



BRENTWOOD DIOCESAN EDUCATION SERVICE

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

Governor News – April 2021

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.

Due to ongoing safety concerns, we are running the [July 2021 Governors’ Conference via Zoom, with a choice of essential workshops over 2 mornings](#). Delegates are able to **book for either or both mornings - [Friday 2 July](#) and/or [Monday 5 July 2021](#)**, but please note that places are limited to 100 delegates and will be allocated on a first come, first served basis. If oversubscribed priority will be given to up to two governors from each school

Ofsted has published [plans for a review into safeguarding policies and practices relating to sexual abuse in schools](#) following anonymous testimonials of sexual abuse on the website *Everyone’s Invited*. The review should conclude by the end of May 2021. Governing bodies need to be confident that pupils know how to report incidents and understand how the school has responded to any allegations. **Is your safeguarding policy clear? Have you looked at your data?**

A further *Safeguarding Children* webinar has been arranged for governors on **Monday 14 June 2021** (17:30-19:00) covering all the essential information needed to understand your statutory responsibilities. Suitable for all governors, but essential for those with a key responsibility for child protection and safeguarding, [you can book your place here](#)

The role of the clerk is crucial to governing board effectiveness. This half-day workshop on **Tuesday 5 October 2021 -9:30-12:00 noon** at Cathedral House in Brentwood, will help clerks understand their key responsibilities around *clerking specialist committees* such as exclusions, disciplinary and complaints. [Clerks can book their place here](#)

As part of the [pupil premium allocations and conditions of grant for 2021 to 2022](#), all schools are required to demonstrate, from the next academic year, how their spending decisions are informed by research evidence (condition 7) and use the [strategy statement templates](#) to publish their pupil premium strategy (condition 8)

To take account of the current pressures faced by schools, the [SFVS return for maintained schools has been delayed this year](#). For the financial year 2020 to 2021, schools should submit their SFVS to their local authority **no later than 28 May 2021**

On 25 March, DfE published [statutory induction guidance](#) as part of their [early careers framework \(ECF\) reforms](#). The governing body should ensure compliance with the requirement to have regard to this guidance

Millions of children across England are being asked to contribute to [an anonymous survey, The Big Ask, about their hopes and ambitions for the future and what is holding them back](#), to help inform key decision-making

DfE has confirmed that they are [considering a five-term year and changes to summer holidays](#) to help pupils in England catch up on lost learning

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