



## BRENTWOOD DIOCESAN EDUCATION SERVICE

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

### Governor News – September 2020

**Welcome back to the new academic 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.**

DfE have published [guidance for actions for schools from the start of the autumn term](#).

The significant impact of the Covid-19 pandemic on the learning of children and young people, and the challenges schools face in reopening to all pupils, has been highlighted in a [new report by the National Foundation for Educational Research \(NFER\)](#)

[Ofsted plan a phased return to inspection](#), starting with [an interim period of visits during the autumn term](#), with resumption of full inspections expected from January 2021. Visits will be based around constructive discussions with the school about any barriers that the school is facing in managing the return to opening fully, how pupils are getting back into expected routines and their behaviour, and the school’s safeguarding arrangements; they are not inspections, so will not result in a grade

In light of the ongoing government requirements for social distancing we made the difficult decision to postpone our face-to-face workshops until at least January 2021. [We are busy rescheduling some of our training for 2021](#) and are also planning to hold some workshops as webinars

We continue to develop resources for our online learning platform, Gift-ED, and have published a new course for governors and trustees on **headteacher appraisal** – this is important training for members of the headteacher appraisal panel. You can [preview a demo version here](#) If you do not already have an access code, please ensure your chair advises us of the governors who should access this course [by using this link](#)

The next Chairs’ Network meeting for chairs and vice chairs will focus on Admissions and be led by our Diocesan solicitors as a webinar on Tuesday 29 September 2020 18:00-19:30. You can [book your place here](#)

This [statutory guidance describes the temporary changes to the school exclusion process due to coronavirus \(COVID-19\)](#)

[HSE have advised schools that they will be conducting spot checks on schools from Monday 7 September](#). The spot checks will take the form of an initial phone call to review the measures taken for reopening to minimise spread of the virus causing COVID-19. It is essential that all governing bodies and trust boards see the new risk assessment in place for their school for September, keep it under review and ask the question **‘how do you know it’s working?’**

The Sutton Trust’s report on the [impact of COVID-19 on early years](#) highlights the impact of lockdown on child development, especially for more vulnerable children

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