

Newsletter



26th February 2025

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Survey on SEND Needs in Schools

The CES has created a survey for headteachers and deputy headteachers to complete regarding SEND needs in schools. The purpose of this survey is to gather valuable insights to inform our ongoing work with the Government on SEND. <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/CES-SEND-survey-2025>

In order that we influence change at the highest level, please complete this CES survey, the deadline for response is 31.3.25. The more information we can provide towards the national picture the more likely change can begin.

VASCA funding

Schools with an academy order at the start of September 2024 that we expected to convert into a CIF eligible trust by 1st April 2025 have also been invited to apply.

CIF eligible schools have been invited to bid into the fund for 2025 to 2026. If a school has been invited to bid for CIF in the 2025 to 2026 financial year, their responsible body will not receive any SCA funding on their behalf. Schools invited to CIF should therefore submit a bid if they have condition investment requirements.

To receive direct SCA, multi-academy trusts and VA bodies must have met both eligibility criteria:



- the trust or VA body must have had 5 or more open schools at the start of September 2024

We notify academy trusts and VA school bodies that are eligible for SCA each autumn. Eligibility should not be assumed unless it has been confirmed.

<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/school-capital-funding#who-the-funding-is-for>

School Admission Requirements: Foreign Nationals

The Department for Education continues to receive reports of a small number of schools refusing to admit foreign national children, including refugees and asylum seekers, or delaying admitting them whilst they seek immigration documentation.

This practice breaches admissions and equalities law.

Whilst they reside in the UK all children have a right to attend school, irrespective of their immigration status. We encourage you to review the guidance provided on [school applications for foreign national children and children resident outside England.](#)

Whilst they are in England all parents are under a statutory duty (section 7 of the Education Act 1996) to ensure their children, if they are of compulsory school age, receive a suitable full-time education.

Their parents have a right to apply for a school, and school admission authorities are under a duty to comply with that preference unless 'prejudice' applies, as defined in section 86 of the School Standards and Framework Act 1998 (SSFA), and to comply with the rules about processing applications and not seeking unnecessary personal information set out within the School Admissions Code.

Also, under section 86 of the SSFA, LAs are under a duty to provide advice to all parents in their area on their preferences.

Information is available on the [government website](#) and states:

'Admission authorities for state-funded schools:

- must not refuse to admit a child on the basis of their nationality or immigration status nor remove them from the roll on this basis
- must not ask to see passports or other immigration information as a condition of admission (this would be a breach of paragraphs 1.9(a) and 2.8 of the [school admissions code](#))
- [with the exception of children who are Irish nationals](#), must not actively recruit foreign national children who are still resident overseas as pupils'

Chaplaincy Newsletter

Please [click here](#) to view the chaplaincy newsletter



Admissions Clarification Update

In recent editions of the newsletter we made reference to how the Certificate of Catholic practice was to be used and distributed. A decision was made, stating that this document would reside with the parish priest exclusively. Following discussions with a number of headteachers, governors and admissions officers, we have taken on board their comments and have adapted the guidance on the use of the CoP.

The relevant parish priest will still be able to provide parents and carers with a certificate and it will be for each individual parish to manage this process. In addition to this, schools will still be able to provide parents and carers applying with a copy of the certificate. This can be done with the inclusion of the CoP in the admissions pack or those applying can obtain a copy directly from the school. It remains the case that parents and carers are not able to download a copy from a school's website. The certificate is on the website for the purpose of familiarising applicants with the document.

We recognise that this is a further amendment to these arrangements and apologies for this but we have listened and responded to the points that have been raised with us. As always, if you have any questions please contact Daniel Coleman at danielcoleman@rcaos.org.uk

Contact with Property

Please send all queries relating to property, land and buildings to ecbuildings@rcaos.org.uk in the first instance. This will be picked up by a relevant member of the team.

The Romero Rosary by Archbishop John Wilson

Archbishop John Wilson has written a new book entitled The Romero Rosary. With introductory chapters about St Oscar Romero and the rosary, this beautiful and creative new book contains reflections on the traditional mysteries of the rosary (Joy, Light, Sorrow & Glory) and the NEW Romero Mysteries (Charity, Compassion and Mercy, & Justice and Peace) - all illumined for reflection and prayer by the words of St Oscar Romero. The book is available from Pauline Bookshops and online at www.paulineuk.org.

Request for Volunteers for Focus Groups for School Profiles

The Department of Education is currently consulting on the overall approach to improving school accountability in England. To support better understanding, the Department for Education is conducting research, with school senior leaders and parents, to inform reforms to school accountability, performance, and reporting. There are two research projects on this:

1. Focused on the potential development of 'school profiles', which aim to bring together a wide range of information about schools into a single place and make it easier to find the information users need. The initial thinking is that this could act as a 'one stop shop', where parents and professionals can go to see the broad range of information about a school.



It might include the Ofsted report card, up-to-date performance information and a range of other helpful information.

2. Focused on improvements to how schools report on Pupil Premium spending and aiding in planning processes.

There are no set criteria to take part, however, the research team is keen to engage with Head Teachers from a variety of schools – primary/secondary, inner city/rural and across the UK.

If you any of the schools in your diocese wish to take part in either research project, head teachers should complete the [online form](#) and a researcher will make contact . The research will begin w/c 3 March and the 1:1 session will last around 45mins, be remote and be completely anonymous.

ATCRE National RE Conference

Sponsors -Ten Ten Resources and Bible Society

Tickets are now on sale for the ATCRE National RE Conference on Saturday 1st March 2025 at St Thomas Aquinas Catholic School in Kings Norton, Birmingham.

The theme is 'Scripture at the heart'. We are looking forward to a fantastic lineup of speakers, seminars and exhibitors.

Keynote speakers - Prof. Bob Bowie and Brenden Thompson.

Seminar speakers - Lat Blaylock, Prof. Susan Docherty, Greg Finn, Kate Woolstenhulme, Andy Lewis, Teresa Kehoe and Alison Summerskill

Mass is at 9am with the Conference starting at 10am.

Tickets can be purchased on the ATCRE website at [Events | ATCRE](#).

Primary Scheme of Work

We wanted to take the opportunity to update you all on the work done on selecting the new primary scheme of work. Thank you for the support with this. It was such a positive experience with all leaders expressing how pleased they were to be involved. The representation was excellent with around 50 schools present from across the diocese have drawn all the information together and have submitted it to Archbishop John. We will update you with what happened next once he has made a decision.

The Well

The Well learning platform has had a number of new courses added under the leadership section. If you are unable to access The Well please email clairewilliams@rcaos.org.uk and we will provide you with login details.



MA Education: Religious Education

St Mary's University - Information event - Wednesday 26th February at 7pm

Thinking of completing an MA in RE - then come along to a zoom open event to hear all about it on Wednesday 26th February at 7pm. To book on the zoom call go to: <https://www.stmarys.ac.uk/events/2024/ma-education-webinar-all-pathways-30th-january-copy>

This programme is designed for anyone who is involved in the teaching of Religious Education (specialist and non-specialists), to support practitioners in all phases of schooling, whatever their location. The course seeks to develop knowledge, understanding and research skills in order to generate insights that transform professional practice in Religious Education.

Exemptions: students who have achieved 60 credits of Masters award (Level 7) in their ITE qualification are eligible to apply for exemption from two modules.

Teaching: This MA is offered as a two year part-time course, or a full time one year course. Modules are taught at St Mary's monthly on a Saturday (online is available). <https://www.stmarys.ac.uk/postgraduate-courses-london/religious-education>

Funding: Substantial funding is available for RE teachers, specialist and non-specialist, in all phases of schooling. Further details are available on <https://www.cstg.org.uk/grants/individual/masters-scholarship/>

The Big Lent Walk

Join us for the Big Lent Walk in 2025! By taking on the challenge of walking 200km in 40 days, you will be part of a massive team supporting people as they overcome poverty. We are incredibly excited about the Big Lent Walk 2025 and would love you to join us as we walk, run, roll, or stroll 200km in the 40 days of Lent. Sign up at www.walk.cafod.org.uk. You can also join as a Parish or School, just use the same link, and choose from the sign-up options.

Upcoming School Grants

[Kellogg's Breakfast Club Grants](#)

£1,000 grant - Priority for schools with over 40% of pupil premium eligibility - No deadline

[Catherine Cookson Charitable Trust](#)

£100 - £100,000 - Project schemes directed towards capital expenditure - No deadline

[Foyle School Library Scheme](#)

Up to £10,000 - Grant to help buy books, e-readers, library software, IT equipment and furniture - No deadline



Pilot Breakfast Club

The DfE have appointed 750 early adopter schools. Included in the pilot scheme is St Peters Catholic Primary School, Greenwich, St Helen's Catholic Primary School, Lambeth and St Teresa's Catholic Primary School, Merton.

We wish them success in the pilot and look forward to hearing the challenges and opportunities it brings for our schools.

Recruitment

Vacancies can be viewed in full here: <https://www.rcaoseducation.org.uk/recruitment/>

Lay Chaplain, St Paul's Academy

Abbey Wood

Closing date: 28th February 2025

Deputy Headteacher, St Anne's Catholic Primary School

London

Closing date: 7th March 2025

Chief Executive Officer, Sancta Familia Catholic Academy Trust

Closing date: 10th March 2025

Chief Executive Officer, Christ The Redeemer Catholic Education Trust

Kingston, Richmond & Wandsworth

Closing date: 10th March 2025

Headteacher, Laleham Lea School

Purley

Closing date: 14th March 2025

Early Years Foundation Stage Teacher, Our Lady Queen of Heaven RC Primary School

Wandsworth

Closing date: 2nd March 2025

Early Years Phase Leader, St Thomas of Canterbury School

Mitcham

Closing date: 12th March 2025

Events & Training

Buildings Termly Update

Tuesday 4th March 2025. 2pm-3pm. Zoom

[Book](#)

Effective Support and Challenge for Governors

Tuesday 4th March 2025. 5.30pm-7pm. Zoom

[Book](#)

Prayer and Liturgy – Part 2

Multiple dates & venues [Book](#)

Finance for Governors

Wednesday 12th March 2025. 5.30-7pm. Zoom

[Book](#)

Induction for New Foundation Directors, Governors and Clerks

Wednesday 19th March 2025. 4-5.30pm or

Monday 24th March 2025 5.30-7pm

Zoom [Book](#)

Oscar Romero Award Trust Mass

Thursday 27th March 2025. 12.30pm

St George's Cathedral, Lambeth Road, SE1 6HR

[Book](#)

Aspiring to Governance

Thursday 27th March 2025. 5.30-6.30pm. Zoom

[Book](#)



Save the Date!

Good Shepherd Mass (Secondary schools) - St George's Cathedral 1st May 2025 1.45pm

Celebration of Service Mass - St George's Cathedral 18th June 2025 4pm

Headteachers' Conference 2025 -Ashford International Hotel - 20th and 21st November 2025.



Save The Date!

Diocesan Jubilee Day - Festival of Hope
A day of celebration for primary schools

25th June 2025 9am-5pm

Aylesford Priory

Education Service
ARCHDIOCESE of SOUTHWARK

News

Notre Dame Catholic Girls' School Students and Staff Engage in Inspiring International Seminar with Rev. Professor Jim Wallis

Students, staff and governors from Notre Dame Catholic Girls' School in Southwark recently participated in an international seminar on 'Faith that does Justice' led by Rev. Professor Jim Wallis of Georgetown University.



[Continue reading.](#)

Mini Vinnies Turn River Waste into Christmas Decorations – Featured on ITV News!



Pupils from St Francis RC Primary School have been making waves with their creativity and commitment to caring for the environment. Before Christmas, our Mini Vinnies took part in a unique eco-project, transforming waste collected from the Thames River bank into beautiful Christmas decorations.

[Continue reading.](#)