

Message sent on behalf of Nina Dohel, Director of Education

Dear Colleagues,

I wanted to send you a message today to let you know that I share in the sense of loss of a world leader, mother, grandmother and great-grandmother. That I am thinking of you today as strong leaders yourselves who will be managing this sense of loss for those around you as you lead your communities to pay tribute in their own ways. I know you will have been gathering with your children and students, staff and families this morning to mark the very sad news that Her Majesty The Queen passed away at Balmoral yesterday with her family at her side.

Like many of you, I feel great sadness at the passing of such an exceptional woman, someone who has been there our whole lives. As a strong, female, leader, she has inspired many around the world for over 70 years. As we hear the tributes unfold and watch the images of her life roll through the years, her dignity and humanity, humour and compassion come through strongly.

You, your staff and pupils, and their families, may be experiencing a range of challenging emotions at the moment. Please remember that there are many support services available for you and your staff to reach out to during this time (or at any other time), including the Education Support Partnership website, which I have linked to here [Education Support, supporting teachers and education staff](#).

Our Schools HR team has also provided a [list of wellbeing resources](#) which they have placed on the schools website. I have attached that list to this email so that you can share it more easily with families or whoever needs it.

In Southwark we have a strong history of welcoming Her Majesty to our borough over the years, and you can [read more about that on our website](#) alongside tributes from the Leader of the Council and Mayor of Southwark.

As well as our personal responses, we also have many responsibilities as a council and civic organisation. There is a timetable that we must follow, which includes our communications with residents, the cancelling of events in the run up to Her Majesty's funeral, and other civic protocols. As an inner London borough we will also be involved in supporting people from all over the country, and beyond, to queue to pay their respects to Her Majesty as she lies in state.

Earlier this week we shared a timetable and plan with you to help guide you in considering how your school community might be affected by arrangements for a state funeral, and the measures you might need to take. Of course this was sent without knowing that you would need to put this into action so quickly. If you have any questions about this information please contact your link advisor or vilma.edwards@southwark.gov.uk and we will share updates as we receive them. You may also find these news links useful in your planning:

- [News | The Royal Family](#)
- [Death of Her Majesty The Queen - Initial public information on funeral and ceremonial arrangements - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](#).
- [Information about the passing away of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II | Southwark Schools](#)

Yours sincerely,
Best wishes,
Nina