

Newsletter



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Reflection

Beloved friends, brothers and sisters in Christ,

Welcome to a new year that invites us to look back with thanksgiving and to look forward with expectation.

I trust you enjoyed a much-deserved rest during the Christmas holidays and are now finding your stride as we return to our classes, offices, and the many meetings ahead.

January always begins with our Mother Mary. On 1st January, we celebrate Mary, the Holy Mother of God. On the 6th, we celebrate the Epiphany of the Lord, bringing our gifts to the Infant King. What spiritual gift did you offer Jesus this year? On the 8th, we celebrate the Baptism of the Lord, which brings the Christmas season to an end and leads us into Ordinary Time before Lent.

Throughout January, we celebrate great saints who inspire all those involved in education: Saints Basil the Great and Gregory Nazianzen, Doctors of the Church; Saint Anthony the Abbot; Saint Agnes, Virgin and Martyr; Saint Francis de Sales; and Saint Thomas Aquinas, another great Doctor of the Church. Towards the end of the month, we honour Saints Timothy and Titus, and the Conversion of Saint Paul. On the last day of the month, we celebrate Saint John Bosco, one of the great teachers of young people.

January is filled with great saints who, through the centuries, have continued to inspire many. They remind us that we are called to be saints who can also transform lives. These saints teach us by their example and writing. They educated and changed many lives and continue to do so today. They are our true role models.



On a personal note, on behalf of the Education Service, I would like to thank Angela Cox, whom we bid farewell with gratitude for her time as DSC, and warmly welcome Colette Doran-Hannon as she steps into the role of Diocesan School Commissioner and wish her every success in this new position.

Once again, Happy New Year with many blessings.

Canon Victor Darlington
Education and Director of Caritas, Archdiocese of Southwark

Census 2026

England & Wales. 15th January 2026 – 11th February 2026
All CES Census returns must be completed during the Census period.

The Census offers crucial insights into Catholic education, guiding policy at various levels and supporting the promotion of Catholic education.

Further details can be found here: <https://www.catholiceducation.org.uk/census>

Counter Fraud News and Alerts Registration

This service is being provided by the DfE to help recipients to stay informed about emerging fraud risks, prevention tips and important updates.

Further details and the option to sign up can be found here: <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/report-fraud-or-financial-irregularity-to-dfe>

Feedback on the Education Service

Please use the link below to give feedback on the Education Service, what you want or need from our team. The feedback from this form will help the team shape and develop the Education Service in the most appropriate way.

Please use this link: <https://www.rcaoseducation.org.uk/esf/>

Leading Trust Improvement: SEND

Designed for trust leaders who want to drive meaningful, lasting change for pupils with special educational needs and disabilities.

Join a network of dedicated professionals, all focused on improving outcomes for pupils who need it most.



Over 12 months, you will:

- > Take part in live, expert-led sessions.
- > Build your understanding and develop practical approaches to problem solving.
- > Work alongside a colleague to create solutions tailored to your trust's needs.

Further details can be found here: https://www.ambition.org.uk/programmes/trust-improvement/?utm_source=salesforce&utm_medium=email&utm_content=lp&utm_campaign=lti_send_2025

Secondary Heads of RE Resources

Since the last meeting at the Secondary Head's Conference in November 2025, we have been working on some of the requests that were made. In response to this, we have created a Padlet called The Lighthouse to support the sharing of resources, essential information for HoDs and updates that might be helpful.

The Lighthouse will only be as good as the contributions that we receive, please send through any resources that you may wish to share to susanderfield@rcaos.org.uk on the following areas:

- Sample Core RE programmes (Outlines/PPT's/Schemes)
- Draft Annual Plans of Provision
- Sample Mapping documents for the RED

Add a watermark to your work if you do not want it to be duplicated and we would ask for all those who download to respect this.

Please follow this link to view The Lighthouse: <https://padlet.com/susanderfield/the-lighthouse-a-secondary-religious-education-resource-for--nnzw7iqu7ld916vs>

A New Year's Welcome from Zen Educate!

Happy New Year! We hope you all had a well-deserved Christmas break and managed to rest, recharge, and enjoy some time with loved ones. As we jump into 2026, we're excited for everything the new term will bring.

We absolutely loved meeting so many of you at the Head Teachers' Conference at the end of last year, and watching the children take part in the Advent celebrations at the beautiful St George's Cathedral was such a highlight. What a wonderful way to end the term!

A quick reminder that Zen Educate is proud to be working in partnership with the Archdiocese, and we're here to support your school with any staffing needs, big or small, short or long term. If you're curious about how we can help or want to learn more about what the partnership includes, please just reach out. We're always happy to chat and support however we can.

Don't forget, you also have free access to our CPD library! If you'd like to know how to get logged in, drop us a message and we'll send everything over. For primary support, contact: sarah.salisbury@zeneducate.com For secondary support, contact: helen.mills@zeneducate.com. Wishing you all a brilliant start to the new year, PG 3 we're looking forward to working with you throughout 2026!



CSI Change Log

Please use the link below to view all changes in relation to inspections under CSI.

<https://www.catholiceducation.org.uk/resources/csi-change-log>

Monthly Q&A Judaism drop in – January 2026

Tuesday January 20th 2026, 3.45-4.45pm

The session will be led by Anna Silver and the informal meeting style allows for a free-flowing and informative conversation. Any teacher who teaches about Judaism is welcome and no question is a silly one!

Zoom link: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89349637244?pwd=8QofFAalGbXaZuHzGvfkjCeHm8AZrj.1>

Meeting ID: 893 4963 7244

Passcode: 279652

Are you an RE teacher with questions about Judaism?

A chance to ask anything you like...

Open to primary and secondary teachers who teach Judaism

Why don't all...

What's the difference between...

I don't understand which...



Tues 20th Jan 2026, 3.45-4.45pm

Any question answered



by Anna Silver,
Education Officer

Monthly informal drop in session

(for monthly dates and zoom links email
anna.silver@bod.org.uk)

For Zoom link see attached text



2026 Staffing and Safety Priorities for Education Leaders

The pressures on educational settings continue to intensify. In 2026, education employers face a fast-evolving employment law landscape, heightened health and safety expectations, and increasing scrutiny from regulators, staff, parents and the media. This practical webinar on 22 January at 9.30am will help you understand the key staffing and safety priorities for education providers in 2026, what's changing, and where leaders should focus their attention to stay compliant and protected.

Register here: <https://worknest.com/training/2026-staffing-and-safety-priorities-for-education-leaders-partners/?v=ADOSW>

Navigating Redundancies and Restructures in 2026 | legal updates and best practices

If redundancies or restructures are on your radar, don't miss this free, one-hour webinar on 29 January at 2.00 pm, where WorkNest's legal experts will explore key updates to processes following recent case law and legislative changes, highlight common employer pitfalls, and provide answers to your most pressing questions.

Register here: <https://worknest.com/training/navigating-redundancies-and-restructures-in-2026-partners/?v=ADOSW>

Winter Weather and the Workplace FAQ

Winter weather can create real challenges for employers. Unsafe driving conditions, reduced or cancelled public transport, and school closures can throw workplaces into chaos, leaving employers battling disruption and potential staffing shortages. Below are some of the most common questions our team are receiving right now to help you maintain smooth operations as snow and ice sweeps the UK.

Download here: https://worknest.com/apps/access-your-content-partner/?doc=https://wn.worknest.com/l/398692/2026-01-06/dknk65/398692/1767713306AnHlo4IG/Winter_Weather_and_the_Workplace_FAQ.pdf?v=ADOSW

Recruitment

To advertise any school vacancy with us for free, please email clairewilliams@rcaos.org.uk

Head of RE, St Columba's Catholic Boys' School

Bexleyheath, Kent

Closing date: 14th January 2026

Vice Principal, St Paul's Academy

Abbey Wood, Greenwich

Closing date: 15th January 2026

Head of Finance, Ten:Ten Resources

Remote

Closing date: 20th January 2026

Headteacher, St Joseph's Catholic Primary School

Northfleet

Closing date: 26th January 2026



Headteacher, St Simon of England Catholic Primary School

Ashford

Closing date: 26th January 2026

Headteacher, Holy Cross School

Catford

Closing date: 30th January 2026

Headteacher, St Philomena's Catholic Primary School

Bromley

Closing date: 2nd February 2026

Headteacher, Holy Innocents Primary School

Bromley

Closing date: 2nd February 2026

Maths Head of Department, St Ursula's Convent School

Greenwich

Closing date: 5th February 2026

Class Teacher, St Peter's Catholic Primary School

Woolwich

Closing date: 13th February 2026

Headteacher, St Thomas' Catholic Primary School

Canterbury

Closing date: 2nd March 2026

Events & Training

All sessions are available to book on our website: www.rcaoseducation.org.uk/et

Spring 2026

Oscar Romero Award Trust Session

Thursday 15th January 2026. 4-5.30pm

Zoom

Finance for Governors

Tuesday 20th January 2026. 5.30pm-7pm.

Zoom

Directors Keeping in Touch

Tuesday 27th January 2026. 8-8.30am

Zoom

Employee Procedures and Hearings; the role of the Governor

Tuesday 27th January 2026. 5.30-7pm

Zoom

Handling Complaints for Governors

Thursday 5th February 2026. 5.30-7pm

Zoom

Primary Religious Education Leaders Conference

Thursday 12th February 2026. 9.30am-4pm

Amigo Hall, SE1 6HR. £25

Clerk to Governors Forum

Thursday 26th February 2026. 2-3pm

Zoom

**Marketing Training with AmplifiED Schools
Marketing – Secure Admissions, Celebrate Success, Build Community**

Tuesday 24th February 2026. 4-5.30pm.

Zoom

Governors' Gatherings

Wednesday 25th February 2026. 4-5pm

Zoom

The Way of Beauty: The Evangelising Power of the Arts in Education and Catechesis

Friday 12th March 2026. 10am-4pm

Amigo Hall, SE1 6HR. £25



Save the Date!

Oscar Romero Award Trust Mass - Thursday 26th March 2026

News

Epiphany Liturgy at Sacred Heart Catholic Primary School

On Tuesday 6th January 2026, Sacred Heart Catholic Primary School Battersea celebrated the Feast of the Epiphany with a very special service. Despite the frosty weather, the children braved the cold to gather outside with Deacon Michael for a beautiful liturgy.

[Continue reading.](#)



Christmas Hoops at St Ethelbert's Catholic Primary School & Nursery



Every year the children at St Ethelbert's Catholic Primary School & Nursery in Ramsgate design and decorate a Christmas hoop.

[Continue reading.](#)





Kent Catholic Schools' Partnership



'Academies in Christ'
of the Archdiocese of Southwark



KCSP GOVERNANCE CONFERENCE 2026

JOIN US

17 MARCH 2026: ST SIMON STOCK CATHOLIC SECONDARY SCHOOL, MAIDSTONE, ME16 0JP

Session 1: CSI Inspections, Catholic Education, and the updated Religious Education Directory (RED) - KCSP

Chair of the Trust Board Q&A

Session 2: Supporting disciplinary panels and the legal requirements - HR Connect

25 MARCH 2026: ST ANSELM'S CATHOLIC SECONDARY SCHOOL, CANTERBURY, CT1 3EN

Session 1: SEND strategy and the changing landscape - KCSP

Chair of the Trust Board Q&A

Session 2: The new Ofsted framework and its implications for governance - NGA

Book your place [here](#) or via the QR code



Agenda for both events:

Arrival from 16:30

Session 1 starting at 17:00

Networking at 18:00

Chair Trust Board and LGC Chair Q&A at 18:15

Session 2 starting 18:30

CSI / Ofsted Q&A 20:00

Finish 20:30

