which is attached above; the original can be found on the website.

Pupil wellbeing should be included in Ofsted inspections, Education Policy Institute says The Education Policy Institute who are calling for a ‘fairer and more holistic approach’ to measuring school effectiveness.

DFE - Schools and trusts can now add their governance professional details to the [Get Information About Schools](#) (GIAS) platform.

The Children’s Wellbeing and Schools Bill

You will have seen reports in the news about the new Children’s Wellbeing and Schools Bill. The DfE has issued some useful information about the contents of the bill on its Education Hub, and you can find that information by following the link below:

<https://educationhub.blog.gov.uk/2024/12/17/the-childrens-wellbeing-bill-what-parents-need-to-know/>

The CES will provide further guidance to dioceses as the provisions of the bill are worked through, but in the meantime, the DfE want us to reassure school leaders that no immediate action is necessary and there will be time for schools to prepare for any changes that are required, particularly in relation to teacher pay and conditions.

Academies

- Confederation of School Trusts ‘very concerned’ about proposals around [academy pay flexibility](#) Two government bills should be amended to ensure school flexibility over pay, the Confederation of School Trusts (CST) has said.
- Concerns that academy reforms would allow more [schools that select based on faith](#). Humanists fear the government’s academy reforms will pave the way for new Catholic schools which select all their pupils based on faith. [Schools Week]
- CEOs of the largest trusts ‘[escape scrutiny’ over pay](#) under new pay checks [Schools Week] The government’s new CEO pay crackdown has allowed the biggest chains to escape scrutiny as the method used to identify “outliers” appears to be loaded against smaller trusts.

Schools Week analysis of [Department for Education](#) data [used to name and shame 37 leaders over high wages](#) reveals it held some “to a different standard” based on size. We can also reveal that bungling officials used the wrong figures in their analysis for the country’s best-paid CEO – Harris Federation’s Sir Dan Moynihan. The figure used was £150,000 off his actual salary, fuelling more uncertainty over officials’ workings.

[Schools partnership developed](#) between UK and Ukraine to drive education standards [[GOV.UK](#)]

The [majority of schools facing difficult budget decisions](#) next year, unions warn [Schools Week]

Unions call for urgent government investment to [make schools ‘fit for purpose’](#), as new report shows £13.8bn backlog [Schools Week]

[Safeguarding intervention ends too soon](#), school leaders tell MPs [Tes Magazine - subscription required]

Governor Development

Upcoming Training and Events - for all training and events see website <https://www.dioceseofbrentwood.net/departments/education/events/>

