**Supporting Families in Our School Communities –useful information.**

Many families within our school communities will experience difficult and uncertain times due to the Covid-19 virus and periods of self-isolation. In all likelihood this may result in financial implications due to loss of income or increased pressures on low incomes. Below are a few links to provide information to assist parents and careers on how to access various levels of support.

**Catholic Children's Society** – Crisis Fund - https://www.cathchild.org.uk/crisis-fund/

The Crisis Fund provides immediate financial support for families facing a crisis in their lives. Parish Priests and Headteachers can apply to this fund on behalf of a family and we will respond within 24 hours. This support can make a huge difference to families in desperate situations when they have nowhere else to turn.

**Caritas Westminster** – Caritas Food Collective - https://www.caritaswestminster.org.uk/caritas-food-collective-918.php

Caritas Westminster has launched a new initiative across the Diocese of Westminster to tackle the problem of food poverty and insecurity. The project, called Caritas Food Collective, has three key aims: to expand direct food relief across the diocese, to support people to become more food secure through signposting and skills training, and to develop education and advocacy across the diocese so together we can tackle the issues underlying the problem of food poverty.

**St Vincent De Paul (SVP)** - Community Support Projects – https://www.svp.org.uk/community-support-projects

This includes our Community Shops, Furniture Stores, Advice and Support Centres, Supported Accommodation and our contract with the Home Office to manage and run two local Approved Premises. SVP members are also involved with holiday camps and the running of local soup runs and food banks

**The Trussel Trust** – Food Banks - https://www.trusselltrust.org/

The website provides useful information on locating your local Foodbank and how you can access emergency help.

**Citizens Advice Bureau** – Advice and support for parents on low incomes - https://www.citizensadvice.org.uk/benefits/help-if-on-a-low-income/

**Early Help Hubs/Social Services** – All local authorities have advice and support for families experiencing difficulties – Direct parents to your local authority website.

**Gingerbread** – Charity supporting single parent families - https://www.gingerbread.org.uk/coronavirus/

**The Money Advice Service** – Free impartial advice on money issues by the Government - https://www.moneyadviceservice.org.uk/en/articles/coronavirus-what-it-means-for-you

**Caritas Social Action Network** – Provides a comprehensive list of agencies who offer a wide range of help, support and advice on social issues https://www.csan.org.uk/

Caritas Social Action Network shares in the mission of the Catholic Church in England & Wales. We animate and co-ordinate our network of social action charities and dioceses, working in collaboration with them to help poor, vulnerable and marginalised people find their voice and to enable them to improve their lives.

**National Debt Line** – A national helpline and advisory service giving free, impartial and confidential debt advice - https://www.nationaldebtline.org/EW/factsheets/Pages/coronavirus-advice-and-support/help-and-advice.aspx

**Local Authority** – Grants, Benefits and Crisis Funds - https://www.gov.uk/find-local-council

Use the web link to find your local authority where you can access services and seek advice on potential grants, benefits and funds

**Family Action** – Charity supporting families – https://www.family-action.org.uk/what-we-do/grants/

Family Action works to tackle some of the most complex and difficult issues facing families today – including financial hardship, mental health problems, social isolation, learning disabilities, domestic abuse, or substance misuse and alcohol problems.

**Family Fund** – Charity supporting families with disabled or seriously ill children - https://www.familyfund.org.uk/

Family Fund is the UK's largest charity providing grants for families raising disabled or seriously ill children and young people.

**Turn2Us** - Turn2us is a national charity providing practical help to people who are struggling financially. -https://www.turn2us.org.uk/

Turn2us helps people in financial need gain access to welfare benefits, charitable grants and other financial help – online, by phone and face to face through our partner organisations.