



BRENTWOOD DIOCESAN EDUCATION SERVICE

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



Governor News – December 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.

Our Gift-ED library of online courses, supporting governors in their role, has been funded for 4 years but [there is now a subscription for this valuable resource](#). **You will not be able to access Gift-ED courses without a subscription.** Has your school subscribed yet?

Hold the date: Our [2024 Governors' Conference](#) is taking place on **Tuesday 12 March 2024** and **Wednesday 13 March 2024**, with interactive webinars over both mornings. Delegates will be able to book for either or for both mornings – further details and booking available soon

[Ofsted has released their annual report](#) providing valuable insights into the national picture and a good guide as to where your school sits within education nationally

DfE have launched a [consultation on proposals to introduce minimum service levels in the event of any future industrial action](#). The consultation closes on 30 January 2024

It is important that all governors are aware of their responsibilities for child protection and safeguarding - especially new governors as part of their induction and governors with a lead for monitoring safeguarding in your school. The next *Safeguarding Children* update will run as a webinar on **Monday 4 March 2024** (17:30-19:00) and cover all the essential information needed to understand your statutory responsibilities. [To book a place](#)

DfE have published a preliminary study on [how schools and trusts narrow attainment gaps between ethnic groups](#)

Calling all chairs and vice chairs – the spring term Chairs' Forum will take place online on **Monday 18 March 2024 (16:30-18:00)**. This important termly virtual event for chairs and vice chairs will cover key topics as well as advice on recent Diocesan and National educational developments. [To book your place](#)

A £2million investment in Oak National Academy has been [announced](#) by DfE to support teachers with resources powered by artificial intelligence (AI). The investment will assist with the development of high quality curriculum resources online and create new teaching tools using AI. Over 500 respondents contributed to DfE's call for evidence on generative AI and [the results have now been published](#)

NHS England have published their [Mental Health of Children and Young People in England 2023 report](#). Among the findings-one in five children and young people aged eight to 25 had a probable mental disorder in 2023

This is an optional service, sent once a month. If you prefer NOT to receive *Governor News* please e-mail victoriabarnes@brcdt.org with the subject heading UNSUBSCRIBE GN; please include your name and school

Diocesan communications are issued solely to support you to carry out your education functions as a Catholic school leader on behalf of your diocesan bishop. They may contain sensitive information and must be respected as private communications and not be shared with any third parties external to the diocese without written BDES consent.