



BRENTWOOD DIOCESAN EDUCATION SERVICE

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

Governor News – September 2023

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.

Education jargon is constantly changing and evolving and can be a cause of frustration, especially for new governors! [Check out our updated jargon buster](#)

The [2023 edition of the Academy Trust Handbook \(ATH\)](#) came into effect on **1 September 2023**. This provides an overarching framework for implementation of effective financial management and other controls - Academy trusts **must** comply with this handbook as a condition of their funding agreement

The new [Religious Education Directory \(RED\)](#) for Catholic Schools replaces the 2012 RECD with full implementation from September 2025. Leaders and governors must ensure that the school curriculum for religious education is a faithful expression of the RED and **from September 2023 should be able to articulate their plan for the implementation of RED**. We are repeating the RED webinar for governors on **21 November 2023** (17:00-18:30) to help you monitor this important area effectively. [To book your place](#)

DfE has published the [2023 version of the statutory guidance Keeping Children Safe in Education](#) which came into force on **1 September 2023**. The main focus for changes this year is around [filtering and monitoring](#) so make sure your school's Safeguarding and Child Protection Policy is updated to reflect the KCSIE changes. Our next safeguarding webinar on **Monday 2 October 2023** (17:30-19:00) will cover all the essential information needed to understand your statutory responsibilities. To [book a place](#)

Ofsted's [Education Inspection Framework \(EIF\) was revised mid-July 2023](#) with a new section added to the framework on evaluating safeguarding culture as part of the Leadership and Management section. **This came into effect on 1 September 2023**

DfE has updated their [statutory guidance on the suspension and permanent exclusion of pupils from maintained schools and academies](#) which **came into force on 1 September 2023**, allowing parents to request a remote meeting. **They have also published a [guide for parents](#)** on school behaviour and exclusion

DfE has updated its [guidance](#) on reinforced autoclaved aerated concrete (RAAC) to take a more precautionary approach and the new update also clarifies the funding support available

[DfE data reveals that post-pandemic absence rates are not improving](#) with claims that one in five children regularly miss school, especially on Fridays if parents are at home. **How regularly do you review attendance data at governing body meetings?** How does your school address poor attendance? Do you discuss and challenge trends?

Findings from the [National Literacy Trust's annual literacy survey](#) reveals that just over a third (34.6%) of children and young people said they enjoy writing in their free time, indicating a 26% reduction over the past 13 years

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