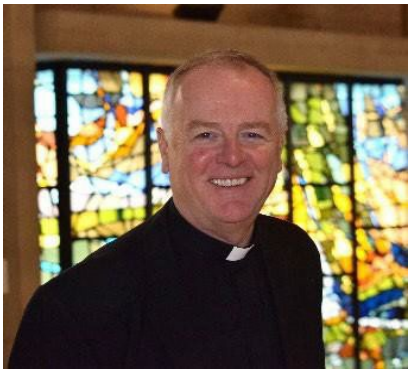
DEPARTMENT FOR SCHOOLS AND COLLEGES

BOOKLET OF COURSES
2026/2027

CONTINUING PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT and FORMATION
IN A CATHOLIC SETTING

Foreword



Catholic education has always been about more than qualifications. It is about helping young people to become the person God created them to be. At its best, it opens minds, shapes character, deepens faith, and gives children and young people the confidence to live with generosity, wisdom and hope.

As we look ahead to the 2026/2027 academic year, I am very pleased to commend this updated schools' training booklet. It comes at a time when we continue to reflect on the vision set out for Catholic education in England and Wales in the Catholic Education Service document '*Called to Flourish in Faith and Hope'*. That title captures something essential. Our schools are called not simply to help pupils succeed, but to help them flourish: spiritually, intellectually, morally and socially, within a community shaped by the person of Jesus Christ.

This flourishing is never the work of one person alone. It grows through the shared commitment of many people: heads and governors, teachers and chaplains, support staff and clergy, parents and parish communities. Together, they help to create schools in which faith is lived with sincerity, learning is taken seriously, relationships are marked by care and respect, and every child is known to be of immense worth. In the Gospel of John, Jesus says: "I came that they may have life and have it abundantly" (John 10:10). Those words have always seemed to me to speak to the heart of Catholic education. We want our schools to be places of abundant life: places where children and young people are encouraged to discover their gifts, to serve others generously, and to grow in the knowledge that they are loved by God.

The training offered in this booklet is part of that shared task. It helps us grow together in confidence, understanding and unity of purpose. It supports those who serve in our schools and strengthens the distinctively Catholic vision that should shape all we do. I am especially encouraged that this programme continues to build on our national vision while also supporting diocesan formation and leadership in the year ahead.

I am grateful too for the spirit of collaboration that has shaped this work, including the contribution of CSI inspectors, whose experience and insight are a real help to us. I hope this booklet will be more than a programme of events. I hope it will serve the deeper work of renewal, encouraging all who take part to continue building schools that are joyful in hope, faithful in witness, and generous in service.

With my prayers and best wishes,

+Bosco

Rt Revd Bosco MacDonald, Bishop of Clifton

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Introduction

Welcome to the Department for Schools and Colleges Annual Professional Development Booklet. his booklet details the planned training and events for the academic year 2026/27. We would ask you to share this with your directors, governors, senior leaders, and other appropriate staff to make them aware of what is available to support them in their role.

The training courses detailed in this booklet should be booked via Eventbrite, using the links provided.

Please use your school email address when registering on any of the Eventbrite courses. Once you have completed your booking on Eventbrite using the links in this booklet, you will receive a confirmation email. The confirmation email is a record of your purchase. It may also include a message from the organiser and a link to the online event page.

To find your confirmation email:

1. Go to your email.

2. Search for emails from “noreply@order.eventbrite.com."

3. Open the email associated with your event.

Please can we emphasise the need to inform us of attendance at courses and events to ensure their viability, health and safety issues around the accommodation provided, and the correct numbers for catering. Failure to do so may result in teachers being turned away on arrival.

Please note that we no longer issue invoices for your bookings. If you have any queries regarding your booking or require any further details about any of the courses, please contact Jenny Fitzgerald at **jenny.fitzgerald@cliftondiocese.com** or by telephone on 0117 9025599.

Whilst these are the planned courses and events, should there be any additional events or courses running throughout the year you will be informed of them via email so please keep a look out.

By booking on any of the courses we are committed to providing:

- *what is clearly indicated in the course detail*
- *a non-profit based cost to limit budgetary impact on schools*
- *a comfortable and accessible venue, allowing for a reasonable travel time*
- *an opportunity to be listened to, and opinions and concerns respected and valued*
- *an opportunity to collaborate and network with colleagues*

- *an opportunity to provide feedback*
- *where appropriate, outside speakers who will motivate, inspire and provide relevant and up to date information*
- *a warm welcome and a friendly face*

In return we ask that attendees commit to:

- *Ensuring they have registered in advance.*
- *Arriving on time, registering their attendance and staying for the duration.*
- *Participating in a positive and open manner.*
- *Being respectful of colleagues, airing views in a professional, non-personal way.*
- *Providing feedback, which is honest, purposeful and constructive.*

Cancellation policy – Alexander House courses or virtual training

Cancellation for our courses attracting a fee, hosted at Alexander House or online via Teams incur the following charges:

- 7 full school days in advance of the course: no charge except booking fees, which Eventbrite do not refund.
- Less than 7 full school days or non-attendance on the day, the full cost of the course will be charged.

Cancellation – external venues

In the case of external venues, cancellation is in accordance with the venue's cancellation policy as the Diocese has already incurred charges when booking the dates. Please contact Jenny Fitzgerald for more details.

As you will appreciate, the Department's services and activities have cost implications and therefore the Department must be financially viable and sustainable. In order to achieve this and support schools, the Department implements a Service Level Agreement which entitles all schools to a core service, as set out in the document which can be viewed at the Clifton Diocese Schools and Colleges website at**: https://schools.cliftondiocese.com/governance.**

Bespoke training

Services outside of the Service Level Agreement, such as school-based INSET will incur separate costs negotiated at the time of booking. If you wish to book an INSET session, please complete the form **here**. Where the training is online and only involves current diocesan staff, minimal cost will be incurred, however, where there is an outside speaker, costs to cover their time will need to be charged.

N:B There will be a non-refundable booking fee for all courses through Eventbrite.

Department members

Mary Cox	**Director of Schools & Colleges**
Paul Kehoe	**Schools Partnership Officer** Supporting the implementation of the Diocesan Strategy and planning for future school organisation. Supporting schools & Governors in collaborative working Representing the Diocese at partnership meetings Disseminating good practice across partnerships
Louise White	**RE Adviser** RE curriculum, Relationship and Sex Education Collective worship Chaplaincy Effective monitoring of Catholicity for SLT CCRS Diocesan Inspections
Bill McEntee	**Governance Officer** Policy Development Foundation Governor/Director Development Academy Conversion Admission Arrangements Overseeing Arrangements for AGMs of Academy Trusts
Jenny Fitzgerald	**Department Officer** Administrative support for the Director School Condition Allocations (SCA) Diocesan & Ofsted Inspections Advice on Leadership Recruitment Schools communications/website Service Level Agreement & Charges Course Bookings Maintaining/updating department databases
Alex Robinson	**Choral Director** National Schools Singing Programme

All members of the team can be contacted on 0117 902 5599

Venues

Aerospace Bristol
Hayes Way
Patchway, BS34 5BZ
http://aerospacebristol.org

Alexander House
160 Pennywell Road
Bristol, BS5 0TX
www.cliftondiocese.com

Ammerdown Centre
Ammerdown Park
Somerset, BA3 5SW
https://www.ammerdown.org/

Cathedral Church of SS Peter & Paul
Clifton Park
Bristol, BS8 3BX
Cliftoncathedral.org

Cheltenham Chase Hotel
Cheltenham Chase
Gloucester, GL3 4PB
The Cheltenham Chase Hotel

Downside School
Stratton-on-the-Fosse
Radstock, BA3 4RJ
www.downside.co.uk

Monastery of Our Lady & St Bernard
Brownshill
Stroud, GL6 8AL
www.bernadine.org/brownshill

St Dunstan's Parish Hall
Bristol Road
Keynsham
Bristol, BS31 2BQ
https://www.calledtomorebristol.org.uk/

St Augustine's Church Hall
Boscombe Crescent
Downend, BS16 6QR
http://www.staugustinesbristol.co.uk/

Events for Pupils

Commissioning of Chaplaincy Teams

DATE	VENUE	TIME	COST
10th November 2026	Clifton Cathedral	11:00 am -12:15 pm (mass and service)	**£40 per school** which will be paid to the Cathedral to cover the cost of toilets and stewards.

Target Audience: Members of chaplaincy teams in all schools (Initially a maximum of 10 per school)

A celebratory mass led by Bishop Bosco MacDonald and service to commission pupil members of chaplaincy teams for the coming year. **New members** of chaplaincy teams will be presented with their badges. It is an opportunity for pupils to come together and share what they do. Music will be led by the NSSP Choral Director Alex Robinson, and schools who have participated in the programme this year.

If your school is unable to attend the service at the Cathedral for cost reasons, please let the Diocese know as soon as possible. It is open to your school to celebrate a commissioning event locally with your partnership schools if necessary. Provided enough notice is given, we can arrange to provide your school with a draft service, certificates and badges.

Completed forms should be emailed to: **jenny.fitzgerald@cliftondiocese.com**

Please note all badges, both new and replacement, will be provided at a cost to the school of £1.00 per badge plus postage and packing. Schools must submit the total number of pupils attending by **Friday, 23rd October 2026. Unfortunately, schools who have not submitted numbers before this date will not be able to attend.**

Please download and complete the Chaplaincy Commissioning attendance and badge order form here: **Events – Calendar | Clifton Diocese Schools and Colleges**

Year 6 Leavers' Masses

DATE	MAT/Schools	VENUE	TIME
15th June 2027	Dunstan MAT and schools in Dunstan, Emmaus and Camino Partnerships	Clifton Cathedral	11:00 am
16th June 2027	Little Way MAT and schools in Little Way and Samuel Partnerships	Clifton Cathedral	11:00 am
17th June 2027	Newman MAT and schools in Newman and Aquinas Partnerships	Clifton Cathedral	11:00 am

Target Audience: **Year 6 Pupils and Staff**

This is the annual celebration for all year 6 pupils moving on to the next phase of their education. It is possibly the only time many of our children will visit the Cathedral or meet Bishop Bosco, something that those who attend really treasure.

All schools are expected to attend this event and make this a priority over other events that may occur on the same date.

This year there will be a Mass for each MAT. Schools are asked to attend on the date allocated above for their MAT/ partnership area.

Schools cannot be accommodated on days other than those set out above.

Schools must submit total numbers attending the Mass by **Friday, 28th May** 2027 using the relevant booking form on our website – **Events – Calendar | Clifton Diocese Schools and Colleges**

Please make sure to book your transportation well in advance as this is a particularly busy time for bus companies with school tours, music festivals, etc.

Cost: There will be a charge of £40 per school, which will be paid to the Cathedral to cover the cost of toilets and stewards.

Education Mass

DATE	VENUE	TIME	COST
13th September 2026	Clifton Cathedral	6:00 pm	No charge

Target Audience: **All those connected with Catholic education in Clifton Diocese to celebrate the Year of St Francis**

Bishop Bosco invites you to attend Mass at the Cathedral on Education Sunday.

This is an annual Mass bringing all our school community members together as a diocesan family with Bishop Bosco, to celebrate Catholic education. This year's choir will be led by Alex Robinson, the Cathedral Choral Director, and the Junior Choir.

The Mass offers an opportunity for all those connected with Catholic education in Clifton Diocese to renew their commitment to Catholic education.

Teaching and Learning

Programme for those new to Catholic Education

DATE	VENUE	TIME	COST
Day 1 30th September 2026	Aerospace Bristol, John James Theatre	9.30 am – 3.30 pm	£75 for first applicant & £55 per additional
Day 2 3rd February 2027	Apostle Room, Clifton Cathedral	9.30 am – 3.30 pm	£60

Target audience: **ECTs and those new to teaching in a Catholic school and across all phases**

Facilitators: **Mary Cox, Director of Schools & Colleges; and Louise White, RE Adviser**

Day 1: Providing an overview of what is meant by the 'distinctive nature of the Catholic School', collective worship and prayer.

Day 2: **For primary colleagues only** - quality RE, the new RE Directory and spirituality across the curriculum.

The aim of this training is to:

- Provide support in understanding the new RE Directory.
- Develop an understanding of the distinctive nature of the Catholic school.
- Develop an understanding of the roles/responsibilities aligned with working in a Catholic school.
- To support quality teaching and learning in primary RE.
- To support the development and understanding of prayer and liturgy.
- Work collaboratively and network with other colleagues.
- A chance to ask questions that are related to teaching in a Catholic school.
- Provide strategies to support spirituality across the whole curriculum.

Note: Day 1 will be held at Aerospace Bristol, in a meeting room located next to the world-famous Concorde. The lunch will be held under the wings of the plane and participants will have the opportunity to board Concorde and visit the Concorde exhibition after the day-long training. Parking is available on-site on a first come first served basis.

To book a place on either / both days use the links below:

30 September 2026 New to Catholic Education Day 1
3 February 2027 New to Catholic Education Day 2

Closing date for booking is 7 days before the event

Cross Phase Modular Course

DATE	VENUE	TIME	COST	Booking Link
Day 1 30th November 2026	Alexander House	10.00 am – 3.30 pm	£70 per module	Cross Phase Day 1 Eventbrite Link
Day 2 27th January 2027	Alexander House	10.00 am – 3.30 pm		Cross Phase Day 2 Eventbrite Link
Day 3 24th March 2027	Alexander House	10.00 am – 3.30 pm		Cross Phase Day 3 Eventbrite Link

Target Audience: **Those who have been teaching RE for 2 to 5 years, and primary RE Coordinators who have not yet completed this course.**
(It is a requirement by Bishop Bosco that all RE Coordinators in post will have acquired this qualification within two years of their appointment.)

Facilitator: **Louise White, RE Adviser**

Modular Themes:

Day 1: Hear – Teaching RE in a Catholic school

Day 2: Believe and Celebrate – Sacramental life and prayer in a Catholic

Day 3: Celebrate and Live – The distinctive nature of the school

A programme designed to develop and support teachers in their theological and practical RE knowledge. The course takes the four major documents of Vatican II, as outlined in the new RE Directory and considers their implication both for teaching and the life of the school. It aims to be practical as well as enhance subject knowledge. The course is suitable for primary staff, including teaching assistants, who may not hold a formal qualification in RE or who may wish to deepen their understanding of Catholic thought and theology.

Aims of Course:

To:

- Develop a clearer understanding of the key themes outlined in the new RE Directory and how this might affect the teaching of RE.
- Promote practical strategies and ideas to support RE provision (both classroom RE and the Religious understanding gained through the life of the school as a whole).
- Develop a deeper understanding of key scriptural pieces of text specifically linked to liturgical seasons and the Church's teachings.
- Consider the nature of Sacraments.
- Provide a deeper understanding of the distinctive nature of a Catholic school.

NB: This course will not run unless we have a minimum of 10 participants.

CCRS for Teachers

A Brief Outline of the Certificate

The Catholic Certificate in Religious Studies (CCRS) is managed and awarded by the Board of Religious Studies on behalf of the Bishops' Conference. It was introduced in 1991 to replace its predecessors, The Catholic Teachers' Certificate and the Certificate in Religious Education. Any teacher who is, or who wishes to be involved in Catholic Education may apply for the course.

The course seeks to ensure that participants have at least a basic knowledge and understanding of the beliefs of the Catholic Faith. It also provides a basis for further study. The course consists of eight modules in total: six core modules and two specialist modules. The core modules are: Old Testament; New Testament; the Person of Jesus; the Church; Sacramental Life; and Moral Understanding. Each module requires 10 hours contact time with a written assignment of 1500 words. You may of course choose to do the modules out of interest and not complete the written assignment; however, you will not be awarded a CCRS certificate unless you complete the written assignments.

Practical details

Facilitator: Louise White, RE Adviser

Timing: The certificate is normally acquired over two years with a maximum of five years' study. The diocese will offer four modules a year on a two-year cycle. Each year will consist of three core modules and a specialist module. You may choose to do four modules per year to complete the course over two years or you may space it out over a longer period if you wish. Once you begin the first module you must complete the course within five years. This academic year will consist of eight days in total with four days in school time and four on a Saturday morning.

Assessment: To gain accreditation you must attend each module and successfully complete an assignment. In this year we will consider: The Old Testament, The New Testament, The Person of Jesus and our specialist module will be Catholic Social Teaching. You are welcome to attend the sessions without seeking accreditation through the submission of essays. This year essays are to be submitted at the start of each new module.

Cost: Registration fee £20 to be paid when returning Application Form. In addition, each module will carry a separate fee as indicated in the schedule to cover relevant expenses.

Course dates for 2026-2027

DATE	VENUE	TIME	COST
The Church **Canon Colin Mason** Saturday, 14th November Tuesday, 17th November	Online Alexander House	10.00 am – 12.30 pm 9.30 am – 3.30 pm	£95
Sacramental Life **Canon Colin Mason** Saturday, 16th January Tuesday, 19th January	Online Alexander House	10.00 am – 12.30 pm 9.30 am – 3.30 pm	£95
Christian Morality **Maeve Bailey** Saturday, 20th March Monday, 22nd March	Online Alexander House	10.00 am – 12.30 pm 9.30 am – 3.30 pm	£95
Specialist Subject – RSE **Maeve Bailey and Fiona Payne** Saturday, 26th June Monday, 28th June	Online Alexander House	10.00 am – 12.30 pm 9.30 am – 3.30 pm	£95

Lunch will be provided at the Monday sessions. Please let us know of any special dietary requirements.

To book your place on any of the modules use the links below: *(links to follow)*

The Church – ***Click here to reserve your place on 14th and 17th November 2026***

Sacramental Life – Click here to reserve your place on 16th and 19th January 2027

Christian Morality – Click here to reserve your place on 20th and 22nd March 2027

Specialist Subject, RSE - Click here to reserve your place on 26th and 28th June 2027

Secondary Heads of RE Conference

DATE	VENUE	TIME	COST	Booking Link
Day 1 5th November 2026	Alexander House	9:30 am – 3:30 pm	£55	**Click here to reserve your place**
Day 2 20th January 2027	Alexander House	9:30 am – 3.30 pm	£55	**Click here to reserve your place**

Target Audience: **Secondary Department Heads of RE**

Day 1:
Facilitator: **Louise White, RE Adviser**
The aim of this course is to provide updates on the national assessment toolkit. We will look at monitoring the impact of the RED, Prayer and Liturgy directory and 'creativity in RE'.

Heulwen Maher and Hollie Marriot, specialist RE teachers from St Edward's School, Melchet Court, will share good practice for students with SEND.

Day 2:
Facilitator: **Louise White, RE Adviser**

Moderation:
During this training we will be looking at moderation of work from Year 9 and reviewing planning.

Department Heads of RE will be informed of new initiatives and resources that will enhance RE in their school. They will also have the opportunity to network and share good practice.

Lunch and refreshments will be provided, please let us know of any dietary requirements.

Primary RE Update

DATE	VENUE	TIME	COST
Day 1 14th October 2026	St Augustine's, Downend	10.00 am – 3.30 pm	£65
Day 2 10th March 2027	St Augustine's, Downend	10.00 am – 3.30 pm	£65

Target audience: **All primary RE Coordinators**

Day 1: **RED Assessment**
Facilitator: **Louise White, RE Adviser**

Assessment
There will be an opportunity to review the assessment documents from the CES.

Godly Play – Gemma Payne, the assistant headteacher at St. Joseph's, Devizes, who was trained in Godly Play by the CES last year, will do a Godly Play session suitable for KS1 classes.
Salt Approach – Jean Gardner from the Salt Approach will share the charity's unique programs and hands-on materials for use in the religious education of children.
SEND – Heulwen Maher and Hollie Marriot, specialist RE teachers from St. Edward's, Melchet Court, will share good practice for students with SEND.

Day 2: **RED in Year 6**
Facilitators: **Louise White, RE Adviser**

Godly Play – Gemma Payne, the assistant headteacher at St. Joseph's, Devizes, who was trained in Godly Play by the CES last year, will do a Godly Play session suitable for KS2 classes.
Assessment – There will be an opportunity to review the assessment documents from the CES.
Moderation – we will moderate work from Years 2 and 5, please bring an individual and floor book from each class.

Lunch and refreshments will be provided, please let us know of any dietary requirements.

To book please click on the link below for the relevant date:

14th October 2026 – **Click here to book your place**

10th March 2027 – **Click here to book your place**

Chaplaincy Days

DATE	VENUE	TIME	COST
Primary 17th September 2026	St Dunstan's Parish Hall Keynsham (tbc)	9:30 am – 3:30 pm	£65
Primary 12th January 2027	St Dunstan's Parish Hall Keynsham (tbc)	9:30 am – 3:30 pm	£65
Secondary 22nd April 2027	Alexander House	10:00 am – 3:30 pm	£65

Target Audience: **Primary and secondary staff responsible for coordinating chaplaincy within schools**

Facilitator: **Louise White, RE Adviser**

Primary Day 1: The Year of St Francis
In the morning we will be sharing ideas for celebrating the Year of St Francis as we approach his feast day on the 4th October.

Maria Caneda from Compass Learning will join us in the afternoon for a session aimed at KS2 colleagues on imaginative prayer based on Catechism 2699. Maria shows us how to enrich prayer using imaginative contemplation and mediation to lead a person to composure of heart.
These training days are to provide schools with relevant and useful information that will help support Prayer and Liturgy within the school community. There will be practical suggestions to develop Prayer and Liturgy and Chaplains will be given the opportunity to share good practice and network.

Primary Day 2
We will be joined by Maria Caneda, in the afternoon, who will lead an imaginative prayer session for KS1

Lunch and refreshments will be provided, please let us know of any dietary requirements.

To book please go to the relevant Day below:

17th September 2026 – Primary Chaplains – Click here to reserve your place via Eventbrite

12th January 2027 – Primary Chaplains – Click here to reserve your place via Eventbrite

22nd April 2027 – Secondary Chaplains – Click here to reserve your place via Eventbrite

Leadership and Management

Headteachers' termly virtual coffee morning and reflection

DATE	VENUE	TIME	COST
22nd September 2026	Virtual	11:00 am – 11:30 am	No charge
13th January 2027			
20th April 2027			

Target Audience: Headteachers and deputy headteachers

Starting on Monday, 22nd September, and continuing once every term, this is an opportunity for headteachers and deputy headteachers to switch off, take a moment and reflect on the working month ahead. These prayerful sessions will be guided by either Louise White or one of our school chaplains.

There is no need to register in advance. A Teams link will be sent out the Friday before to all headteachers and deputies. Turn up if you can – preferably with a cup of tea or coffee in hand.

Introduction to the Diocese for New Heads, Deputies and Assistant Heads

DATE	VENUE	TIME	COST
16th September 2026	Alexander House	10:00 am – 3:30 pm	No charge

Target Audience: Newly appointed Heads, Deputies and Assistant Heads

Facilitators: Mary Cox, Director of Schools & Colleges
Louise White, RE Adviser
Paul Kehoe, Partnership manager

This is an opportunity for newly appointed senior leaders to acquire an understanding of the Diocesan vision, expectations and ways of working. You will have the opportunity to meet staff from the Diocese with whom you will work, see the hub of the Diocese and network with other newly appointed leaders.

Lunch and refreshments will be provided, please let us know of any dietary requirements.

Please use this link to book your place via Eventbrite

Headteachers' Conference

DATE	VENUE	TIME	COST
27th November 2026	Cheltenham Chase Hotel and St Patrick's Church Brockworth	9:00 am – 4:00 pm	£130 per delegate

Target Audience: **Headteachers and other members of the SLT**

Facilitators: **Mary Cox, Director of Schools & Colleges**
Louise White, RE Adviser

Bishop Bosco will host the conference, offering Mass at St Patrick's Church Brockworth. He has set out his three pillars and will explore these with us further in the coming few months. He asks us to consider Worship, Formation and Care for the poor and vulnerable.

We will continue the day with input from the Department for Education, and the Catholic Education Service on the future of Catholic Education in the current political landscape.

Our three Catholic multi academy trusts will participate, sharing their work on inclusion and SEND, in response to the government White paper.

Jean Gardner from the Salt Approach will share the charity's unique programs and hands-on materials for use in the religious education of children **Home - THE SALT APPROACH**

Please use this link to reserve your place

Senior Leadership Retreat Day

DATE	VENUE	TIME	COST	EVENTBRITE LINK
9th July 2027	Downside School	9:30 am – 3:30 pm	£85	**Click here to book your place**

Target Audience:

Heads Teachers and other members of the Senior Leadership Team

Facilitators: **Mary Cox, Director of Schools & Colleges**
Louise White, RE Adviser

Speaker: **TBC**

More information will follow nearer the date of the retreat.

Aspiring Leaders Programme

DATE	VENUE	TIME	COST	EVENTBRITE LINK
Day 1 6th October 2026	Alexander House	9:30 am – 3:30 pm	£250 per person for the 5-day Programme	**Click here to book the full course**
Day 2 24th November 2026	Alexander House	9:30 am – 3:30 pm		
Day 3 2nd March 2027	Alexander House	9:30 am – 3:30 pm		
Day 4 18th May 2027	Visit to a Multi-Academy Trust school	12:30 pm – 3:30 pm		
Day 5 29th June 2027	Monastery of Our Lady & St Bernard, Brownshill	9:30 am – 3:30 pm		

Target Audience: **Senior Leaders**

Facilitators: **Mary Cox, Director of Schools & Colleges**
Louise White, RE Adviser

The programme consists of five face-to-face training days related to leadership of a Catholic school, together with the completion of a school-based project to enhance the Catholic life/Religious Education in your school. It also involves a visit to one of the Diocese's Multi-Academy Trust schools to evaluate the leadership characteristics and leadership strategies needed to successfully lead a Catholic school.

Aims of the Course are to:

- Develop an insight into the complexities of leading a Catholic school.
- Identify and develop the necessary skills required for senior leadership positions.
- Develop strategic planning through the leading of a whole school development project.
- Support the process of succession planning.

Those interested should be recommended by their Head Teacher/Principal who should email **jenny.fitzgerald@cliftondiocese.com** as follows:

Title of email: Aspiring leaders delegate recommendation. The email should include:
Delegates Name
Delegates Job role
Length of time in role.
If you are recommending more than one delegate, please number them in priority order.

NB: This course will not run unless we have a minimum of 10 participants. Failure to complete the full course will still incur the full costs.
By booking Day 1 you will automatically be booked in for all five days.

Governance

For all live governor/director/clerk training courses, places cannot be booked via Eventbrite. To be able to attend a session, you just need to click on the Teams link next to it, in the sections below, **using your school/trust email address**. Please email Bill McEntee, Governance Officer, at bill.mcentee@cliftondiocese.com to let him know of your intention to attend, no less than 24 hours before a session.

For the RE Link Governor training detailed below, you just need to click on the link to access the recorded training video.

There is **no charge** for governor/director/clerk training offered by the department

Religious Education Link Governors – what are your responsibilities?

An RE Link Governor training video is available on our website **RE link Governor | Clifton Diocese Schools and Colleges**

Target Audience: **New Religious Education Link Governors**
Facilitator **Louise White, RE Adviser**

Session 1: The Role of the RE Link Governor

Session 2: The new RE Directory and Prayer & Liturgy

Session 3: CSI Section 48 Inspection

Multi-Academy Trust Director Training

Induction Training

DATE	VENUE	TIME	TEAMS LINK
8th October 2026	Virtual	6:30 pm – 8:00 pm	Click Here

Target Audience: **New Directors of Diocesan Multi-Academy**
Trusts Facilitators: **Mary Cox, Director of Schools & Colleges**
Bill McEntee, Governance Officer
Paul Kehoe, Schools Partnership Officer

This induction training is to assist Directors of Multi-Academy Trusts to gain an understanding of the legal and Bishop's requirements for delivering Catholic education through Trust structures.

Aims of the Training

To provide guidance on:

- some structural requirements of the Diocesan strategic plan.
- the Flourishing MAT framework, which ensures Catholic MATs perform effectively to deliver high-quality education to the children they serve.
- effective monitoring models within MATs
- CEO support, development and oversight
- fulfilling obligations to statutory bodies

MAT Director Update

DATE	VENUE	TIME	TEAMS LINK
20th May 2027	Virtual	6.30 pm – 8.00 pm	Click Here

To be able to attend, please use the relevant Teams link above.

Governor Induction Training

DATE	VENUE	TIME	TEAMS LINK
19th November 2026 (Thursday)	Virtual	6:30 pm – 8:00 pm	Click Here
6th March 2027 (Saturday)	Virtual	10:00 am – 11:30 am	Click Here
10th June 2027 (Thursday)	Virtual	6:30 pm – 8:00 pm	Click Here

N.B. Please select ONE of the above dates.

Target Audience: **New Governors**

Facilitator: **Bill McEntee, Governance Officer**

This training session is the minimum requirement for all foundation governors to enable them to undertake their roles and responsibilities of governing a Catholic school effectively and appropriately. It will explore what it means to be a governor of a Catholic school and its distinctive nature, and the expectations of being the bishop's representative on a governing body/local governing committee.

It would also benefit governors of all other categories who are also encouraged to attend to help support them in their role as a member of a Catholic school governing body/local governing committee.

Aims of the Training

To:

- provide governors with a clear understanding of their role and responsibility.
- inform governors of the expectations of being the bishop's representative on a governing body/local governing committee.
- develop governors' understanding of how to govern a Catholic school.
- support governors' knowledge and understanding of the legal differences of governing a Catholic school and a non-denominational school.
- inform governors about organisations who are there to support their work, including the Catholic Education Service and Churchmarketplace.

To be able to attend, please use the relevant Teams link above.

Governor Refresher Training

DATE	VENUE	TIME	TEAMS LINK
7th November 2026 (Saturday)	Virtual	10:00 am – 11:30 am	Click Here
11th May 2027 (Tuesday)	Virtual	6:30 pm – 8:00 pm	Click Here

N.B. Please select ONE of the above dates.

Target Audience: **Governors who have been reappointed for another term of office**

Facilitator: **Bill McEntee, Governance Officer**

This training session is the minimum requirement for all reappointed foundation governors to enable them to undertake their roles and responsibilities of governing a Catholic school effectively and appropriately. It is more in-depth than the induction session and it revisits and updates what it means to be a governor of a Catholic school. It focuses on the distinctive nature of a Catholic school and the expectations of being the bishop's representative on a governing body/local governing committee.

It would also benefit governors of all other categories who are also encouraged to attend to support them in their role as a member of a Catholic school governing body/local governing committee.

Aims of the Training

To:

- refresh and revisit the role of a foundation governor within the Catholic school;
- remind governors of the expectations of being the bishop's representative on a governing body/local governing committee.
- bring reappointed governors up to date with any new directives or requirements.
- explore and discuss strategies for monitoring the Catholicity of their schools.
- share best practice.

To be able to attend, please use the relevant Teams link above

Admissions and Appeals Training

DATE	VENUE	TIME	TEAMS LINK
1st October 2026	Virtual	6:30 pm – 8:00 pm	Click Here
5th June 2027	Virtual	10:00 am – 11:30 am	Click Here

N.B. Please select ONE of the above dates.

Target Audience: **Directors, Governors, CEOs, Headteachers, Clerks/Governance Leads/Professionals and staff involved in school admissions.**

Facilitator: **Bill McEntee, Governance Officer**

This training is to help Directors, Governors, Clerks, Governance Leads/Professionals and staff gain an understanding of the legal and Bishop's requirements for considering In-Year applications, ranking new intake applications, and determining admission arrangements all in accordance with legislation.

Aims of the Training

To provide guidance on:

- some of the legal requirements of the School Admissions Code
- the process for considering in-year applications
- the ranking of new intake applications.
- oversubscription criteria and the process for determining admission arrangements in accordance with the bishop's requirement and legislation.
- appeals and appeal hearings.
- the Fair Access Protocol.

To be able to attend, please use the relevant Teams link above

Training for all governors – 'When things go wrong – lessons learned'

DATE	VENUE	TIME	TEAMS LINK
26th November 2026	Virtual	6:30 pm – 8:00 pm	Click Here
6th February 2027	Virtual	10.00am – 11:30 am	Click Here

N.B Please select ONE of the above dates.

Target audience: **Chairs, governors, and directors**

Facilitator **Mary Cox, Director of Schools & Colleges**

This session is to provide some lessons learned over several years where governors have had to face extreme challenges, including Headteacher performance management, staff tribunals, vexatious complaints and more.

Aims of the training

To provide

- Anonymized examples of real-life challenges from around the country that governing bodies have faced, and how they have navigated them
- Ideas on how these situations could have been mitigated
- Suggestions on processes within governance to support and avert challenges
- Discussion on how to escalate concerns, and where to seek support

To be able to attend, please use the relevant Teams link above

Training for Clerk to Governors, Governance Leads/Professionals

DATE	VENUE	TIME	TEAMS LINK
15th October 2026 (Thursday)	Virtual	6:30 pm – 8:00 pm	Click Here
9th February 2027 (Tuesday)	Virtual	9:30 am – 11:00 am	Click Here

N.B. Please select ONE of the above dates.

Target Audience: **Clerks to Governors, Governance Leads/Professionals**

Facilitator: **Bill McEntee, Governance Officer**

This session is to support both new and experienced clerks, governance leads/professionals in their role. It focuses on the requirements of clerking at a Catholic school/trust, within Clifton Diocese.

Aims of the Training

To:

- provide an understanding of the requirements of a Catholic school/Trust.
- provide an understanding of the purpose of Catholic education.
- understand the role of the foundation governor.
- understand the legislation relating to managing a Catholic school/Trust and support the clerking of the governing body/local governing committee of your school.

To be able to attend, please use the relevant Teams link above

Additional training opportunities

In collaboration with Birmingham Archdiocese, Southwark Diocese and Northampton Diocese, we are sharing the opportunity to access the training being offered across all 4 regions.
If you would like to access any of the training in the other areas, please follow the links below:

Birmingham Archdiocese
https://www.birminghamdiocese.org.uk/Handlers/Download.ashx?IDMF=332d3597-ecad-46ab-a32b-af08a6d00e71

Northampton Diocese
https://northamptondioceseschools.org/courses/

Southwark Archdiocese
https://www.rcaoseducation.org.uk/the-well-learning-platform/

CPD Yearly Planner

	Course	Venue	Page
September 2026			
13/09/26	Education Mass	Cathedral	**10**
16/09/26	Introduction to the Diocese - New Heads & Deputies	Alexander House	**18**
17/09/26	Chaplaincy Day for Primary Schools	St Dunstan's, Keynsham	**17**
22/09/26	Morning Reflection for Headteachers	Virtual	**18**
30/09/26	New to Catholic Education – Day 1	Aerospace, Bristol	**11**
October 2026			
01/10/26	Admissions & Appeals Training	Virtual	**26**
06/10/26	Aspiring Leaders - Day 1	Alexander House	**21**
08/10/26	MAT Director Induction Training	Virtual	**23**
14/10/26	Primary RE Update	St Augustine Downend	**16**
15/10/26	Clerk to Governor Training	Virtual	**28**
November 2026			
05/11/26	Secondary Heads of RE	Alexander House	**15**
07/11/26	Governor Refresher Training	Virtual	**25**
10/11/26	Chaplaincy Commissioning for all schools	Cathedral	**8**
14/11/26	CCRS Unit 1 Session 1 (The Church)	Virtual	**13**
17/11/26	CCRS Unit 1 Session 2 (The Church)	Alexander House	**13**
19/11/26	Governor Induction Training	Virtual	**24**
24/11/26	Aspiring Leaders - Day 2	Alexander House	**21**
26/11/26	For all governors -'When things go wrong – lessons learned'	Virtual	**27**
27/11/26	Headteachers' Conference	Cheltenham Chase Hotel	**19**
30/11/26	Cross Phase Modular Day 1	Alexander House	**12**
January 2027			
12/01/27	Chaplaincy Day for Primary Schools	St Dunstan's, Keynsham	**17**
13/01/27	Morning Reflection for Headteachers	Virtual	**18**
16/01/27	CCRS Unit 2 Session 1 (Sacramental Life)	Virtual	**13**
19/01/27	CCRS Unit 2 Session 2 (Sacramental Life)	Alexander House	**13**
20/01/27	Secondary Heads of RE	Alexander House	**15**
27/01/27	Cross Phase Modular Day 2	Alexander House	**12**
February 2027			
03/02/27	New to Catholic Education	Clifton Cathedral	**11**
06/02/27	For all governors - 'When things go wrong – lessons learned'	Virtual	**27**
09/02/27	Clerk to Governor Training	Virtual	**28**
March 2027			
02/03/27	Aspiring Leaders - Day 3	Alexander House	**21**
06/03/27	Governor Induction Training	Virtual	**24**
10/03/27	Primary RE Update	St Augustine's, Downend	**16**
20/03/27	CCRS Unit 3 Session 1 (Christian Morality)	Virtual	**13**
22/03/27	CCRS Unit 3 Session 2 (Christian Morality)	Alexander House	**13**
24/03/27	Cross Phase Modular Day 2	Alexander House	**12**
April 2027			
20/04/27	Morning Reflection for Headteachers	Virtual	**18**
22/04/27	Secondary Chaplains	Alexander House	**17**
May 2027			
13/05/27	Governor Refresher Training	Virtual	**25**
18/05/27	Aspiring Leaders - Day 4	MAT School tbc	**21**

20/05/27	MAT Director Updates	Virtual	**23**
June 2027			
05/06/27	Admissions & Appeals Training	Virtual	**26**
10/06/27	Governor Induction Training	Virtual	**24**
15/06/27	Yr 6 Leavers' Mass - Dunstan Schools	Clifton Cathedral	**9**
16/06/27	Yr 6 Leavers' Mass - Little Way Schools	Clifton Cathedral	**9**
17/06/27	Yr 6 Leavers' Mass - Newman Schools	Clifton Cathedral	**9**
26/06/27	CCRS Unit 4 Session 1 (Specialist Subject)	Virtual	**13**
28/06/27	CCRS Unit 4 Session 2 (Specialist Subject	Alexander House	**13**
29/06/27	Aspiring Leaders - Day 5	Brownshill	**21**
July 2027			
09/07/27	Senior Leadership Retreat	Downside School	**20**

Catholic Schools Inspectorate (CSI) Mandatory Training for Inspectors (for licensed Inspectors only)

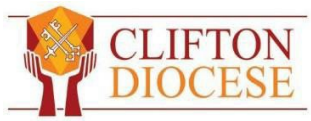
09/09/2026	09:30 – 15:30	Alexander House
14/01/2027	09:30 – 15:30	Alexander House
01/07/2027	09:30 – 15:30	Alexander House

Meetings of the Schools & Colleges Committee

25/11/2026	10:30 – 12:30	Alexander House
17/03/2027	10:30 – 12:30	Alexander House
09/06/2027	10:30 – 12:30	Alexander House

Diocesan Academy Board Meetings

10/09/2026	10:00 – 12:30	Alexander House
12/11/2026	10:00 – 12:30	Alexander House



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