

The Maximilian

A monthly newsletter for governors within the Archdiocese of Southwark

Edition 96
March 2022

Reflection

Educating isn't a profession but an attitude, a way of being. In order to educate you must go out of yourselves and amidst the young, accompanying them in the stages of their growth, standing beside them.

Pope Francis

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."

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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](#).

Revised behaviour in schools guidance and suspension and permanent exclusions guidance

Please [click here](#) to view the open consultation.

School Condition Allocation and Statlog

This letter was circulated to all Chairs of Governors and Headteachers in January 2022. In case it has not been shared with the wider governing body, please [click here](#) to view.

Courses & Events

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

Clerks to Governors Forum
5th May 2022 6pm-7pm
Free
[Book](#)

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

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](#)

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



Catholic Life & Mission in the Catholic Schools
Inspection Framework
17th 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 February 2022 edition of the Maximilian.

School admission appeals

<https://www.gov.uk/government/consultations/changes-to-the-school-admission-appeals-code>

Consultation description

The Dfe is seeking views on a revised version of the statutory school admission appeals code. This allows appeals to be held remotely (by telephone or video conference) as well as in person. It also allows appeal hearings to continue with just 2 panel members if the third panel member needs to withdraw.

The changes make permanent some of the arrangements that were temporarily put in place as a result of the coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic.

Inspection Handbook

Ofsted's School Inspection Handbook was updated again in February to clarify:

- How frequently Ofsted will be inspecting schools (paragraphs 41 to 45). Ofsted are likely to inspect good schools last inspected in the 2016/17 academic year in the 2021/22 academic year, which is an extension of about 5 terms. From the 2022/23 academic year, Ofsted will work to gradually reduce this extension. In time, this will mean that Ofsted are likely to inspect good schools only 3 to 4 terms later than usual (so around 5 years after their last inspection). For subsequent inspections, Ofsted will return to inspecting good schools around every 4 years.
- That Ofsted acknowledges that not all schools have had the opportunity to complete the process of adopting or constructing their curriculum fully due to Covid. Paragraphs 229-231 outline the transitional arrangements that have been temporarily put in place, which have been extended and will be reassessed in time for September 2022. Ofsted highlights that in schools with primary-age pupils, transition arrangements do not apply to reading, writing and maths; therefore, in infant, junior and primary schools, including middle schools deemed primary, transition arrangements can only apply to the science and the foundation curriculum.



- Ofsted’s approach to harmful sexual behaviour (paragraphs 315-317); inspectors will not investigate allegations of sexual harassment, abuse or violence, but will consider how schools handle such allegations and ensure that allegations are reported to the appropriate authority. Ofsted have clarified that if schools do not have adequate processes in place, it is likely that safeguarding will be considered ineffective.

The updated Ofsted Inspection Handbook can be accessed [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](#)

