



## **SBM Meeting November 2020 Updates**

### **General Diocesan Updates:**

#### **ALL SCHOOLS GENERAL**

- **DES Support for Schools**

In these unprecedented and challenging time's that we find ourselves in the DES team continue to be available to support all schools and academies.

Because of the lockdown guidelines, the DES offices at Don Bosco House have been closed at present. However, the DES IS OPEN FOR BUSINESS AS USUAL. All members of the DES team can be contacted by phone or e-mail and are available to support you and your school community. We have pages on the BDES website dedicated to supporting schools through the corona virus outbreak:

<https://www.bdes.org.uk/des-support-for-schools-through-the-coronavirus-outbreak.html>

- The F&B Team welcomes back Amy Majhu, our finance & business adviser from maternity leave. If any school would like support from Amy in regard to budgeting and finance concerns please do get in touch with her.  
[A.majhu@bdes.org.uk](mailto:A.majhu@bdes.org.uk)
- There have been a number of staff changes in recent months at the DES, a new Deputy Director for Leadership & Governance has joined the team, Yvonne Salter Wright advises schools on the appointment to protected posts, appointment, training and development of foundation governors and directors. Yvonne is replacing Yvonne Brennan who will be retiring from the DES in December. Maureen O'Leary, the senior S48 inspector also retired at the end of September. Maureens replacement is Ben McCardle who has been working at the DES for the last academic year. S48 monitoring inspections have been put on hold for the coming academic year, if you have any questions please do contact Ben at the DES.
- DES training and events will continue throughout the academic year in an altered format with all training and events moved online to be delivered virtually. A series of foundation governor training sessions began this week and RE cluster group meetings continue across the diocese. The new HT induction course which runs throughout the year has also begun with a new

cohort. The annual leadership conference normally hosted at the ICC is still going ahead during this academic year for school leaders, chairs of MAC's and chairs of governors but we are still working with the ICC on how that conference will be delivered. The first CSEL virtual conference of the year has also taken place.

- Early in the new year Sharon Leahy & Amy Majhu will be offering a training session to both SBM's and HT's on the new Statlog IT system which is used by dioceses to administer the centrally held SCA funding (former LCVAP) and from the next financial year (2021/22) DFC funding. Further details will be provided in due course.
- The Diocesan academy strategy continues to progress; on the 1st October 2020 there were 121 academies within the Archdiocese of Birmingham operating within 18 Multi-Academy Companies (MACs). Another small group of schools are due to join existing MAC's on the 1<sup>st</sup> January 2021 followed by the formation of a brand new MAC, Our Lady & All Saints consisting of 13 schools on 1<sup>st</sup> April 2021. More information about the academy strategy can be found on the BDES website <https://www.bdes.org.uk/academies.html>
- A reminder to complete a trustee Approval form and that a consultant should be used to manage the project which can be accessed via the link below: [https://www.bdes.org.uk/uploads/7/2/8/5/72851667/copy\\_of\\_des\\_landlord\\_approval\\_application\\_1.xlsx](https://www.bdes.org.uk/uploads/7/2/8/5/72851667/copy_of_des_landlord_approval_application_1.xlsx)
- Have your say: Covid-19 and the financial impact on schools

ASCL is conducting a survey with the Education Policy Institute and NAHT on the financial impact on schools of the Covid-19 pandemic. This is your chance to have your say on the costs your school has incurred in order to comply with Covid-19 safety measures and other Covid-related costs.

### **CES Updates:**

- The CES has updated the model grievance policy for schools, a copy of which is on the CES website <https://www.catholiceducation.org.uk/employment-documents/model-policies-and-procedures>
- Home to school transport. The CES has been in ongoing dialogue with the DfE about the transport issues that are being experienced at this time. As you will be aware, additional funding was provided to local authorities at the beginning of the autumn term to assist with transport costs. That funding was due to end at October half term. The CES has advised that this additional funding will continue into the second half of the autumn term.

### **DfE Updates:**

- The DfE has updated the Good Estate Management for Schools (GEMS) guidance and Asbestos Management in Schools (see further details below).

## **ACADEMIES GENERAL**

- The DfE has published the annual academies planning calendar which contains key dates for the academic year. An electronic link is below to the planner  
[https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/934561/Academies\\_Planning\\_Calendar\\_2020\\_to\\_2021\\_V\\_2.10.pdf](https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/934561/Academies_Planning_Calendar_2020_to_2021_V_2.10.pdf)
- The annual Land and Building Collection Tool submission to the ESFA has been delayed; the portal now opens on the 15<sup>th</sup> December, the deadline for entries has been put back to 28th January 2021. As these require diocesan approval and sign off, could I please ask that academies upload their entries by mid-January to allow sufficient time for the tasks to be completed and approved.  
<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/academies-land-and-buildings-collection-tool>
- The DES team is planning for the next round of annual MAC monitoring meetings scheduled to take place early next year. We have moved these meetings back to enable MAC's more time to prepare. The first meetings are scheduled to take place in February 2021 but further details will be circulated in due course.

## **VA SCHOOLS GENERAL**

- The Diocese became the Responsible body this financial year and received a central capital allocation for VA schools. In order to provide financial assurance to the DfE that public money is spent appropriately, we have joined with all other dioceses across England, co-ordinated by the CES to procure a common cloud based capital programme assurance system (CPAS) which is called Statlog. All dioceses will use the new system to manage capital programmes it is responsible for which includes the SCA grant with DFC being added next year.
- The total value of the SCA grant for 2020/21 was £5.1 million at 90%. As it is a DfE requirement that governing bodies of VA schools must contribute 10% toward the cost of any building project, the total value of grant to be allocated was £5.7 million. The DES received more good news in August when we were advised by the DfE of a further award of SCA grant of £2.6 million which is in

addition to the £5.7 million previously notified. This provides a total grant allocation of £8.3 million for 2020/21.

This funding has enabled us to carry out more than 80 projects across the VA school estate this year including boiler and heating system replacements, re-roofing, asbestos removal, window replacement, electrical rewires, fire alarm replacements and projects that addressed major safeguarding concerns. This has been a very welcome investment in the VA school estate.

- Bids for SCA funding for 2021/22. Letters will be issued shortly to all VA schools inviting bids for capital funding. We will be extending the submission to mid-January this year.

- **HSE Feedback from school inspections**

To date we are aware of 6 schools that have had HSE inspections. All visits have gone well. Generally, we have found the HSE officers attending schools to be helpful in their approach and offering advice where required which has been useful. The visiting inspectors were very thorough, starting with a detailed discussion about the schools risk assessment and asking questions about how the school has been operating its bubble system since the start of the academic year, pupil absence and staff absence. A walk around the school site then took place, looking for evidence in practice of what was included in the risk assessments. Feedback was then provided at the end of the meeting with all inspectors content in the schools approach.

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