



## BRENTWOOD DIOCESAN EDUCATION SERVICE

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

### Governor News – July 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.**

[Ofsted have published their review of sexual abuse in schools](#) revealing how prevalent sexual harassment and online sexual abuse are for children and young people. Note that some of the unwanted and unacceptable behaviours are seen in primary schools, so the responses to them are setting the foundations for later. The Diocesan guidance [Safeguarding – A whole-school response to Everyone's Invited](#) summarises the actions that all schools should now be taking to meet this challenge. Shockingly, in the Ofsted sample only 25% of governing bodies had received any safeguarding training, with many not having a governor with a safeguarding lead. **When were your governors last trained? Does one of your governors have a safeguarding lead?**

The newly published [Diocesan Protocol for VA schools and academies in the Diocese of Brentwood](#) explains and exemplifies the relationship between the Diocesan Bishop and the schools of the diocese, building on the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) that has existed in the diocese for a number of years. The document provides clarity about what is expected from governors and school leaders in their roles and is intended to be a 'go to' reference document that schools will use to help them to work closely with the diocese in order to maintain and preserve Catholic education

A new webinar [Maintaining and Improving the Premises and Sites of Catholic Schools](#) has been arranged - particularly useful for chairs and those governors responsible for premises issues you can book your place here [28 Sept 2021](#) or [12 Oct 2021](#)

Governors who already have an access code for *Faithful Governance* will now be able to view a new course **Curriculum for Governors** as part of the Gift-ED library. Each school has been allocated at least 5 Gift-ED licences. Chairs can [request access to the Gift ED library of online courses for further governors](#)

The 2021 edition of the Academies Financial Handbook, which comes into effect on 1 September 2021, has been published. It has been renamed [The Academies Trust Handbook](#) with changes to the previous edition summarised on page 9

Is your school ready to implement the [new early years foundation stage framework](#), to be used by all Early Years Foundation Stage providers in England from September 2021?

DfE has confirmed funding for the [PE and Sports Premium 2021/22](#) Any under-spends carried forward from the 2019 to 2020 academic year will need to be spent in full by 31 July 2022. Boards will need to take this into consideration when monitoring this funding stream

Is wellbeing a regular agenda item at your full governing body meeting? [This document signposts to useful mental health and wellbeing resources](#)

Have you thought about becoming a **National Leader of Governance**? [Find out more](#)

**This is an optional service, sent once a month. 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**