



the Maximilian

Monthly Newsletter for Governors from the Education Commission

Edition 73
September 2019

Welcome... *The Maximilian* is a monthly newsletter from the Education Commission to all categories of governors in our schools, highlighting changes in legislation and other news which will be of help to governing bodies.

Reflection

Let us thank all those who teach in Catholic schools. Education is an act of love; it is like giving life.

Pope Francis-Twitter-1st March 2014

Welcome Back Message

Welcome back to the new school year. The last academic year produced some strong inspection outcomes for many of our schools. Our schools continued to achieve very strong outcomes in section 48 inspections and the large majority of our pupils attained results in all key stages, and in all types of tests, of which they and their teachers can be very proud. Well done to all of you.

The success of our schools is dependent upon the dedication & hardwork of all our staff, parents/ carers/ governors and staff. Thank you for giving of your time & expertise so generously.

I wish all of you every blessing and good fortune for the coming year, a year which promises to produce some emerging challenges and one where we will work to resolve those that endure. In January 2020, we will be launching a strategy for the Education Commission for the next four years, and will be consulting on that strategy in the Autumn Term. I am still keen to hear from you when we issue online versions for consultation. Please watch this space for various announcements over the next few weeks.

CES - Model Policies

The CES have updated their model policies. Please use the link below to view the up to date versions.

www.catholiceducation.org.uk

New/Amended Guidance and Information Guidance:

DFE

*The DfE has launched the 'Healthy schools rating scheme', designed as a self-assessment tool to help schools improve the health and wellbeing of their pupils. More information about the scheme can be read by [clicking here](#).

*The DfE, the Department for Digital, Culture, Media and Sport and the Department of Health and Social Care have collectively published a new action plan entitled 'School Sport and Activity Action Plan'. The action plan contains a summary of measures that will be taken across government to ensure that sport and physical activity are an integral part of both the school day and after-school activities. The full publication can be read by [clicking here](#).

*The DfE has updated its guidance on school attendance to include information on changes to the school day and/or school week. This can be read by [clicking here](#).

*The DfE has updated its guidance on preparations for Brexit with information for schools, higher education institutions and further education and apprenticeship providers on how to prepare for Brexit. These can be read by [clicking here](#).

Asbestos Management

*The DfE has published the Asbestos Management Assurance Process (AMAP) report. The report can be read in full by [clicking here](#).

*The DfE has updated the Asbestos Management Assurance Process (AMAP) user guide, to remove the deadline as the AMAP portal is still open for schools and responsible bodies to submit their information. This update can be read by [clicking here](#).

Teachers Pay & Pension

*The DfE has accepted the recommendations made in the recent report of the School Teachers' Review Body in full. From September 2019, all pay and allowance ranges for teachers and school leaders should be uplifted by 2.75%.

*The DfE has updated its guidance on teachers' pension employer contribution grant to include the supplementary fund guidance. This can be read by [clicking here](#).

Parental Bereavement

*New right to paid leave for bereaved parents from 2020. The Parental Bereavement (Leave and Pay) Act is expected to come into force in 2020 and will give employed parents who have lost a child the right to take paid leave to allow them time to grieve. More information can be read by [clicking here](#).

*The DfE has announced £17 million for a Trust Capacity Fund for the purpose of encouraging 'highperforming' academy trusts to grow and support more schools across England. Applications for additional funding from MATs and MACs interested in expanding will open in September 2019 and close in December 2019. The new fund replaces the MAT Development Improvement Fund and carries a significantly reduced budget (down from £53m to £17m). There are four strands to the fund and each has different eligibility. The application is a two-stage process involving an online check and then an application. MATs/MACs cannot apply if they have a current FNtl. More information can be read by [clicking here](#).

*The DfE has announced school improvement support for the 2019/20 academy year for schools identified as 'requires improvement' in their latest Ofsted report. The amount of support the school receives will depend on how many requires improvement judgments it has received. More information can be read by [clicking here](#).

*The DfE has updated its national pupil projections, future trends in pupil numbers figures. These were originally published last year but have now been updated for 2019 with additional actual data which is now available. The projections can be read by [clicking here](#).

Ofsted

*Ofsted has published an investigation into MATs: the benefits, challenges and functions. Ofsted makes a range of recommendations, including the strengthening of accountability at MAT level through inspection arrangements. The full investigation can be read by [clicking here](#).

ESFA

*The Chief Executive of the ESFA, Eileen Milner, has written to accounting officers of academy trusts (and copied to chairs of trustees) to draw their attention to recently published documents and new reporting requirements that will affect trusts. This letter can be read by [clicking here](#).

*One of the items referred to is the School resource management self-assessment tool (SRMSAT). From 'autumn 2019' completion of the SRMSAT will become mandatory for academy trusts on an annual basis. For 2019, trusts with an open academy on 31 August 2019 will need to provide a copy of the completed self-assessment checklist to ESFA by 14 November 2019. The ESFA will publish the updated checklist as an online form, including more details on how to submit it, in the coming weeks. The tool itself can be accessed by [clicking here](#).

*The ESFA has updated its guidance on academy trust financial management good practice guides. This can be read by [clicking here](#).

*The topic is external auditor management letters. Further guidance can be read by [clicking here](#).

General Update - The ESFA has issued updates on several matters.

The updates can be accessed by [clicking here](#).

ICO

The Information Commissioner's Office has announced the first fines for infringements of the General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR). One of these was levelled against British Airways for over £183million for a cyber attack on its website which led to 500,000 customers' details being compromised. It is a reminder to all organisations to ensure that their data protection policies and procedures are up-to-date. More information can be found by [clicking here](#).

Members of the public can make Freedom of Information (FOI) requests to schools and academies. There are a number of exemptions under the FOI Act, which schools or academies may be able to rely upon in certain circumstances, to avoid publishing the information. One of these, the Section 36 exemption, is based on publication inhibiting free and frank discussion. The CES has a briefing note on FOI requests on its website which can be read by [clicking here](#).

A briefing from the law firm, Browne Jacobson, on section 36 exemptions, can be read by [clicking here](#).

NSPCC

The NSPCC has published a report entitled 'How safe are our children 2019?' The report addresses issues ten indicators relating to online harm, survey responses and online safety. The full report and Executive Summary can be read by [clicking here](#).

Education Support Partnership (08000 562 561)

The Education Support Partnership are the only UK charity dedicated to improving the wellbeing and mental health of education staff in schools, colleges and universities. The support is available to anyone who works in schools about all kinds of issues including:

- Feeling overwhelmed, stressed or anxious
- Personal issues
- Financial information
- Issues of work-life balance

Helpline: 08000 562 561

Text Helpline: 07909 341229

The helpline is free and available to all teachers, lecturers and staff in education (primary, secondary, further or higher education) in England, Wales and Scotland 24/7, 365 days a year.

Diocesan Logo

Archbishops' House has asked us to remind all schools that they should not use Archbishop Peter Smith's personal coat of arms on their websites and letterheads. Please use the official diocesan logo instead.

The official logo can be downloaded by [clicking here](#). It is the logo below.

Education
Commission
CATHOLIC DIOCESE OF SOUTHWARK

