



BRENTWOOD DIOCESAN EDUCATION SERVICE

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



Governor News – December 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.

DfE has updated its [Covid-19 operational guidance](#) following news of the Omicron variant - including a recommendation that adults and pupils from year 7 onwards in all school communal areas wear face coverings. Please also note the updated educational visits section to consider whether to go ahead with any planned international educational visits

DfE has launched its [draft sustainability and climate change strategy](#) with a final strategy due for publication in April 2022

In applying the Certificate of Catholic Practice, the [latest advice from the Catholic Education Service \(CES\) is that the obligation to attend Mass on Sundays and Holy Days of Obligation should be considered as once again operating in the normal way from the First Sunday of Advent 2021](#). Any individuals who may still be excused attendance at Mass are covered by the existing [Guidance for Clergy](#)

DfE have updated [Understanding your data: a guide for school governors and academy trustees](#) This resource brings together a range of data to help boards analyse, discuss, and challenge the educational and financial performance of their school or academy trust

Are all your governors up-to-date with their statutory responsibilities around safeguarding? The next *Safeguarding Children* webinar takes place on **Monday 17 January 2022** (17:30-19:00) and [you can book your place here](#)

DfE have updated the [Education Staff Wellbeing Charter](#) as a tool for schools to create, and publicly commit to, their own wellbeing strategies

As you know, the new RSE curriculum became statutory from September 2020. A clear line of enquiry by Ofsted for governing bodies will be around the RSE curriculum - how aware is your governing body of their responsibilities under the statutory guidance? [Book your place on the Diocesan RSE webinar](#) on **Wednesday 9 February 2022** (17:30-19:30)

Ofsted has announced that [‘Outstanding’ schools are being inspected this term for the first time in over a decade as part of their routine inspection regime](#), after an exemption clause was overturned last year. All 'Outstanding' schools last visited before 2015 will receive a full inspection, while those primaries and secondaries awarded the top grade since then will get short visits

The new [cost of school uniform statutory guidance](#) means schools must ensure that school uniform costs are reasonable, and parents get the best value for money. Governing boards should be compliant with much of this guidance by September 2022. Advice for schools on [developing their school uniform policy](#) is also available

This 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