



## IDPE's response to the coronavirus situation

Every organisation has been impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic and in response, IDPE has developed a range of accessible and relevant guidance to support you during these unprecedented times.

### How will IDPE continue to support you?

#### Support

- **Regional meetings:** whilst we still cannot meet face-to-face, we will continue to offer virtual regional coffee and catch ups, as an opportunity for members to continue to network and share expertise.
- **Members' forum:** don't forget to use our members' forum to get your questions answered.
- **IDPE support:** whilst IDPE has introduced a working from home policy, all IDPE staff are still available. Please do get in touch either via [e-mail](#) or on 01225 829030.

#### Professional development

- **Webinars and community forums:** We have introduced a series of webinars and community forums to support members with adapting to the ever-changing situation.
- **Online resources:** our [members' resource library](#) contains helpful guides, webinar recordings, templates, examples and more to support your development programme

#### Working in partnership

We will continue to work with our partners, across both the schools and fundraising sectors, to share best practice and support your school during this time.

#### IDPE 2021 Annual Conference

This year's annual conference will be taking place virtually from Monday 14 – Friday 18 June, and will provide a five-day programme combining expert led training, sharing of best practice and opportunities to network with peers for your whole school. [Find out more and book your place now.](#)

## What can you do now?

It can be difficult to see how to plan ahead during these uncertain times. Here's our top five tips to get you started:

- **Take time to reflect:** review your development strategy and the innovations of the past year. Consider what has worked (or conversely not worked) and evolve your development strategy to embrace this learning.
- **Continue to engage with your community:** this is an opportunity to focus on engagement. Consider how can you strengthen relationships with your community to advance giving now and in the future.
- **Tell them how they can help:** it's important to communicate with your school community the impact of COVID-19 on your school, reassure your community that you are doing all that you can, but also don't be afraid to tell them how they can help.
- **Continue to deliver online:** reunions, networking events, career days, are all possible to deliver online. Continue to provide a range of virtual ways to connect with your community.
- **Be prepared:** what can you continue to do now? Can you plan your next campaign? A giving day? A calendar of online events? Can you and your team work from home? Do you have virtual access to the database? Planning for disruption is key.

Challenging times provide us with the opportunity to be more creative and to consider what we can do differently. At IDPE, we have shifted our focus to support our members in new ways, and what is clear is that the sense of community within IDPE grows even stronger as we pull together to support each other in these extraordinary times.