



## BRENTWOOD DIOCESAN EDUCATION SERVICE

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

### Governor News – June 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.**

Bishop Declan Lang, Lead Bishop for International Affairs and Bishop Paul McAleenan, Lead Bishop for Racial Justice have [published a message on the evil of racism](#)

[Bishop Marcus Stock, Chairman of the Catholic Education Service, has expressed his heartfelt gratitude to all who are working in Catholic education during this difficult time](#)

DfE have updated the [Schools Q&A](#) on actions for schools during the coronavirus outbreak and [provided an update for governing bodies in maintained schools](#) and for [trustees and academy governors](#) to support them in making decisions about wider re-opening. The government have dropped plans for all primary year groups to return to school for a month before the summer break but they do expect all children to be back in school in September

Please note that **the decision about whether and how to move towards wider opening is a decision for each governing body or academy trust board, working closely with school leaders.** Governing bodies and boards must ensure school leaders conduct a thorough risk assessment before opening to determine what the risks might be and how they might reasonably be mitigated

In light of the extended lockdown due to Covid-19 and the ongoing government requirements for social distancing, [we have reluctantly postponed our face-to-face governor workshops for the remainder of this term.](#) Although the benefits of face-to-face training are hard to replicate, I hope governors will take advantage of the Diocesan online course *Faithful Governance* at this difficult time to develop their knowledge and skills. 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

When meeting virtually as a governing body, you must consider the security of the platforms that you are using. Please also remember that all parties will need to agree to these arrangements – you may find this [model protocol for virtual meetings](#) useful

Updated appraisal policies are [now available to download from the CES website](#) in fully amendable word format. Your appraisal policy should be based on this model policy; substantial changes should not be made without discussing with the Diocese first

CES have launched a [free online course on the new statutory RSE curriculum](#) including a useful [governor audit for monitoring RSE](#)

[The Sutton Trust has published a briefing paper looking at how school closures are likely to impact on disadvantaged young people](#) through their time in education and into the workplace.

**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](mailto:sophierussell@dioceseofbrentwood.org) with the subject heading UNSUBSCRIBE GN; please include your name and school**