



Christian Values in Education

Education Matters

ISSUE 22-1

(January 2022)

Welcome to this latest edition of CViE Education Matters.

Education Matters are 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 and parenting issues.

In this edition we cover the following:

EDUCATION

- Coronavirus and schools
- Home Education in England
- School places in England: omissions and appeals
- School calendar

ENVIRONMENTAL

- Creation Ministries International

TECHNOLOGY

- Smartphones and Fallen Natures
- Focus on the Family: Your teens need you, not more screen time

We would also bring your attention to some recent posts on the CViE website, “Abortion: The impact on lives”, and “The consequences of sexual immorality” (click [here](#)) – and we hope to post an upcoming series on gambling.

On behalf of the CViE trustees -

With Christian regards,

Michael

(M Ridout, Chair CViE)

EDUCATION

Coronavirus and schools

This House of Commons Library Briefing, largely focused on England, is included for general interest and provides has been updated for the start of the new January 2022

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school term. The briefing covers a range of topics including: attendance rates, pupil coronavirus testing, operational issues for schools, and education recovery.

The briefing notes “Early in the pandemic, survey evidence indicated wide disparities in young people’s home learning experiences during the initial spring 2020 school attendance restrictions. There have been particular concerns about the impacts on disadvantaged children. Further evidence is now starting to emerge on the extent of the academic, mental and physical health impacts of the initial and subsequent attendance restrictions”.

This latter point should not be underestimated. Coronavirus has had many ‘unintended consequences’ (not unknown to the Lord) across many sectors of society. For education there have been additional burdens on management of schools and the delivery of education; there has also been the burden on parents and children through additional coronavirus testing and the changes that have gone both whilst not being at school and returning to school. They have no doubt be many anxious times for Christian head teachers, staff, parents and children yet the Lord is still sovereign – Psalm 46:10-11.

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

Home Education in England

This House of Commons Library Briefing provides key information on home education in England as well as current and past proposals for reform. This briefing provides information on the current position on home schooling including why parents choose to home educate and the responsibilities involved, estimates of the numbers of children who are being home educated and an update on the proposals for reform. As some will know, in recent years there has been attempts to regulate home education or elective home education (EHE) as it is referred to by government.

CViE has often reinforced the point that the education of children is the responsibility of parents and for Christian parents this is a God-given responsibility. For those Christian parents who are led to home educate their children then this is a prayerful pathway and one that is not taken lightly.

The briefing is a useful reference point for those who are home educating and for those thinking of home education a useful starting point to understand the framework in which home education operates in England. The briefing can be found by [clicking here](#).

[In 2019, Ofsted published “[Exploring moving to home education in secondary schools](#)” which may be of interest to those considering home education for secondary aged children.]

School places in England: omissions and appeals

This House of Commons Library Briefing provides an overview of how places are allocated at state-funded schools in England, and how parents and carers apply for places for their children. It covers the legislative framework, school application processes, and appealing against a decision to refuse a place at an individual school (different arrangements apply in Scotland, Northern Ireland and Wales).

The briefing provides background information on school admission policies in England, school starting age, choosing a school, applying for a school place what to do if dissatisfied with the school place offer and how applicants are ranked.

Whilst it is appreciated that for Christian parents choosing a school for their children is a pathway of prayer, research and looking for the Lord to lead them in this matter; nevertheless, the briefing may be a helpful background and can be found by [clicking here](#).

School calendar

Those involved in education are no doubt aware of the proliferation of events and ‘celebrations’ that are part of the school calendar - often imposed upon schools. CViE has taken the opportunity to try to identify what events might take place in schools. This has been done to alert parents so that they can ask the question “what is covered in the events that happen within school and what this means for their children?”

In the past CViE has reported actions that parents have taken when they discovered what their schools were doing - we would be pleased to hear from parents, in complete confidence, of issues that they have to deal with in schools so that these can be shared to encourage parents and others to stand fast.

January 2022

RSPB's Big Schools' Birdwatch -January 5 - February 22

[World Religion Day -January 16](#)

Martin Luther King, Jr. Day -January 18

[International Day of Education -January 24](#)

Burns Night -January 25

Holocaust Memorial Day -January 27

(This is a new venture for CViE, and it is appreciated that some of the dates in January passed by, however the two highlighted dates should be noted in view of the dangers of “all religions lead to God” and the humanistic view of education.)

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February 2022

[LGBT+ History Month -February 1 - February 28](#)

National Heart Month -February 1 - February 28

[World Interfaith Harmony Week of February 1](#)

World Wetlands Day –February 2

[Children's Mental Health Week -February 7 - February 13](#)

[Safer Internet Day -February 8](#)

International Day of Women and Girls in Science –February 11

[Random Acts of Kindness Week -February 13 - February 19](#)

[World Day of Social Justice –February 20](#)

International Mother Language Day –February 21

Fairtrade Fortnight -February 22 - March 7

[Stand up to Bullying -February 25](#)

(Again, a number of events have been highlighted to bring these to the attention of parents)

Twinkl is an organisation that produces resources for use in schools and has an area of their website "[Teaching Topic & Event Resource Calendar](#)" which provides a list of events each month of the year, together with information and resources of what the event covers. This may be a useful starting point for parents to see what is coming up during the year. Parents could ask the school for a calendar of events and what is being covered, and it would be interesting to know whether schools are forthcoming with this information.

Please feel free to contact us regarding any points in this section at enquiries@cvie.org.uk

ENVIRONMENTAL

Creation Ministries International

Creation Ministries International have uploaded two short videos (around 15 minutes each) to their website "A Biblical Approach to Climate Change". These videos are based on a more detailed article posted on their website. The videos are very informative and understandable, albeit North American! The videos provide accessible Christian worldview input on modern issues, and could be a useful basis for family or young people group discussion.

The videos are as follows:

[A Biblical Approach to Climate Change \(part 1\)](#) - Underlying assumptions and worldviews behind different approaches to climate change are summarized along with questionable scientific models.

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[A Biblical Approach to Climate Change \(part 2\)](#) - Examines more failed climate predictions, discuss the source of the claim that “97% of scientists” agree that climate change is man-made, and consider the results of a singular focus on fixing the climate.

The article referred to in the videos is “[Anthropogenic Global Warming \(AGW\) —a biblical and scientific approach to climate change](#)” by Don Batten (November 2020). This is a very detailed and well-researched article with an informative discussion trail in the comments section.

(For information: Anthropogenic global warming is a theory explaining today's long-term increase in the average temperature of Earth's atmosphere as an effect of human industry and agriculture.)

TECHNOLOGY

Smartphones and Fallen Natures

This blog – ‘The Fight of Faith’ (fightoffaithblog.com) – accessed via a link at the Siouxland Modern Media Committee website of the Netherlands Reform Congregations, has been thoughtfully written and is a reminder of the dangers and benefits of handheld devices.

The blog post starts –

“Have our smartphones made us better people? Back in the 90s, the power of the computer age was still in its infancy. For example, if you wanted to watch something, you only had so many options. You were held captive to the schedules of the major broadcasting networks and cable companies. Sure, you could pop a tape into the VCR, but your options were usually limited to what you had in the house or what you could find at the rental store if you were willing to drive there. To be candid, as a young man in high school and college, there were many times I wanted to view unfitting content, and the only thing that kept me from defiling myself was a lack of access. We no longer live in that world. Anything we want is available at our fingertips: literally, at our fingertips on our smartphones. It is often instructive to look back from where we came, even if we only look back to the 90s. I am often concerned for people born in the past 20 years who have no recollection of a world without the internet and smart devices. They have nothing to compare to their current existence. I have grave concerns for young people who walk around with access to a world of temptation in their pockets. Do not get me wrong. There are so many benefits to today's technology that it is hard to overestimate, but that does not mean there are no negative consequences involved, especially when we combine it with our sinful nature.”

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

Focus on the Family: Your teens need you, not more screen time

This is a very forthright and searching post that addresses and challenges parents in living in this digital age with the challenges their children face.

The following extract is a flavour of the blog post –

“Parents need to lead by example first. We need to turn off our phones, put them down and stay fully present because our children need to know they are our priority. If our kids have the impression that our tech time is more important than they are, we can ask them for forgiveness. If their attitudes have discouraged us, we can explain that to them. Showing them we care about our relationship will encourage them to trust us and try to communicate again. We need to check our motivations and attitudes. If we’re asking questions about their day because we feel obligated, they’ll know it. If we’re talking with them to get it over with so we can move onto something else, they’ll feel it. We need to be humble, teachable, courageous and other-centered. We need to be diligent and follow through to establish new communication patterns. Reconnecting probably won’t be immediate or easy or comfortable. But our teens are worth the effort.”

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

Forthcoming events

CViE would take this opportunity to highlight forthcoming events that may be of interest:

- Creation Ministries International (CMI-UK/Europe) is hosting monthly FREE online events, featuring newly produced illustrated creation talks and LIVE Q&A sessions. The next one is Friday 11 February 2022 at 7:30 PM GMT, “Recovering Biblical Authority in a Secular Age”, presented by Thomas Fretwell. Further details can be found by [clicking here](#).

Finally

As we start another year and the spring term, do pray for those who are, in whatever capacity, involved in education.

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



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[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.]