



September 2019

Dear chair

Welcome back to the new academic year. I hope your summer break was restful and enjoyable, and wish you a very successful year.

In these times of uncertainty and change, this twice-termly chairs mailing is part of our commitment to support you and keep you up-to-date with educational developments and good practice, both locally and nationally. I hope you will find it a useful summary.

Diocese of Brentwood News

Code of Conduct

The Code of Conduct sets out clear expectations of the role and behaviour required from school governors and trustees in order for the governing board to properly carry out its work. All governors are expected to sign the Code of Conduct on an annual basis and uphold the [Seven Principles of Public Life](#) (the Nolan principles).

If you have not already done so, the Diocese recommends that you adopt/adapt the [Catholic Education Service Code of Conduct](#) (they have 3 versions for different types of school). The Code of Conduct should be reviewed and agreed at the first full governing body meeting of the autumn term each year, but **please remember that new governors should sign the Code of Conduct when they are appointed.**

There have been several cases where carelessness with social media, especially with Facebook, has been an issue with governors. May I suggest that you include this wording as a bullet point in the section on *roles and responsibilities*:

- We will always use social networking sites responsibly and ensure that neither our personal/professional reputation, nor the school's reputation or that of the Diocese of Brentwood is compromised by inappropriate postings

Academisation

Congratulations to the following schools who became academies in Diocesan Catholic Multi Academy Trusts from September 2019:

The Good Shepherd Catholic Trust

Our Lady of Lourdes RC Primary School, Wanstead
SS Peter and Paul's Catholic Primary School, Ilford
St Joseph's Catholic Primary School, Barking
St Joseph's Catholic Primary School, Dagenham

The Rosary Trust

Our Lady Immaculate Catholic Primary School, Chelmsford
St Teresa's Catholic Primary School, Colchester

Our Lady of Grace Catholic Trust

St Edward's Catholic Primary School, Upton Park
St Francis' Catholic Primary School, Stratford

Governance Support – Website

I have been busy building the [School Governance pages on the Diocesan website](#) to support you in your role. Have you taken a look yet?

The site includes an [events section for booking your training](#) and a resource library which will be regularly updated so you can find those key [Diocesan](#), [Ofsted](#), [DfE](#) and [Academy](#) documents quickly and easily.

Governor Recruitment

If you need help in filling a foundation governor vacancy [do get in touch](#). The Diocesan Education team is considering a further Recruitment Event and it is helpful to know which schools need support in filling foundation vacancies.

Governor Development

New workshop dates have been added to the Diocesan Governor Training Programme, including further workshops on the primary and secondary curriculum, a finance workshop for academy governors and a workshop exploring the expectations of governors in supporting the Catholicity of the school. Please take a look at the revised programme (attached) and ensure that members of your governing board are aware of the opportunities available for development.

Effective boards encourage everyone involved in governance, especially those new to the role, to make the most of the training available to develop their knowledge and skills, and Ofsted will consider the commitment of governors/trustees to their own development as part of the judgement on the effectiveness of leadership and management.

Online Learning

I'm excited to confirm that the Diocesan Education team is working with Anspear Ltd, a technology and publishing company, to develop an online course for foundation governors. We plan to make a number of licences available to governing boards, free of charge, later in the autumn term.

Chairs' Network

The second meeting of the new Diocesan Chairs' Network, open to all chairs, will focus on the recruitment and succession planning of school leaders:

Workshop	Dates	Venue
Autumn term Chairs' Network Book your place here	Mon 14 October 2019 17:30-19:00	Cathedral House, Brentwood CM15 8AT

This is a valuable opportunity to meet once a term, networking with other chairs and sharing good practice whilst discussing a range of relevant issues with presenting professionals. I look forward to seeing you there.

Support for Clerks

We recognise that [high quality clerking](#) is crucial to governing board effectiveness, providing an invaluable contribution to the efficiency and compliance of the

governing board. Aimed particularly at school-based clerks, we are running a free full day workshop in partnership with the C of E Diocese of Chelmsford:

Workshop	Dates	Venue
Understanding your role as a clerk Book your place here	Thur 26 Sept 2019 9:30-3:30	C of E Diocesan Office, 53 New Street Chelmsford CM1 1AT

Safeguarding Update

Please make sure that all your safeguarding policies and procedures are in order – this is first thing Ofsted will check when they visit.

Keeping Children Safe in Education – revised guidance

From 2 September 2019 the [revised Keeping Children Safe in Education \(KCSIE\) 2019 guidance](#) came into place.

The only real change from 2018 is the inclusion of 'up skirting' (see p89) which is [now a criminal offence](#). The other revisions are mainly to include references to the new Ofsted Framework and the new curriculum for Relationships Education and Relationships, Sex Education and Health Education. Please ensure that your school's Safeguarding and Child Protection Policy takes account of the new guidance and is published on your website.

Safer Recruitment Consortium has also updated its [Guidance for safer working practice for those working with children and young people in education settings](#) (May 2019)

Teaching Online Safety in School

NSPCCs 2019 report [How Safe are our Children?](#) concentrates on online safety and the risks that children face.

DfE has published a new non-statutory guidance document [Teaching Online Safety in Schools](#) which emphasises the importance of helping children and young people use the internet safely and learn how to behave online.

The guidance also reinforces that it is good practice to consult with the Designated Safeguarding Lead when considering and planning any safeguarding related lessons or activities as they will be best placed to advise on any known safeguarding cases and how to support any pupils who may be especially impacted by a lesson.

It is recommended that Teaching Online Safety in School is read in conjunction with [Education for a Connected World Framework \(UKCIS, 2018\)](#) which offers 'age specific advice about the online knowledge and skills that pupils should have the opportunity to develop at different stages of their lives.'

Ofsted News

New Education Inspection Framework

The new [Ofsted Inspection Framework](#) is now in place. As well as a clear focus on a broad and balanced curriculum there is also a greater emphasis on how schools consider staff well-being under the leadership and management judgement.

Ofsted have updated what they ask in the [Ofsted Parent View](#) survey so that it links more closely to the new education inspection framework. The survey continues to ask parents how strongly they agree or disagree with statements about their child's school, but new questions have been added, including a question for parents of children with special educational needs and/or disabilities (SEND).

Inspecting Outstanding schools

DfE has announced new measures to raise standards in schools, including [lifting the exemption on Outstanding school inspections](#)

Academy News

ESFA has published the [Academies Financial Handbook 2019](#), effective from 1 September 2019

DfE News

Relationships Education, Relationships and Sex Education (RSE) and Health Education

The new curriculum will be mandatory from September 2020, but schools are [encouraged to adopt the new curriculum from September 2019](#)

Consultation – financial transparency in maintained schools

DfE is consulting on possible changes to financial transparency arrangements in maintained schools in line with that of academies. The [consultation closes on 30 September 2019](#)

School Responsibilities for School Food

DfE have published [a letter around school responsibilities for school food](#), highlighting issues raised by the Children's Future Food Inquiry

Healthy Schools Rating Scheme

DfE has published its [healthy schools rating scheme](#), a self-assessment tool which has been designed to help schools improve the health and wellbeing of pupils

Plans to support disadvantaged children in schools

[The Education Secretary has set out plans to prevent the most vulnerable children missing school, including changing the school admissions code](#) in England to make it easier for families escaping domestic abuse to switch schools

Mental health

[Every new teacher in England will be trained in how to spot early warning signs of mental illness](#)

Starting salaries for new teachers to rise

The government has confirmed that [salaries for new teachers will rise to £30,000 by 2022-23](#)

Funding to cover the rises will come from the [school budget increase announced last week](#).

Latest Research

Flexible and part-time working

A [report by the National Foundation for Educational Research](#) urges secondary school leaders to do [more to accommodate teachers who want to work part-time or flexibly](#)

Cyber Bullying in Schools

A report from the OECD think tank shows that [schools in England are more likely to face problems with pupils bullying online and misusing social media](#) than in any other developed country.

Case Study – improving pupils' well being

A primary school in London has introduced [a series of innovative measures to improve pupils' mental wellbeing](#)

Good Childhood Report

The Children's Society [Good Childhood Report](#) has been released. Its main findings estimate that almost a quarter of a million children (10-15 yr olds) in the UK could be unhappy with their lives as a whole with boys becoming less happy with their appearance, happiness with friendships in decline and any experience of financial strain or poverty in childhood linked to lower well-being by age 14.

I wish you the very best for the new term. Thank you for all that you do for your school.



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