

**Diocesan Schools Commissioners  
Directors of Religious Education**

*DSC and DRE Letters are issued solely to enable you to carry out your education functions on behalf of your diocesan bishop. They often contain information of a sensitive nature and must be respected as private communications and not be shared with any third parties external to the diocese without CES consent.*

**COVID-19 Guidance on Governance**

The DfE has now published Covid-19 Governance Update which provides the latest departmental and government advice on the spread of the COVID-19 virus and how this relates to the role of those on governing bodies, boards of academy companies and clerks and governance professionals. The advice note can be found here: [https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/school-governance-update/school-governance-update-march-2020?utm\\_source=GT&utm\\_medium=SH&utm\\_campaign=Mar](https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/school-governance-update/school-governance-update-march-2020?utm_source=GT&utm_medium=SH&utm_campaign=Mar)

We have been asked to promote the guidance as widely as possible, so I should be grateful if you would please cascade to schools and through all available channels.

The legal team has been fielding questions about how those conducting schools might continue to do so at this time. Hopefully the advice from the DfE will assist. In addition, the NGA has issued guidance which you may well find useful and can be accessed here: <https://www.nga.org.uk/Knowledge-Centre/Executive-leaders-and-the-governing-boards/The-Coronavirus-Information-for-governing-boards-M.aspx>

In discussions with the DfE we were asked to pass on to you a request to encourage your schools to work collaboratively at this time and to liaise closely with local authorities in doing so. There is concern that local authorities may be struggling to cope with the administration of setting up hubs and it would be helpful if schools would work together to present proposals to them.

**Christine Fischer  
Assistant Director & Head of Legal**

**Catholic Education Service  
39 Eccleston Square, London, SW1V 1BX  
Phone: 0207 901 1900 Email: [general@catholiceducation.org.uk](mailto:general@catholiceducation.org.uk)**