



BRENTWOOD DIOCESAN EDUCATION SERVICE

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

Governor News – January 2024

Blessings for a new term and the New Year

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.

Bishop Alan’s Pastoral Letter for the Epiphany reinforces his commitment to implementing the [Vision Document: Shaping Our Future](#) and urges everyone to help

The Bishops have agreed to amend the date for full implementation of the Religious Education Directory (RED) for ages 3 to 11 years to **September 2026** but schools should still have plans in place for staff training and a roll out of the RED to full implementation

[Our 2024 Virtual Conference for Governors and Trustees](#) will be held as a series of interactive webinars over the **mornings of Tuesday 12 March 2024** and **Wednesday 13 March 2024**. Delegates can book for either or both mornings. [Book your place](#)

[Ofsted inspections will not resume until week beginning 22 January 2024](#) and new Ofsted chief inspector Sir Martyn Oliver has launched an internal review into the response to the death of headteacher Ruth Perry. An immediate package of training for lead inspectors on mental health awareness has been put in place with a rolling programme of further mental health awareness training and the launch of [a ‘big listen’ to get the sector’s views on change](#)

Brentwood Diocesan Education Service are holding a second [Companies Day](#) on **Tuesday 30 January 2024** (9.30-14:00) at Campion School, Hornchurch. This event will showcase ways to help schools save money. Governors are welcome to attend, especially those with responsibilities for finance. [To book](#)

The Government has published the revised version of [Working Together to Safeguard Children](#) following consultation. The next *Safeguarding Children* update will run as a webinar on **4 March 2024** (17:30-19:00) and cover all the essential information needed to understand your statutory responsibilities. [Book your place](#)

The Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS) statutory framework has been updated. Here you can find a [summary of the changes](#) and [download the updated guidance](#)

DfE is seeking views on their [draft non-statutory guidance for schools and colleges about gender questioning children](#). Aimed at supporting schools and colleges, the guidance emphasises the duty to safeguard and promote the welfare of all children, urging a cautious approach to requests for social transition. [The consultation closes on 12 March 2024](#)

A new report by The Centre for Social Justice (CSJ) [Missing Link- Restoring the bond between schools and families](#) explores parental attitudes to school attendance and makes recommendations. [DfE have launched a major drive to improve school attendance](#), including a national communications campaign on the importance of attendance targeting parents

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

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