

The Maximilian

A monthly newsletter for governors within the Archdiocese of Southwark

Edition 97
April 2022

Reflection

Every man, every woman who has to
Take up the service of government,
Must ask themselves two questions:
"Do I love my people in order to serve them better?
Am I humble and do I listen to everybody,
to diverse opinions in order to choose the best path?" If
you don't ask those questions, your governance will not be good.
Pope Francis

DfE Guidance

The DfE has issued the following guidance:

The energy market remains volatile and prices remain high. This has the potential to impact on all sectors, including education.

The situation facing individual settings will depend on:

- the contract length (typically 12, 24 or 36 months)
- if the energy rate is variable, or fixed for the life of the contract
- when the contract is due for renewal
- who the suppliers are

Some local authorities recommend that settings do not allow their existing contracts to expire and contact their current supplier to discuss a contract extension, as buying energy out of contract is more expensive than buying at the market rate.

[DfE approved energy framework](#) suppliers are available to provide renewal quotes for schools. These frameworks provides a compliant route to market and different options based on a school's need.

The [Get help buying for schools](#) procurement team is available to provide schools with further free advice and guidance on their energy contracts. Please contact them for assistance.

Russia and Belarus suppliers

Cabinet Office has issued [further advice for public bodies with contracts with suppliers from Russia and Belarus](#). This advises you to:

- identify any contracts where the prime contractor is a Russian or Belarusian supplier

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- where a Russian or Belarusian prime contractor is identified, consider terminating that contract in accordance with the terms of the contract i.e. following a legally compliant process
- only proceed to terminate a contract if an alternative supplier can be sourced in line with value for money, affordability and with minimal disruption to public services

You should seek advice from an energy expert or a relevant public sector buying organisation before taking action to terminate an existing energy supply contract. In addition to talking to your current provider or a relevant public sector buying organisation, schools can also visit [get help buying for schools](#) for commercial and procurement advice. Legal advice should be sought through your setting's usual channels.

An update for schools on children and young people arriving under the Ukraine Family Scheme and Homes for Ukraine

Please see attached a letter from the Secretary of State for Education, regarding the ongoing situation in Ukraine and the response.

We know a number of our schools have already begun taking in refugee children, fleeing the conflict in Ukraine. You will know that we are compiling a database of where we have places in our schools. We are very grateful to those schools who have provided us with the relevant information. We would encourage others to do so, if they are able to help. Please continue to email Daniel Coleman at danielcoleman@rcaos.org.uk if you have spaces in any year groups.

A number of schools have been seeking advice and to update you, please [click here](#) to view the letter from the Secretary of State with regards to taking in these children and the school's admission arrangements. Many of you may have already received this from your local authority, so apologies if this is the case.

City & Hackney Safeguarding Children Partnership published a review about Child Q in March 2022. This case was widely report in the media.

The review states the following

In 2020, Child Q, a Black female child of secondary school age, was stripped searched by female police officers from the Metropolitan Police Service(MPS). The search, which involved the exposure of Child Q's intimate body parts, took place on school premises, without an Appropriate Adult present and with the knowledge that Child Q was menstruating.

The review makes eight findings and 14 recommendations for improving practice. The first four findings which mostly relate to schools as well as finding 8 are listed below together with one recommendation

Finding 1: The school was fully complaint with expected practice standards when responding to its concerns about Child Q smelling of cannabis and its subsequent search of Child Q's coat, bag, scarf and shoes. This demonstrated good curiosity by involved staff and an alertness to potential indicators of risk.

Finding 2: The decision to strip search Child Q was insufficiently attuned to her best interests or right to privacy.



Finding 3: School staff deferred to the authority of the police on their arrival at school. They should have been more challenging to the police, seeking clarity about the actions they intended to take. All practitioners need to be mindful of their duties to uphold the best interests of children.

Finding 4: School staff had an insufficient focus on the safeguarding needs of Child Q when responding to concerns about suspected drug use.

Finding 8: Having considered the context of the incident, the views of those engaged in the review and the impact felt by Child Q and her family, racism (whether deliberate or not) was likely to have been an influencing factor in the decision to undertake a strip search.

Recommendation 8: Where any suspicion of harm arises by way of concerns for potential or actual substance misuse, a safeguarding response is paramount. Practitioners should always contact Children's Social Care to make a referral or seek further advice in such circumstances.

Good Estate Management

Please see below, an update on good estate management from the DfE, which should be shared with Governors, HT & SBM and any other relevant staff.

The Diocese buildings Team, will be running termly drop in sessions, where you can raise any questions or concerns you have.

https://www.gov.uk/guidance/good-estate-management-for-schools/health-and-safety?utm_source=01%20April%202022%20C19&utm_medium=Daily%20Email%20C19&utm_campaign=DfE%20C19

April wage increase

National Minimum wage is
Living Wage rates rise to £9.90 across the UK (40p increase), and £11.05 in London (20p increase)

Courses & Events

Clerks to Governors Forum
27th April 2022 2pm-3pm
Free
[Book](#)

Religious Education in the Catholic School
Inspection Framework
4th May 2022 6pm-7.30pm
£25 Zoom
For: Governors
[Book](#)

Writing a Self Evaluation Document for Primary
and Secondary Schools
5th May 2022 3.30pm-5pm
£25 Zoom
For: Headteachers, Religious Education Subject
Leaders & Governors
[Book](#)
Clerks to Governors Forum
5th May 2022 6pm-7pm
Free
[Book](#)



Induction for New Foundation Governors
10th May 2022 4pm-5.30pm
25th May 2022 5.30pm-7pm
£25 Zoom
For New Foundation Governors
[Book](#)

Catholic Life & Mission in the Catholic Schools
Inspection Framework
17th May 2022 6pm-7.30pm
£25 Zoom
For: Governors
[Book](#)

Collective Worship in the Catholic Schools
Inspection Framework
10th May 2022 6pm-7.30pm
£25 Zoom
For: Governors
[Book](#)

Planning for Catholic School Inspections from
September 2022
24th May 2022 4pm-5.30pm
£25 Zoom
For: Headteachers, Religious Education Subject
Leaders & Governors
[Book](#)

Repeated from March 2022 edition of the Maximilian.

Reminder of the main responsibilities of foundation governors

Foundation Governors are appointed for a four-year term by the Director of the Education Commission, on behalf of the Archbishop, to represent the interests of the Trustees of the Archdiocese or, in schools under the Trusteeship of a Religious Order, by the person approved by the Order to make such appointments to serve the interests of their Trusteeship, working under the authority of the Archbishop. Foundation Governors form the majority on a Catholic school's governing body. They have the responsibility of assisting the Bishop, by sustaining and developing the Catholic ethos and distinctive Catholic nature of the school in which they serve. They have a specific commission that takes the form of an undertaking to ensure that the school is at all times conducted in accordance with the provisions of the Archdiocesan Trust Deed. **All categories of governors in voluntary aided Catholic schools and academies are legally bound by either the Instrument of Government or the Articles and Memorandum of Association of their school or academy.** The Instrument of Government or Articles and Memorandum of Association contains a very important clause which specifies how the school/academy must be run.

It reads as follows:

"The school was founded by and is part of the Catholic Church. The school is to be conducted as a Catholic school in accordance with the Canon Law and teachings of the Catholic Church, and in accordance with the Trust Deed of the Archdiocese of Southwark, and in particular:

a) religious education is to be in accordance with the teachings, doctrines, discipline and general and particular norms of the Catholic Church;

b) religious worship is to be in accordance with the rites, practices, discipline and liturgical norms of the Catholic Church:

and at all times the school is to serve as a witness to the Catholic faith of Our Lord Jesus Christ."



This is a very clear statement to governors about the way in which they must conduct their school, and your particular attention is drawn to the last two lines, which prescribe that, in everything it does and in all aspects of its work, the school must serve as a witness to Our Lord Jesus Christ. In other words, a Catholic school is not one which merely follows the secular National Curriculum with Catholic religious education and liturgical worship bolted on, but rather an institution where Gospel values and the Catholic faith are at the heart of everything and permeate every facet of its work.

Guidance on Visitors and External Speakers

When inviting visitors and external speakers do consult the Diocesan policy. Please [click here](#).

Decree from Archbishop John Wilson

Please use the link below to view a Decree from Archbishop John stating that the appointment of a Chair of Governors in any voluntary-aided, academy or Independent school in the Archdiocese of Southwark must be a Foundation Governor.

[Decree](#)

