



BRENTWOOD DIOCESAN EDUCATION SERVICE

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

Governor News – April 2020

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.

In light of the extended lockdown due to Covid-19 and the ongoing government requirements for social distancing, [we have reluctantly postponed the commissioning event by Bishop Alan on 7 May and the Safeguarding Children workshop on 13 May](#)

DfE advises against governing bodies meeting in person but to adopt alternative arrangements such as video or teleconferencing. All non-urgent business should be delayed. NGA have produced [useful advice on business continuity and holding virtual meetings](#) so governing boards continue to function, carry out their urgent business and make necessary decisions

Due to the current situation due to coronavirus (COVID-19), DfE have produced [detailed safeguarding guidance for schools](#) Please take special note of the [Interim DfE Safeguarding Action Checklist](#)

[Our first Governors' Conference is now available for booking](#). This full day Conference will be held on **Friday 9 October 2020** (9:30-16:00) at de Rougemont Manor in Warley and [include a mixture of workshops and speakers](#)

The first online course *Faithful Governance* is now available as part of Gift-ED, the online App developed by the Brentwood Diocesan Education Service. This is free of charge and you can [preview a demo version here](#) Speak to your chair if you would like to take part so they can put your name forward

[Ofsted have suspended all routine inspections of schools](#) and are not publishing reports from their recent inspections until schools reopen as normal for pupils. It has also been decided that there will be no Section 48 Inspections in the Brentwood Diocese until at least after October half term 2020

DFE has published [guidance to assist schools in providing advice regarding the novel coronavirus COVID-19](#) as well as [detailed guidance for schools](#) on issues such as staffing levels, holidays, pay and use of supply workers

Browne Jacobson have produced a [free toolkit for governing bodies and academy trusts regarding what to do re employment matters during the lockdown](#)

As part of steps taken to fight the spread of coronavirus (COVID-19), the [government announced](#) that all exams due to take place in schools and colleges in England in summer 2020 are cancelled and that it will not publish any school or college level educational performance data based on tests, assessments or exams for 2020. [This update clarifies what this means for the way school and college accountability will operate for 2019 to 2020](#)

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