



## Statutory Inspection of Anglican Schools

### Update One – September 2005

*This update is also found on the National Society Website*

#### News and developments

The National Society wishes to put on record our thanks and appreciation for all the hard work, thought and innovative practice that members of the consultative group (JSEICG) and so many colleagues throughout the dioceses have put in and are putting into getting SIAS up and running. There will be glitches and problems in the next few weeks but these have been greatly minimised by your efforts. I am looking forward to working with you all on this next challenging phase.

Nick McKemey

#### **DfES review of Grant payment to inspectors.**

Ministers have asked the DfES to review both the level of payment and the system for disbursement. The National Society (NS) proposals, along with those from other faith providers, have been submitted and discussed in depth with DfES officers. The NS has proposed that the fee for inspectors is pegged to typical Ofsted contractor's rates per day, plus one half day's rate for preparation and report writing. In addition we have proposed that funding be provided for the administration and quality assurance work of DBEs and financial support be given to the NS for administering inspector accreditation and QA tasks. It is expected that decisions will be made before November and the new arrangements will be deemed to be effective from 1<sup>st</sup> September.

The DfES are also reviewing the method for paying Section 48 inspectors. With double the number of inspections the system of channelling the funding through individual governing bodies is seen to be wasteful and bureaucratic. The NS is exploring with the DfES ways in which this funding stream can be disbursed centrally/via DBEs. Any concrete developments here will be advised immediately in the weekly bulletins. Any comments or ideas are welcome and should be

communicated to Nick McKemey [nick.mckemey.c-of-e.org.uk](mailto:nick.mckemey.c-of-e.org.uk) . **In the meantime the standing arrangements for payment to Section 48 inspectors remain in force.**

### **Ofsted – SIAS protocol**

**Subsequent to the agreed protocol (attached) the following points have been agreed in principle.**

Advanced notice of inspections.

Ofsted will provide a complete list of CofE schools for the six inspection "windows", on a termly basis, to the National Society's (NS) named officer (Nick McKemey). The NS will provide information each diocese according to their stated individual requirements.

An agreement on the security of IT systems and confidentiality will be set up between the NS and the DBEs. Any leakage of information will normally lead to withdrawal of that diocese's access to advanced information unless Ofsted agrees that there are compelling mitigating circumstances. (There has been only one case since 1992 of a faith provider effecting a breach of confidential inspection information.)

After the school has been notified of inspection, a requirement for a Section 48 inspection identified and the field days scheduled for Section 5 inspection the RISP (Regional Inspection Provider) will telephone and email the appropriate diocese to formally inform them. This will also cover those events where a Section 10 inspection is deferred for any reason. Over time diocesan officers will inevitably develop working contacts with their RISP.

From 1<sup>st</sup> January 2006 Ofsted will seek to smooth out the flow of CofE school inspections where practical. Inspection numbers in September will be low stepping up to a normal flow by November.

Taking into account the current reorganisation of the Ofsted website, an automated link will be provided for each Section 5 CofE school's report to the corresponding Section 48 report (in principle from 01.09.05).

A formal meeting between the NS and Ofsted is scheduled for December 2005 to review progress. Informal contact by NM with designated HMI is continuous.

A continual working dialogue is now established between Nick McKemey (NS) and Mike Hoban HMI (Ofsted).

#### **Notes:**

It is of historical significance that Ofsted regards SIAS as a complementary partner in statutory inspection and of equal status. The protocol is the product a positive working relationship between the Church of England and Ofsted.

The protocol is designed to ensure compliance by *all* parties. It is thus somewhat terse in language but this to aid of clarity.

Both parties see this protocol as something to develop and improve in the light of experience.

The SEF is the property of the school and there “should be” no reason why this cannot be supplied electronically to the diocese/inspector. Dioceses are advised to discuss this with their schools in the near future to avoid complications when inspection does come round.

Within the next month the NS will survey all dioceses in England to ascertain whether and in what form they require advanced notice of forthcoming inspections. Early indications are very varied. Some dioceses have made it clear that they do not wish any advanced notice at all whilst others want maximum information. Others indicate that a round number of inspections will suffice. There are issues for dioceses with small numbers of secondary schools where identification of the school can be made with minimal information.

### Inspection and reporting

A number of dioceses have recommended one structural change to the report format. There will now be an **additional box under the first box** on the report form, which contains details about the school and the inspector with dates etc. This will be entitled, **School Context**. Inspectors should include **BRIEF** (50 words max) and **relevant** information about the location, local community, the constituency of the learners within the school and any other pertinent facts. This will give helpful information to readers not familiar with the area and community in which the school is located. This background contextual information will give useful perspective to the report’s evaluation. **Inspectors should avoid repeating the contextual information in the body of the report – it should make some paragraphs shorter!**

After an evaluation of the tasks completed by new and retrained inspectors all inspectors should take notice of the following SIAS requirements:

The main overarching judgement which meets the principal objective of the inspection (SIAS Framework Section 5) which is *to evaluate the distinctiveness and effectiveness of the school as a Church of England school* should be expressed as a clear **judgement**.

For example;

**St Anywhere’s is an outstanding Church of England school.**

**It is highly distinctive and effective in the way it meets the needs of all the learners, particularly in their spiritual development.**

**Likewise each Key question should be REPLACED by the corresponding judgement.**

For example;

**Collective worship has an outstanding impact on the whole school community.**

Inspectors should avoid following a clear judgement like this with confusing or contradictory qualifications like “participation by the younger learners in collective worship is satisfactory” in the supporting evaluation. That suggests that the judgement is flawed and could possibly lead to a challenge by the school.

Inspectors should at always avoid “coulds” and “shoulds” or other what might have beens (speculation or concealed judgements). Good inspection is based on evaluating existing evidence not on what, in the inspector’s wisdom, might have been done better another way. An informal developmental dialogue will be part of the active inspection process but judgements and diagnostic evaluation must be very clearly expressed.

### **Training and Accreditation**

For National Society accreditation all **new** inspectors will have tasks assessed by members of the NS training team with reference to the standards set out in the SIAS Framework for Training. Satisfactory completion of these tasks will enable provisional NS accreditation subject to completion of at least one shadow inspection and the production of a satisfactory first inspection. The relevant diocese and the NS will monitor this. The views of the school and the diocese along with the final report will form the basis for the evaluation.

**Retrained** inspectors should submit one written task to be evaluated by NM or member of JSEICG. This is normally a standard SIAS report which may be an exercise or a pilot report.

To register as an accredited SIAS inspector with the NS all inspectors or must provide evidence to the NS or their dioceses of:

- Completion of satisfactory NS endorsed training or retraining on the SIAS Framework for Inspection
- A current Enhanced CRB check
- Current professional liability insurance

Inspectors must also provide the NS with a digital passport photograph and a completed registration (on NS website)

On registration inspectors must pay a registration fee, which includes membership of the National society. This is National Society Council policy and contributes to the costs of the quality assurance and administration of the SIAS process. Inspectors who are based in schools which have NS membership (school or diocesan block) do not need to pay this as it is assumed that the school will recover the inspector’s fees.

We are aware that becoming and remaining a SIAS inspector often requires financial outlay by individual inspectors but we hope inspectors will bear in mind that these costs are tax deductible, the NS has reduced training costs by one third and the new fee levels are expected to make the recovery of the investment quicker.

**The National Society wishes all SIAS inspectors and diocesan schools officers all the very best for their new challenges.**