

The Maximilian

A monthly newsletter for governors within the Archdiocese of Southwark

Edition 102
October 2022

Christians, especially young Christians, deserve praise and support when they offer themselves voluntarily in the service of other people and nations.

Indeed, it is the duty of all God's people, with the bishops giving a lead by word and example, to do all in their power to relieve the sufferings of our times, following the age-old custom of the Church in giving not only what they can spare but also what they need for themselves.

From the 2nd Vatican Council's pastoral constitution
"Gaudium et Spes" on the Church in the modern world

Catholic Children's Society - Crisis Fund

The Catholic Children's Society operate a Crisis Fund which provides immediate financial support for families facing a crisis in their lives.

Parish Priests and Headteachers can apply to this fund on behalf of a family and we will respond within 24 hours.

This support can make a huge difference to families in desperate situations when they have nowhere else to turn.

T: 020 8969 5305 info@cathchild.org.uk



Schools Causing Concern Guidance

Following consultation the existing coasting schools regulations have been updated with effect from 1 September 2022 so that schools judged less than Good in their two most recent Ofsted inspections will now be covered by the coasting definition. Schools that meet this definition are referred to as 'schools that are not making necessary improvements.' Schools that are not making necessary improvements will be eligible for intervention action to support them to improve. Once eligible, the relevant Regional Director (RDs, formally known as regional schools commissioners) will assess each school on a case-by-case basis and take into account any representations the school, where relevant, the religious body, and other interested stakeholders wish to make, before deciding whether intervention and further support are necessary.

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The DfE policy is that this support can generally best be provided by ensuring that all schools with consecutive less than 'Good' judgements are part of a strong multi-academy trust. In practice this means that:

RDs will only mandate academy conversion, leadership change or academy trust transfer of a school in relation to educational standards if Ofsted has judged it Inadequate, or if the school has met the new coasting definition (Schools that are not making necessary improvements) and the relevant RD has assessed that the school would benefit from such interventions.

- RDs will not use warning notices on the grounds of low standards of pupil performance apart from in exceptional circumstances.
- RDs will not conduct uninvited visits to schools.
- High quality, effective governance is key to the success of any school. As such, the department is committed to ensuring robust governance in all schools. Where breakdowns in governance occur, the RD and Education and Skills Funding Agency (ESFA) will continue to use their powers to hold schools to account for their governance and financial management regardless of the school's Ofsted rating. Both maintained schools and academies will be held to account equally and RDs will continue to challenge underperformance in both types of school.
- Unless a school is subject to intervention action or is run by a single academy trust, RDs will continue to approach academy trusts, local authorities and (in the case of schools with a religious character) the relevant religious body, rather than individual schools.

The power to intervene in schools not making necessary improvements is discretionary and so once eligible, the relevant RD will assess each school on a case-by-case basis. RDs will begin to consider intervention action in schools not making necessary improvements from the autumn term 2022. RDs will only consider taking action in schools with 2,3 or 4 consecutive less than 'Good' judgments where they have had their most recent Section 5 Ofsted inspection since 1 May 2021. Schools which have a long-term history of underperformance (5 or more consecutive Ofsted judgments of less than 'Good') may be considered for intervention regardless of the date of their last inspection.

[Schools causing concern - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk)

School Uniform Policy

Don't forget that the school must now have a uniform policy, which is published on the school website and publish details of where second-hand uniform can be purchased. There is an obligation on schools to ensure that required uniform items do not impact in an unfair way financially on some households. The DfE statutory guidance on the cost of school uniforms explains that parents should not have to think about the cost of a school uniform when choosing which schools to apply for, so schools must ensure their uniform is affordable. If an item needs



to meet specific requirements, for instance, smart black shoes, then this should be clearly stated.

The published uniform policy should clearly state whether each item is optional or required. If the item is only used in some circumstances or at certain times of the year, then this should be made clear. The policy should also make clear whether a generic item will be accepted or if a branded item is required.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/cost-of-school-uniforms/cost-of-school-uniforms>

Energy Support for Schools

This scheme will provide energy bill relief for schools and other eligible non-domestic customers in Great Britain. Discounts will be applied to energy usage initially between 1 October 2022 and 31 March 2023. Suppliers will apply reductions to the bills of all eligible non-domestic customers, with the government compensating suppliers for the reduction.

The discount applied will be in pence per kilowatt hour (p/kWh). The p/kWh government support for comparable contracts will be the same across suppliers, but the absolute level of individual bills will continue to vary across different contracts and tariffs. The support will be automatically applied to all eligible bills; schools do not need to take action or apply to the scheme. The savings for energy used in October will be seen in October bills, which would usually be received in November.

The government has provided the following example of the impact the relief scheme may have for a school: 'A school uses 10 MWh of electricity and 22 MWh of gas a month. They signed a fixed contract in July 2022, giving them a current monthly energy bill of about £10,000. At the time they signed their contract, wholesale prices for the next 6 months were expected to be higher than the government supported price of £211/MWh for electricity, and £75/MWh for gas, meaning they can receive support under this scheme.

The difference between expected wholesale prices when they signed their contract and the government supported price is worth £240/MWh for electricity and £70/MWh for gas, meaning they receive a discount of £4,000 per month, reducing their original bill by 40%.'

The government has also undertaken to review the scheme in 3 months' time, to inform their decisions regarding further support after 31 March 2023. If further support is put in place they have stated the support would be in place at the end of the current relief scheme, without a gap.

[Energy Bill Relief Scheme: help for businesses and other non-domestic customers - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/energy-bill-relief-scheme-help-for-businesses-and-other-non-domestic-customers/energy-bill-relief-scheme-help-for-businesses-and-other-non-domestic-customers)



Consider becoming a governor

Please share this flyer with anyone considering becoming a governor.

A copy is also attached to the email.

Please click the link below to book onto a session on considering becoming a Foundation Governor or Foundation Director.

[Thursday 24th November 2022 6pm](#)

[Wednesday 30th November 2022 4pm](#)

[Thursday 9th March 2023 4pm](#)

[Wednesday 15th March 2023 at 6pm](#)

Could You Become a Governor or Director?

Do you have the skills needed to be a Foundation Governor of a Catholic school or Foundation Director of a Catholic academy or multi academy trust?

Could you spare a few hours a month?

This is a fulfilling role that isn't without its challenges. Governors or Directors work together as a team to ensure a good standard of education is being achieved. Being a Governor or Director is an opportunity to develop the skills you have and to improve the futures of children today.

You do not need to be a parent or work in the education sector.

Please click the link below to book onto a free session that will provide additional information and answer any questions you have on becoming a Foundation Governor or Foundation Director.

[Thursday 9th March 2023 4pm](#)

[Wednesday 15th March 2023 at 6pm](#)

Courses & Events

New to the Role of Chair of Governors

Wednesday 16th November 2022 6pm-7.30pm

£25 Zoom

[Book](#)

Chairs of Governors Drop ins

Tuesday 15th November 4pm-5pm

Free Zoom

[Book](#)

Wednesday 16th November 5pm-6pm

Free Zoom

[Book](#)

Governors Conference – Academisation

Saturday 28th January 2023 9.15am-2.30pm

£75 Zoom

£100 In person (London location to be confirmed)

[Book](#)

