

Education Matters
ISSUE 21-4
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Welcome to this latest edition of CViE Education Matters.

Education Matters is designed to provide parents and those interested in education with current “snippets” of information that might be of help in understanding and dealing with educational issues.

In this edition we cover the following:

- School inspections in England: Ofsted
- ‘Conversion therapy’ ban endangers teachers and vulnerable children
- Association of Christian Teachers: 50th Anniversary Lecture
- TikTok Videos Targeting Teachers – Support from Professionals Online Safety Helpline
- 4 tips for giving tech gifts this Christmas
- Tooth enamel: hard, and hard to replace

We would also bring your attention to a recent post on the CViE website “[The consequences of sexual immorality](#)” This is the first part of a two-part post that looks at the impact that sexual immorality has on the lives of children and young people. The second part, if the Lord will, is due to be published in mid-December.

On behalf of the CViE trustees -

With Christian regards,

Michael

(M Ridout, Chair CViE)

School inspections in England: OFSTED

This House of Commons Library Briefing is included for general interest and provides background on OFSTED inspections of state-funded schools in England, and looks at recent developments in school inspection.

OFSTED inspects all maintained and academy schools in England, and around half of independent schools, in line with the relevant inspection framework. It also inspects other services, including childcare, social care and further education.

From September 2019, OFSTED full (section 5) inspections reports separate judgments on: • [The quality of education](#) • [Behaviour and attitudes](#) • [Personal](#)

[development](#) • [Leadership and management](#) (the links provide details for those who wish to find out more about the OFSTED inspection process).

Although Relationships and Sex Education (RSE) is not graded within an OFSTED report, the judgment made on RSE by inspectors will contribute to the overall grade for 'Personal development' and 'Leadership and management'. Further information can be found in the guidance "[Inspecting teaching of the protected characteristics in schools](#)". This guidance does include an interesting paragraph:

"Faith teachings on protected characteristics

Schools are at liberty to teach the tenets of any faith on the protected characteristics. For example, they may explain that same-sex relationships and gender reassignment are not permitted by a particular religion. However, if they do so, they must also explain the legal rights LGBT people have under UK law, and that this and LGBT people must be respected".

The House of Commons Library Briefing document can be found by [clicking here](#).

'Conversion therapy' ban endangers teachers and vulnerable children

There has been much in the news and Christian press over the Government's current consultation on "[Banning Conversion Therapy](#)". The consultation opens with the stark statement "The Government will ban conversion therapy. There is no justification for these coercive and abhorrent practices and the evidence is clear that it does not work: it does not change a person from being LGBT and can cause long-lasting damage to those who go through it. We are committed to building a society in which conversion therapy no longer takes place."

The challenge does seem to be defining what constitutes 'conversion therapy', and as identified by the [Christian Institute](#) :

"'conversion therapy' is a wide umbrella term chosen by LGBT campaigners. It covers abusive practices by quack medical practitioners and charlatan preachers which are largely illegal already. But the campaigners want to go much further: they want to criminalise prayers that fail to endorse liberal theology".

Steve Beegoo, Head of Education at Christian Concern, has recently outlined how a ban of so-called 'conversion therapy' would endanger teachers and criminalise some pastoral support. He points out that "There are significant dangers for Christian teachers regarding the so-called conversion therapy ban. Activists, such as Jayne Ozanne, say 'conversion therapy' encompasses everything from physical and sexual abuse to prayer and pastoral concern. The advice that teachers give when supporting parents and vulnerable children and young people could be caught in the proposed legislation. The outcomes of the proposals will lead to the new and dangerous legal definition of a 'transgender child' based on a self-identification of the child. It may also result in under 18s being unable to be considered as having given consent to any

teacher who might talk to them in non-affirmative terms about sexuality or gender issues. This would all be banned.”

Steve Beegoo’s article in full can be found by [clicking here](#).

Although, there is not space to develop this topic further it is interesting to note on the [Christian Institute](#) website that “The Minister for Women and Equalities has affirmed the Government’s Stance that free speech and religious liberty should be protected from an overly-broad conversion Therapy ban and that in answer to a question on this subject “The Minister replied that, while the band sought to prevent coercion, it was “also important to protect freedom of speech, the ability of adults to consent and the freedom to express the teachings” of religious groups”.

Association of Christian Teachers: 50th Anniversary Lecture

The Association of Christian Teachers 50th Anniversary Lecture “Is There a Place for Christianity in Education” took place on Monday, 22 November 2021. The lecture was given by Alun Ebenezer, Head of Fulham Boys’ School.

The talk, which Alun Ebenezer titled “Change”, was very-thought provoking. He focused on three aspects: What has changed; What hasn’t changed and What needs to change.

It was identified that the past 50 years had seen major changes both educationally and culturally. Ten changes were identified and these included: how children are viewed, the breakdown in the respect for authority, mental health issues, the shape and nature of family, sex and relationships, equality, religion and beliefs being far more multicultural, the impact of technology, the way we view our bodies and the environment. Those things that haven’t changed were identified as: God has not changed and is still sovereign, the Bible has not changed and sin has not changed. What needs to change was identified as: Christians in education need to change and should be a stronger/braver witness together with the need to be more prayerful.

A recording of the talk can be found by [clicking here](#).

Alun Ebenezer also spoke at the CViE National Conference 2018, “‘Battlegrounds’, on being a Christian witness in a government funded boys school” - the talk is still available on the [CViE website](#).

TikTok Videos Targeting Teachers – Support from Professionals Online Safety Helpline

Alun Ebenezer, as mentioned above, highlighted amongst the changes that have occurred over the last 50 years the breakdown in respect for authority and technology.

This was highlighted in a recent post on the UK Safer Internet Centre website that focused on the recent viral trend of targeting teachers on social media platforms. This is causing a great deal of concern throughout the UK, especially as schools are increasingly reporting that their pupils have made explicit, offensive and harmful videos on social media which either make reference to the school or individual teachers. This, as can be imagined, has deeply affected many teachers.

Although there are many challenges faced in every occupation, this does bring to our attention the need to pray for teachers and particularly Christian teachers that they might be given help of the Lord to continue in the path that He has placed them on.

The blog post can be found by [clicking here](#).

4 tips for giving tech gifts this Christmas

The UK Safer Internet Centre has recently published a post on their website that may be of interest, aimed at parents and carers considering purchasing phones, tablets, consoles, or wearable technology gifts this Christmas.

Four tips are identified:

- set up and play with the device before wrapping
- discuss your expectations
- give practical safety tips
- keep the conversation going!

The blog post can be found by [clicking here](#).

Tooth enamel: hard, and hard to replace

Parents are faced with many challenges including encouraging children to brush their teeth!

An article on the Creation Ministries International website may help explain why brushing your teeth is important. The article states that the hardest substance in our body is tooth enamel and once the enamel is mature it is “scarcely self-repaired after damage”. The article stresses the need not to be slack in our dietary habits and mouth hygiene.

Perhaps more importantly, the article is a reminder that we are “fearfully and wonderfully made” (Psalm 139:14)

The article can be found by [clicking here](#).

Finally



Christian Values in Education

As we come to the end of the Autumn Term, do pray for those who are, in whatever capacity, involved in education. We would also remember those returning home from university, especially those who have left home for the first time.

Do pray for CViE and Tim Wills (Business and Development Manager) as we go forward into another year and that the Lord will continue to supply our need in “equipping Christians to stand fast on the Word of God in education today”.

[Note: Although we make every effort to ensure these links mentioned are accurate, up to date and relevant, CViE cannot take responsibility for content and pages maintained by external providers.]