



THE CATHOLIC DIOCESE OF
ARUNDEL & BRIGHTON
EDUCATION SERVICE

THE ALPHA BETA

The news and information bulletin
from the A&B Education Service



JUNE 2021

Director's Letter

Dear Colleagues,

Finally, it feels as if Summer is around the corner. The sun is shining, the weather is hot, vaccination numbers are ever climbing and, for the first time in history and at the tenth attempt, England won their opening match in the Euros! What a cause for celebration! Let's hope their success continues....

In view of the above, and despite growing concerns about the new Delta variant, we are experiencing both a real, and a 'feel good' sense of warmth. Warmth reduces stress levels, relaxes body and mind, and comforts our heart and soul. This sense of warmth is a timely reminder that June marks the month of the Sacred Heart, the ultimate expression of God's love for us. Jesus' Heart is represented with His Heart pierced as a reminder of the centurion who used his spear to check that Jesus had died. It is surrounded by a Crown

of Thorns to remind us of Jesus' suffering and death. Burning flames remind us that God's Heart burns with deep, tender love. At the top of the Heart is a Cross, reminding us that the cross is the means by which we might be saved and through which God's love is expressed most fully. In short, like the warmth of the sun, God's heart burns for us and his love shines on us constantly.

In spite of the heat we are currently experiencing, fields and gardens are still green and full of life which sits well with the green of Ordinary Time. Ordinary Time is the hour to "go out to all the world and tell the good news." The feasts of June highlight this expansion of the Church as we commemorate martyrs and celebrate the feasts of the apostles Peter and Paul and the birth of St. John the Baptist. As

Catholics, we are called to be witnesses like the apostles and martyrs, and diocesan schools continue to fulfil this as they find evermore inventive ways to share the Good News.

In terms of witnessing to the good news, you will have received a link to the Good Shepherd pre-recorded liturgy. Special thanks go to Missio for all their work in compressing and editing videos submitted by schools to make a cohesive liturgy which is available for viewing at a time that suits you and your school. We hope to be back at Worth next year but, in the meantime, enjoy this year's virtual celebration! For those of you who have not yet seen it, this year's Good Shepherd can be found [here >>>](#)

Continuing with the theme of good news and of bearing witness, we are planning to come together at Worth on the afternoon of Friday 17 September to mark Bernadette Connor's incredible contribution to diocesan education over the past forty years. If ever there were a cheerful witness to the Gospel it would be Bernadette, so it is indeed good news that we will all be reunited to celebrate Mass with her and her

family. I have already written to Heads and Chairs about this and about the current restriction on numbers due to social distancing. We are hopeful that restrictions may be relaxed nearer the time, meaning we can broaden our invitation further, but at present as you might imagine we are having to operate within strict guidelines. Please contact Claire Martin; E: Claire.martin@abdiocese.org.uk to confirm whether your school will be taking up your places or, if not, to return them so we can re-allocate. We look forward to seeing you there!

Thank you, as ever, for everything you do to share the warmth of the Good News with others.

Kindest wishes to you all,



Marie Ryan

CATHOLIC SCHOOL INSPECTIONS

We would like to inform all our schools that our schedule for inspections, disseminated to all schools in December 2020, will begin from the Autumn Term 2021. These inspections will be carried out using our current diocesan inspection framework that can be found on the Diocesan website under Education Service / Inspection or by following the link - [click here >>>](#)

There will be opportunities for CPD for all schools preparing for inspection in the Autumn Term 2021 on Wednesday 14 July 2pm to 4pm via zoom. To book your place E: claire.martin@abdiocese.org.uk

RAINBOWS

Have you thought about becoming a Rainbows school?

Rainbows is a programme that fosters emotional healing and well-being among children, young people and adults who are grieving due to a significant loss in their lives. Rainbows has developed materials to support schools in a crisis and these have proven to be a valued resource when supporting children and young people through the COVID situation we are living in. Our diocesan Rainbows Directors offer training to enable schools to establish peer support groups and deliver planned programmes. Rainbows offers three age-appropriate programmes: Sunbeams for nursery and reception aged pupils, Rainbows for primary pupils and Spectrum for secondary school students.

Please get in touch with the Education Service if you wish to learn more about the programmes Rainbows offer.

CHANGES TO SCHOOL ADMISSIONS IN 2021 AND BEYOND – ACTION NEEDED

On 13 May 2021, following a consultation that took place between 26 June 2020 and 16 October 2020, the Government published a new School Admissions Code (the “Code”). The Code, which is currently subject to Parliamentary scrutiny, comes into force on 1 September 2021 and will apply with immediate effect.

The Education Service emailed every maintained school and academy in the diocese on this towards the end of May. We summarised the changes (which I have copied again below) and outlined suggested steps that schools should follow to address the statutory requirements. Schools were asked to confirm as soon as possible whether they were in agreement with the suggested steps, which included the setting of a determination meeting between 8 July and 20 July.

NOTE: Two thirds of schools have kindly responded to date. It would be helpful if the remaining schools could also confirm. Thank you in anticipation.

The new Code (in summary) has three main areas of change:

1. Re: Children adopted from state care outside of England. The term the DfE use is ‘internationally adopted previously looked after children’ – **IAPLAC**
2. Re: In Year applications
3. Re: Fair Access Protocols (FAPs)

Re 1. IAPLAC: The new Code will require that highest priority is given to “looked after children (LAC) and previously looked after children (PLAC), including those children who appear (to the governors, as the admissions authority) to have been in state care outside of England and ceased to be in state care as a result of being adopted”. Responsibility for determining whether a child is eligible for IAPLAC priority rests with the admission authority. Subject to ministerial approval, the DfE plan to publish non-statutory guidance on the admission of IAPLAC in time for the new Code coming into force.

This new provision will necessitate variations to both your determined 2021-22 and 2022-23 admission arrangements to take effect from 1 September 2021. Without these variations the DfE has made clear that your determined arrangements for 2021-22 and 2022-23 will no longer comply with the Code from this date. However, as these variations will be necessary to comply with a mandatory requirement of the Code, **it will not be necessary** to refer a variation request to the

Schools Adjudicator (VA schools) or the ESFA (Academies).

Re 2. In Year applications and re 3. FAPs ... a number of our LAs are seeking clarity on varying elements from the DfE... so these might be further tweaked.

So, the bottom line:

The DfE is expecting all admission authorities to hold a meeting before 31 August 2021 to determine the necessary variations to admission arrangements for 2021-22 and 2022-23. As you can see the timescales are very tight i.e. schools are being asked to take action before 1 September 2021, but the Code will not be formally ratified until 1 July.

To help meet the requirements, these are the three steps we suggest all schools follow:

1. The Diocesan Education Service (DES) will email you sometime between Monday 5 July and Wednesday 7 July 2021 and supply you with appropriate wording to amend your 2021-22 and 2022-23 admission arrangements so that all elements of the admission arrangements will be compliant with the new Admissions Code.
2. The Governors will need to set a meeting sometime between Thursday 8 July and Tuesday 31 August 2021 to formally determine (and minute) the necessary variations to the 2021-22 and 2022-23 admission arrangements. With the end of term being either Wednesday 21 July (Surrey) or Friday 23 July (West and East Sussex and B & Hove), **we would strongly recommend that governors set their determination meeting sometime between 8-20 July 2021.**
3. As soon as the meeting has taken place, a) confirm back to Simon Parr at the DES that both the updated 2021-22 and 2022-23 admission arrangements have been determined and b) replace your current 2021-22 and 2022-23 arrangements with the updated versions on the school’s website.

Simon Parr, Education Officer
E: simon.parr@abdiocese.org.uk

BUILDINGS & FINANCE MATTERS



Voluntary Aided Schools' Condition Allocation (VASCA)

Most of the current year projects are now underway – several are already complete. Now is the time to start thinking about next year – if you have a project that you intend to bid for, please do let us know and we will be delighted to come and have a look at what is proposed.

Covid issues affecting buildings

There are further updates to DfE guidance which can be accessed [here >>>](#)

Occupation of School Premises

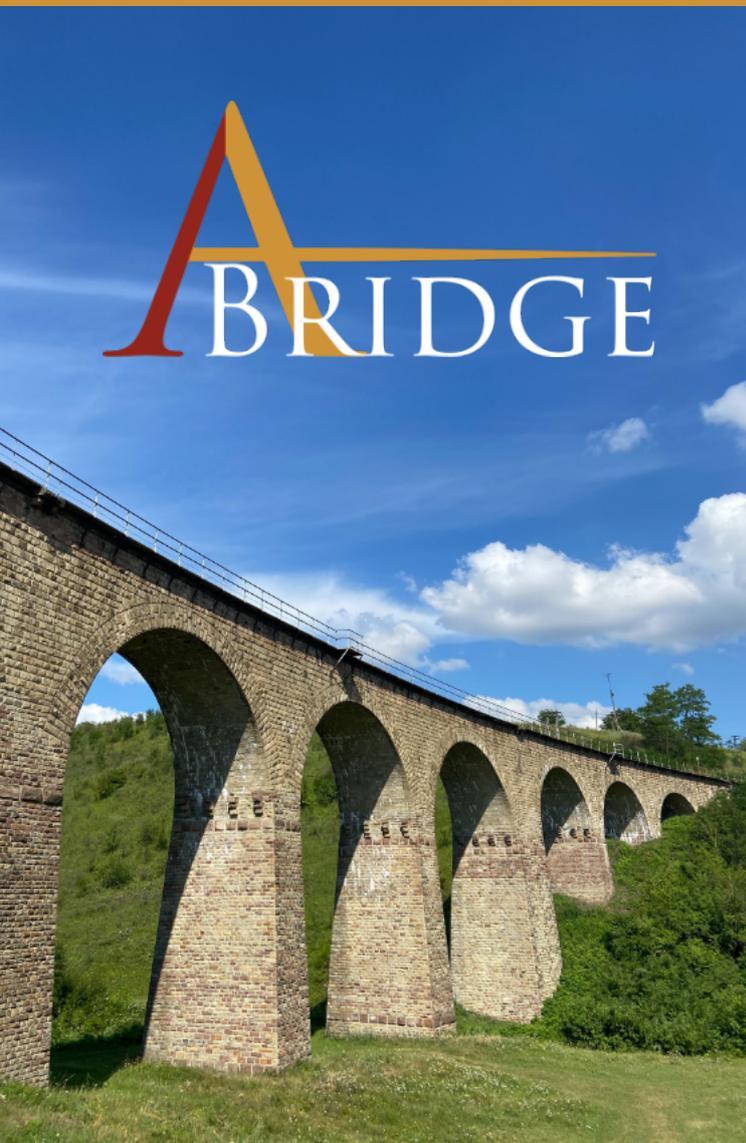
The Catholic Education Service has recently issued a document which outlines the roles and responsibilities of governors of schools and

academies occupying diocesan premises. There is nothing particularly novel about this, but it does bring together in one place a variety of aspects which have previously been scattered.

The document, as published, contains a number of references to external material and we have assembled these into a set of notes for ease. These notes also contain some explanation in hopefully simpler language of some of the more technical legal wording in the main document. Both the Occupation of School Premises document and the notes to that can be found on the School Business & Buildings section of the Diocesan website [here >>>](#)

Mark Brunet, Buildings Officer

E: SchoolBuildings@abdiocese.org.uk



TRANSITION TIME FOR YEAR 6!

As Year 6 children transition to secondary school shortly, they may be feeling a mix of emotions. Supporting them with this transition is more important than ever before. With this very much in mind, the Education Service has produced a spiritual wellbeing transition resource for use with the Year 6 children called *A Bridge*. It is made up of nine sessions in which they will explore some of their feelings about transition and then, most importantly, bring these joys, expectations, worries, aspirations to God through prayer. Each session explores a different Catholic tradition of prayer and teaches children how to entrust their thoughts and feelings to God.

These resources are available within the Religious Education / Key Documents & Resources part of the Catholic Life & RE section of the diocesan website [here >>>](#)

NOTE TO CLERKS

The Education Service should receive the minutes of the full Governing Body/Local Governing Committee meetings and any Headteacher report to the Governors on a termly basis. Thank you to all those who have already sent minutes for last term. Please submit any outstanding minutes electronically to E: gill.sajnog@abdiocese.org.uk as soon as possible.

The Clerks Briefings via Zoom have proved popular. As those of you who have attended will be aware, next academic year we are trialling more frequent but slightly shorter Zoom briefings (1hr +). At the end of the academic year - in the Summer term 2022 - we will experiment with a slightly longer face to face briefing. If this is successful and well attended, we will aim to continue with Zoom briefings for the most part with one face to face briefing each year, so we can get together in person.

Briefing dates for the academic year 2021 – 2022 will be communicated shortly.

Please make sure that we have up to date contacts for you; email most importantly but a contact phone number as well.

Historically all governors' terms of office were renewed on 1st September regardless of when they

had been appointed. Although this does not happen now, we still have a higher than average number of governors whose terms of office end this academic year, particularly August and September 2021.

We are fast approaching the end of term and many governors' terms of office expire at the end of August. Please check for any imminent ends of terms of office and ask governors to submit application forms as soon as possible. Thank you to those who have done so already.

Foundation governor application forms can be found on the Diocesan website [here >>>](#) Please make sure that all areas of the form are completed in full. The completed application form should be sent to:

Marie Ryan,
Director - Diocesan Education Service,
The St Philip Howard Centre,
4 Southgate Drive,
Crawley,
West Sussex RH10 6RP

or E: gill.sajnog@abdiocese.org.uk

NCSC CYBERSECURITY ALERT DUE TO ATTACKS IN THE EDUCATION SECTOR

The National Cyber Security Centre has published an alert following a recent increase in cybersecurity attacks in the education sector. Several large Multi Academy Trusts have been targeted. The alert warns of an increase in ransomware attacks and sets out steps to take to keep criminals out.

The full alert is available to read [here >>>](#).

Our schools and academies should ensure they review their incident response strategy in light of the recent alert published.

RECENT APPOINTMENTS

Derek Croghan

Headteacher

St Catherine's Catholic Primary School, Littlehampton September 2021

Tina Davidson

Headteacher

St John the Baptist Catholic Primary School, Brighton With Immediate Effect

Finula Farr

Headteacher

St John's Catholic Primary School, Horsham September 2021

Hilary Nawrocka

Headteacher

St Pancras Catholic Primary School, Lewes September 2021

Carly Carden

Deputy Headteacher

St John the Baptist Catholic Primary School, Brighton September 2021

Louise Reddy

Deputy Headteacher

St Anne's Catholic Primary School, Banstead September 2021

Robert Noye

Deputy Headteacher

St Oscar Romero Catholic School, Worthing September 2021

Please may we remind colleagues that the Bishops' Conference has a very clear stance on the posts of Headteacher, Head of School, Deputy Headteacher, Head of RE and Chaplain. These posts must be reserved for practising Catholics and clearly advertised as such. In view of this, a senior member of the Diocesan Education Service (DES) is obliged to represent Bishop Richard in the recruitment process for any of the above positions, even if a post is part-time.

With this in mind, it is essential when recruiting for any of these positions that the school liaises with Gill Sajnog in advance of any advertisements being placed or before any dates are agreed. Gill co-ordinates our recruitment diary and is the first port of call for these matters.

E: gill.sajnog@abdiocese.org.uk **T:** 01293 511130

The updated Memorandum on the Appointment of Teachers to Catholic Schools can be found [here >>>](#)



UPCOMING COURSES AND EVENTS

Please note that all our courses for the Summer Term 2021 are either being run as an online tutorial or live through a web platform such as Zoom or Teams.

All courses can be booked through Claire Martin E: Claire.martin@abdiocese.org.uk. Notification of your booking and any links required to access training will be sent to you via email. If you have any queries regarding courses or tutorials, please do not hesitate to contact us and one of our colleagues in the Education Service will help you T: 01293 511130.

CPD Courses 2021-22

The CPD Booklet for 2021-22 will be sent to schools electronically before the end of term. Please look out for this.

JUNE

THURS	24th	Secondary RE	Aspiring Heads of Department	Video Conference	15.30 - 17.30
--------------	-------------	---------------------	-------------------------------------	-------------------------	----------------------

JULY

THURS	1st	Rainbows	Rainbows Training for Rainbows Facilitators	Video Conference	15.30 - 17.30
TUES	6th	Governors	Induction Training for new Foundation Governors - Module 3	Video Conference	18.30 - 20.30
WED	7th	Primary RE	NQT Induction Day 3	Video Conference	15.30 - 17.30
TUES	13th	Governors	Outstanding Governance: Measuring Impact	Video Conference	18.30 - 20.30
THURS	15th	Secondary RE	Secondary Heads of Department - Day 3	Video Conference	15.30 - 17.30

SAYING THANK YOU

To Long-Serving Staff



St Richard's Catholic Primary School in Chichester want to say a big 'Thank You and Goodbye' to **Geraldine Hogan** with the following words:

In 1979, a young Geraldine contacted Prime Minister James Callaghan asking if he would help her find a job ... which he did ... in Hackney. From this, Geraldine was in demand and took an alternative post at St Francis School in Crawley and then later moved to St Robert Southwell in Horsham. In 1987, she joined St Richard's in Chichester and it's from here, 34 years later, that the school community say goodbye. During her time at St Richard's, Geraldine has been a much-loved Teacher, Deputy Head, Acting Head at Lancastrian, and SENCO and is known to many generations of families in the community.

At the end of this school year, the school will be waving Geraldine off into her retirement to enjoy time with her family. There will be a Geraldine shaped hole in the school, but all will look forward to the times she comes in to visit.

In future editions of The Alpha Beta, if your school wants to celebrate such service in this way, please send details to E: schools@abdiocese.org.uk. The Alpha Beta is usually published five times a year in January, March, June, September and November.

PLEASE ALSO SEND US YOUR GOOD NEWS & EDUCATION STORIES

We are very keen to celebrate Catholic education and publicise the fantastic work of our teachers, support staff and pupils more widely.

We would love to highlight news from schools across the Diocese on our website and through the diocesan Twitter and Facebook pages.

Please send details to E: schools@abdiocese.org.uk

We look forward to hearing from you.



www.abdiocese.org.uk/education/home

The Arundel and Brighton Diocesan Trust is a Registered Charity No. 252878