

## **Important Diocesan Education Team Update #1, Wed 25 March 2020**

Dear Headteachers,

I'm sure that your inboxes and your working days are now full of things that you could never have imagined only a matter of weeks ago and I certainly don't want to add to that cacophony of noise. I do want to remind you though that we continue to look for ways in which we can support you and that we are on the end of the phone at any time. Follow us on Twitter for regular updates (@CofEWorcEduTeam and @MargaretRJ93).

If you have time, do share with us any ideas that you are finding useful and any resources that are going down well. We have received the following updates from the Church of England Education Office who are working closely with the DfE at this time.

- **[School Closure](#)**
  - The DfE has published updated principles that it would like schools to follow in cases of temporary closure.
  - If you reach the point that you are unable to keep school open, please liaise with the local authority and let me know of your decision. If you would appreciate our help in working with other local schools just let us know.
- **[Implementing Social Distancing in Education and Childcare Settings](#)**
- **[Guidance for Schools on Temporarily Closing \(Updated\)](#)**
- **[Guidance for early years and childcare providers](#)**

Please note, we expect the guidance to be regularly updated (potentially daily) to add further information and respond to the situation on the ground. However a full list of the latest published information can be found [here](#). Please direct any questions or concerns to the [DfE](#).

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The following **Collective worship and RE resources** might also be useful to you:

- [Fischy Music](#) are leading online assemblies
- Songs from [Rend Co Kids](#) that are suitable for collective worship.
- If you have young children, you can join Diddy Disciples for Bedtime Prayers at 6.45pm on their Facebook page. [Words here.](#)
- [Engage at home](#): daily prayer and worship activities for families.
- [NATRE.](#)
- [15 min family and school worship](#) at 9.30 after PE with Joe.

I have also received the following message from the Chair of the DBE:

*Dear colleagues,*

*I wanted, on behalf of the Diocesan Board of Education (DBE), to thank you for all the support you are providing for the children, young people and staff of our schools in these extraordinary times. You are all in our thoughts and prayers.*

*With my best wishes*

*Bryan Allbut*

*Chair, Worcester DBE*

As an Education Team, we continue to pray for you daily between midday and 1pm. Let me know of anything specific that you would like us to include in our prayers. We will be joining the Archbishop of Canterbury and Christian leaders from around the world **at 11am today** in saying the Lord's Prayer – do join in if you have the time.

With best wishes,

*Margaret James.*

**Dr Margaret James**  
**Diocesan Director of Education (DDE)**