



SBM Meeting November 2019 Updates

General Diocesan Updates:

ALL SCHOOLS GENERAL

- **Save the date.** Following the success of the first School Business Manager conference earlier this year, we intend to host a second conference next March. Could you please ask your SBM's/CFO's/finance officers to save the date **Thursday 5th March 2020** at the National conference centre based at the Motorcycle museum, Solihull. Invitations will be emailed to all SBM's shortly. Each school will be offered two free places.
- **School Place Planning.** Each local authority (LA) that the diocese covers has a slightly different way of working when it comes to planning school places. Some LA's approach schools directly, some approach the diocese and some ask for expressions of interest from schools. Could you please inform the diocese if you are asked to expand your school so that trustee approval can be sought.
- **Statutory Testing & Maintenance Returns – Spring 2019**
JH is following up with those schools that are still to submit their Statutory Testing and maintenance return. The submission deadline was Friday 10th May 2019. If you haven't yet submitted your return could I ask that you do so asap please.

CES Legal Updates:

- **School fined for use of facial recognition technology.**
The Swedish Data Protection Authority (SDPA) has issued a fine of €20,000 under the General Data Protection Regulation 2016 (GDPR) against a local authority due to one of its schools trialling facial recognition technology in order to record class attendance.
This echoes the position here in the UK and elsewhere in Europe that consent cannot be truly valid if there is an imbalance between the parties' relationship i.e. school and pupil or employer and employee.

If you are seeking to use such technology for staff or others the key questions which need to be asked are:

- is it necessary to process biometric data to achieve the result of the processing; or
- could the result of the processing be achieved in a less intrusive way?

Comment: Schools should carefully consider the additional requirements for biometric data under the GDPR. In particular, the use of fingerprints for libraries and school canteens (where the biometric data being stored is that of pupils) should be carefully considered in light of this case and the obligations imposed under GDPR. As always, an alternative should be offered (for example, a child should be able to pay by cash rather than by using fingerprint if they so wish). A report on the issue can be found here: https://edpb.europa.eu/news/national-news/2019/facial-recognition-school-renders-swedens-first-gdpr-fine_en

- DfE has updated the suggested privacy notices for schools including parental consent. https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/data-protection-and-privacy-privacynotices?utm_source=37479081-a95a-42e6-9364fe8b750d4a4e&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=govuknotifications&utm_content=immediate

ACADEMIES GENERAL

- **Trust Capacity Fund** – available for academies to bid, further details can be found at the following website: The application window will be open on Monday 9th September 2019 and will close at 12:00 pm on Tuesday 31st December 2019. https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/apply-to-the-trust-capacity-fund?utm_source=80dabd80-770a-4167-a000-c0503c872bf1&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=govuk-notifications&utm_content=immediate
- The DfE and ESFA have updated its **risk protection arrangements** for academy trusts: membership rules guidance. Further information can be found by clicking on the link below: https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/risk-protectionarrangement-rpa-for-academy-trusts-membership-rules?utm_source=9379de73-20384a00-9255-da0b4d5f080a&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=govuknotifications&utm_content=immediate
- **CIF Bids – Dec 2019** Once again there will be enormous competition for CIF funding. Given that circa 6,000 schools will be mulling over any such submission it is essential to consult the qualifying criteria ahead of such an undertaking. This year's criteria favours bids from applicants with strong governance and good financial management.

New applicants must register to use the portal by midday on Friday 29 November 2019.

The submission deadline for all applications is midday on Friday 13 December 2019.

[https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/842723/Condition Improvement Fund 2020 to 2021 - information for applicants.pdf](https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/842723/Condition_Improvement_Fund_2020_to_2021_-_information_for_applicants.pdf)

- **Urgent Capital Support (Academies)**

Urgent Capital Support (UCS) is for academies, sixth-form colleges and non-diocesan VA schools which do not have access to a SCA, **and require funding assistance to address urgent building condition issues** that either put the safety of pupils and staff at risk, or threaten the closure of the whole, or a significant part of, the school. UCS applications can be submitted at any time where there is a genuine and immediate need for urgent support. Further details including how to apply can be found by clicking on the link below:

[https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/761324/301118 Urgent Capital Support UCS How to apply.pdf](https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/761324/301118_Urgent_Capital_Support_UCS_How_to_apply.pdf)

- There's a new [Academies Financial Handbook for 2019](#) – in force from 1 September 2019
- Some upcoming deadlines for trusts:
 - [Land and buildings collection tool](#) – Launch 1 October 2019 – Deadline 4 November 2019
 - [Finance statements and management letters](#) – Deadline 31 December 2019
 - [Accounts return](#) – Deadline 20 January 2020
- A [series of factsheets](#) providing suggestions for good practice across a range of financial topics, including risk management, choosing an external auditor and management accounting.
- New guidance about [setting executive salaries](#).
- [School resource management self-assessment tool \(SRMSAT\)](#). For 2019, trusts with an open academy on 31 August 2019 will need to provide a copy of the completed self-assessment checklist to ESFA by 14 November.
- The ESFA have updated RPT guidance for all academies, electronic link below:

[Related party transactions: information for academy trusts](#)

UHY Hacker Young produced a benchmarking report for 2019. Which states that 2018 was an interesting year for academies, with many experiencing further financial uncertainties and pressures along with increased consolidation in the sector. A number of key issues have arisen which they discuss in their report, including:

- Increased scrutiny over executive pay in the sector.
- Teacher pay rises and the announcement of a teachers' pension employer contribution rate increase.
- The announcement of new related party rules from April 2019.

An electronic link to the document can be found below:

<https://www.uhy-uk.com/resources-publications/publications/academy-schools-update/2019-academies-benchmarking-report/>

VA SCHOOLS GENERAL

- We have recently emailed all VA schools about how to make a bid for LCVAP capital funding. Please do get in touch with your building consultants and ask them to support you in deciding on your priority project and completing your bid application form. Could I please ask that you submit your bids by Christmas.
- **Monitoring of VA school revenue budgets.** Now that we have additional capacity in the guise of Amy Majhu (F&B Adviser) we have commenced scheduling monitoring meetings with each LA to review VA school revenue budgets. This is to enable us to identify those schools that may require support to deliver a balanced budget or to tackle decreasing reserves. If schools would like an initial meeting to review finances please do get in touch with Amy. A.majhu@bdes.org.uk

FUNDING/GRANT UPDATES

The Foyle Foundation – Schools Library Programme

The Foyle School library Scheme accepts applications from state-funded schools in the UK with the aim of improving library facilities in schools. You can apply for between £1,000 and £10,000.

Secondary schools are eligible, but primary schools are a higher priority

Deadline: Applications can be submitted at any time

For more information, and to apply online, visit:

<http://www.foylefoundation.org.uk/how-to-apply/state-schools.php>