



BRENTWOOD DIOCESAN EDUCATION SERVICE

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

Governor News – October 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.

CES have prepared [guidance regarding Religious Education, Collective Worship and the Celebration of Mass in schools during COVID-19](#)

A *Safeguarding Children* webinar for governors has been arranged for 16 November 2020 (17:30-19:00). Suitable for all governors, but essential for those with a key responsibility for child protection and safeguarding, you can [book your place here](#)

Thank you to those who attended our first webinar on school admissions. It is strongly recommended that you follow the [CES model admissions arrangements](#) and the [CES model supplementary information form](#) when revising your School Admissions Policy

A [joint study by Ofsted and NGA](#) has looked at school governance during the COVID-19 pandemic

Although schools have welcomed back all pupils from September and started to get back to some level of normality, it is likely that much of the business of the governing body will be conducted remotely and that ‘virtual’ meetings will continue for some time. [This guide is to help governors prepare for, and carry out, the challenge of their monitoring role in the remote world](#)

Ofsted has published its [first snapshot of the pilot visits it carried out in September](#) with key findings showing primary schools giving extra attention to reading as well as remote learning materials in many cases not being fully aligned with the regular curriculum

[Updated disciplinary policies are now available to download from the CES website](#) There are separate versions of the policies maintained schools and academies, both in fully amendable word format – however, please note that **we do not expect schools to make substantial changes to the policies without discussing this with the Diocese first**. Please make sure your HR provider is aware of the updated policies

On 30 September 2020 the DfE published a [direction](#) pertaining to the requirement to provide remote education during COVID-19, accompanied by a [guidance note](#) which explains the clauses of the direction. The direction will come into force on 22 October 2020 and will have effect until the end of the school year (unless it is revoked before then)

DfE have also published [guidance to support school leaders in developing their remote education contingency plans](#). To support schools to meet the expectations the department has developed a range of products, support and guidance on the [get help with remote education page](#) to help schools meet their statutory obligations. Governors and Trustees should be checking up, in due course, that their schools are accessing the funding, resources and training available to improve provision

This is an optional service, sent once a month. 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