

Important Diocesan Education Team Update #3, Fri 3 April 2020

Dear colleagues,

As we come to the end of the second week of the revised arrangements for schools, it is hard to not reminisce about the good old days when everyone would have been breaking up for the Easter holiday and looking forward to time away with friends and family, or just having some space at home to relax. Thank you for your and your teams' flexibility and dedication in continuing to serve your communities whilst we travel through this crisis together. You are more than playing your part.

We have received the following updates and information from dioceses across the country as we work together with other Education Teams to support you as effectively as we can. Some relate to legal issues such as admissions and others are signposting you and members of your team to RE, collective worship, and mental health resources. If you have anything that you are happy for us to share, either in the Diocese of Worcester, or with CofE colleagues across England and Wales, please do [let us know](#).

- **Admissions appeals**

- The Church of England Education Office (CEEO) team is currently working with lawyers to establish regulations which will disapply certain requirements in the Admissions Code - like holding a panel in person. They will then draft guidance which will support admission authorities to hold panels by telephone, video or paper. This is proving to be a complicated and tricky piece of work but the team is working flat out with the aim of publishing around National Offer Day (16 April) or just after. In the meantime, the advice is to hold fire as under the current circumstances it would not be reasonable to hold admissions authorities to account under the current restrictions. We will forward any information that we receive as soon as we have it.

- **Recruitment**

- Current advice from the DfE team responsible for recruitment is that schools will need to continue to assess their staffing needs and recruitment requirements and, when conducting recruitment activity, should have regard to the government's guidance on social distancing:
 - The guidance is very clear that DfE are asking people to stay home, to protect the NHS and save lives.
 - Whilst specific arrangements for teacher recruitment are a matter for schools, guidance on social distancing and school closures includes visitors to the school.

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- **Recruitment \cont.**

- As such, interviews should either happen online or be delayed to a later date, and DfE trusts schools to use their judgement in implementing this.
- DfE will work closely with the sector to understand the impact on recruitment and supply that this might have, and what support might be needed to mitigate this.
 - The team is still considering what needs to happen re. statutory notice periods and will come back on this asap.
- If you have any queries whilst awaiting further official advice, please contact [Tim Reid](#).

- **Resources for Collective Worship (CW) and School Clubs:**

CofE education encourages collective worship that is 'inclusive, invitational and inclusive'. Please see the list below of resources, identified by the CEEO, that you in school and families at home with their children may find useful at this time.

- **Katie Hartle** a member of the **Tardebigge CE First School** team in our very own family of church schools has uploaded an Easter Assembly to [YouTube](#).
- **The Boys' Brigade** have launched a [new programme](#) to enable them to continue to reach out and engage children and young people with a fun and exciting programme of activities, with opportunities to learn, grow and discover in their own homes supported by parents / carers.
- **The Girls' Brigade** have launched free, weekly, online resources / activities, [GB@Home](#), for different age groups of girls and young women to have a go at.
- **Diocese of Blackburn:** A new video resource, '[Off the Shelf](#)', is designed to be used as CW in schools and at home with themes specifically relevant at this time. There are also picture posts and an RE resource in the making which will be available soon. Each resource asks big questions and challenges the viewer to reflect and make a response.
- **Diocese of Canterbury, [William and Lucy resource](#):** This helps children at home to take ownership of setting up and leading CW. There is an adapted version of the book that guides children through the elements of worship and then a book of Bible stories. Just to be warned, these are large downloads.
- **Diocese of Guildford:** [Resources](#) for both at home and school.
- **Diocese of Salisbury:** [Guidance](#) for school parish worship. *//cont.*

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- **Resources for Collective Worship (CW) and School Clubs \cont.**
 - **Diocese of St Alban's:**
 - **Journeying with Jacob** materials offer a five-week suite of worship resources for Primary and Secondary-aged pupils, [at home](#) and [in school](#). The resources are formed of Vlogs, questions for discussion / think pieces and creative prayer activities.
 - **Worship at Home:** A weekly [resource](#) including creative activities, reflections and prayers which can be used at home or in school.
 - **Gill Vaisey** is offering Easter games and activities from PLAN+3, free to all teachers, parents and carers. Including interactive PowerPoint game, board game and Easter dominoes. [Email](#), or visit their [website](#) to receive these resources.
 - **Guardians of Ancora, Scripture Union:** This is a [free game app](#) (downloadable from AppStore, Google Play or Amazon AppStore), giving children and families the opportunity to 'enter into' Bible stories, then explore and adventure in the digital world. The CEO would not suggest this as an RE resource, but suggest that it's okay for school clubs and maintaining a link whilst self-isolating. The Guardians of Ancora FaceBook page will post a daily idea for families and individuals.
 - **iSingPop** have made their songs available on their YouTube channel. These are great for engaging children at home or school. iSingPop are also planning some work to support home worship that should be coming soon, so watch this space!
 - **Prayer spaces in schools** have created and are adapting some [prayer activities](#) for families to use at home, or teachers to use in schools with their reduced numbers. Please note, you will need to create a log-in to access these resources.
 - **Winston's Wish:** [Guidance](#) from Winston's Wish about talking to children about deaths due to Coronavirus.

As an Education Team and DBE, we are in the process of writing guidance for schools in cases of bereavement. Sadly, the reality of today's world suggests that this might be needed now more than ever. We will get it to you as soon as we are able to.

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- **Resources for Mental Health, Wellbeing and PSHE:**

- **Jigsaw PSHE:**

- Jigsaw are giving away Jigsaw Families stories and Calm Me time (relaxation and mindfulness practice) audios along with learning activities for free, at the moment, accessible on their [website](#).
- They are also giving away the Jigsaw song 'Together as One' along with suggested learning activities, then inviting people to upload themselves singing the song. At 3pm on 14th April the collage of videos will go [LIVE](#) so children (and grown-ups) can watch to see whether they can spot themselves.

- [Liverpool CAMHS](#)

- **Resources for RE:**

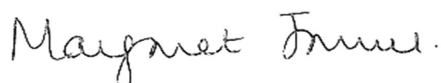
- **Barnabas in Schools** are producing an expanding range of resources to support [RE in the home](#). These are shared on their website and [FaceBook page](#).
- [NATRE / RE Today](#)

Next Thursday, which is Maundy Thursday, we invite all schools across the Diocese join us at 11am as we gather to pray. I will send you the prayer and text at the start of next week. We would be delighted to have as many of you as are able gather as a school community to pray; if you would like to send us a photo, please [email us](#) and we will collate them.

Finally, following our recent phone contact with you it transpires that this might not be for the best and so we will now direct the bulk of our communication through emails. As part of this, we would be really grateful if you could please let us know if and when you make a decision to close your school and work in a hub with another local school, in addition to your plans for opening / closing over Easter. It might also help if you alter your school answer machine message if you have not done so already.

We will continue to update you and, of course, to pray for you. Please note, this email has been sent to all headteachers and MAT CEOs.

With best wishes,



Dr Margaret James
Diocesan Director of Education (DDE)