



Statutory Inspection of Anglican Schools

Update Two – December 2005

This update is also found on the National Society Website

News and developments

The National Society wishes to thank all those diocesan officers and inspectors who are working so hard to make a success of SIAS. There have been, as expected, some glitches but these have been greatly minimised by your efforts.

Nick McKemey and the JSEICG trainers have noted that the calibre of new inspectors coming forward for training is very high.

DfES review of Grant payment to inspectors.

The faith providers and DfES recommendations is with Ministers for a decision. It is hoped that a decision would be made around Christmas time.

In the meantime the standing arrangements for payment to Section 48 inspectors remain in force.

Inspection dates for next term (from January 06)

The full list with dates of Ofsted Section 5 inspections will be delivered to Nick McKemey in the next few days. We shall again supply all DDEs (or their designated recipient) in England with their diocesan list in a confidential electronic format within 24 hours of receiving the information. It will be sent to the email address being used for this dispatch and marked Private. *Would DDEs please keep Veronica Elks immediately informed of any changes to the designated recipient.*

Advance notice of inspection is supplied for planning purposes only. DBEs should not supply any additional advice or support to schools beyond that which is already scheduled or normally provided. You will recognise that a *sudden burst of interest in a particular school's self-evaluation or progress could easily be read as a signal of impending inspection.* You will want to reflect on the value of establishing a well-

understood pattern of advisory and pastoral visits to schools by DBE staff, to avoid any interest you and your colleagues take being thus misinterpreted.

RISPs

The RISPs are working to engage with dioceses and we hear that many dioceses have now established good working communication with their RISP/s. In addition to diocesan contact details, we have supplied all the RISPs with a complete list of Church of England schools arranged by diocese with URN, postcode, LA and geographical location. There may, however be the odd discrepancy at the margins with schools that "belong" to another diocese (or Wales). If this occurs please update the RISP and the National Society so that our list may become perfect.

There have been a larger number of re-scheduled Section 5 inspections this term than expected and in a number of cases inspections have been brought forward that were not on the original schedule supplied to us by Ofsted. Thus some "surprise" inspections have cropped up. Nick McKemey has been discussing this with Ofsted and he is working with the CRISP (the committee representing all the RISPs). The arrangement will be that RISPs will contact dioceses as soon as changes to the Section 5 schedule occur and update the Ofsted schedule. The RISPs are keen to extend and develop their emerging and promising relationships with individual dioceses.

These new arrangements are designed to avoid the problems, which would be caused if a diocese inadvertently "jumped the gun" and contacted a school before the RISP did. **It must be stressed that no contact may be made with any school by the diocese before contact with the RISP. When in doubt contact the relevant RISP!**

Please let Nick McKemey know where there are problems, as he will follow these up with Ofsted and the RISPs.

Contact details RISPs (named contacts may be subject to change)

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Nord Anglia School Inspection Services Anglia House Carrs Road Cheadle Cheshire SK8 2LA	General: 0161 491 9640 Schools: 0161 491 9647 Fax: 0161 491 9677 <u>Key Contact:</u> Anne Yeomans – 0161 491 9651 a.yeomans@inspection-services.co.uk Helen Kavanagh h.kavanagh@inspection-services.co.uk	Northumberland, Tyne and Wear, County Durham, Tees Valley, Cumbria, Lancashire, Humberside, East Riding, North Lincolnshire, North East Lincolnshire
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Cambridge Education Ltd Demeter House Station Road Cambridge CB1 2RS	01223 578500 www.camb-ed.com <u>Key Contact:</u> Nicola Marshall 01223 463912 Email: Nicola.marshall@camb-ed.com	Norfolk, Cambridgeshire, Suffolk, Bedfordshire and Luton, Herefordshire, Essex, Derbyshire, Nottinghamshire, Lincolnshire and Rutland.
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Inspection and reporting

The National Society has now evaluated key aspects of the first weeks of SIAS:

- What we are finding from training and re-training inspectors.
- What is being written in the reports.
- Working out of the Ofsted/CofE protocol

Clearly identified established strengths

- Generally good length with short sentences
- Clearly identified focus for development
- *Mostly* clear judgements supported by evaluative paragraphs
- More concurrent inspections than expected
- Evidence of some good Ofsted/SIAS contacts

SIAS reports – issues

- Some reports with **no** clear judgements
- Some judgements not supported by evaluative paragraphs – inconsistencies
- Not enough use of telling illustrations to support evaluation
- On the whole the new reports were the right length but in quite a few cases the evaluations did not back up the judgements.
- Some reports are still essentially descriptive rather than evaluative.

The following National Society SIAS statement of expectations is the result of an evaluation of the tasks completed by new and retrained inspectors and early SIAS reports.

The main overarching judgement (which meets the principal objective of the inspection (SIAS Framework Section 5)) is *an evaluation of the distinctiveness and effectiveness of the school as a Church of England school* and should be expressed as a **clear judgement**. Most schools welcome truthful inspection feedback and reports that give a clear message. The dialogical nature of SIAS inspection means that the opportunity is there for the inspector and the school to arrive at an *agreed* outcome through the inspection process. However, in certain cases the inspector will judge that the school’s self-evaluation is too generous or too negative in all or part. *Inspectors should remember that SIAS exists primarily to establish the effect on learners of an Anglican church school education and if this means that difficult messages need to be given to a school this done on behalf of those learners.*

In the SIAS report each Key question should be REPLACED by the corresponding judgement as a “headline” followed by an evaluative paragraph.

N.B. Some dioceses are including judgement grades in their reports to schools. This is an optional approach and not at present a National Society requirement. It will be useful to gauge the views of schools on this in the coming months.

Some SIAS dos and don’ts

Writing the report – DOs

- Put headline judgements up front
- Use text to explain briefly
- Use illustration sparingly to bring life to the report
- Be explicit about strengths and weaknesses and their impact

- Use clear, direct statements
- Write short sentences
- Highlight main points first (where sensible)
- Make links with other sections
- Use everyday language

Writing the report – Don'ts

- Use “coulds”, “shoulds” or “would be better ifs” - this is speculation or concealed judgement not evidence
- Personalise judgements - “it is the view/impression/opinion of the inspector that...”
- Include advice - Developmental pointers go in the Focus for Development (+ informal feedback)
- Provide an audit or critique of provision which is not directly linked to an evaluation of impact or effect

Reporting style

Avoid phrases like, “there are good opportunities for learners to reflect”. *So, do they reflect and on what?* Evaluate to what extent learners actually reflect on particular matters and then diagnose why this is.

Avoid phrases like, “there is evidence that...”. *This is woolly writing.* Is this evidence sufficient and secure? State clearly and simply what is going on in terms of what learners, can do, understand, know, believe, feel etc. and diagnose why this is.

Avoid phrases like, “Good teaching is carried out using a well planned scheme of work based on the diocesan syllabus”. *So what?* SIAS inspectors should state clearly and simply what the effect of the church school is in terms of what learners, achieve (RE), can do, understand, know, believe, feel etc. and diagnose why this is.

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 views of the school and the diocese along with the final report will form the basis for the evaluation. The relevant diocese and the NS will monitor this. Shadow inspections should result in an individual shadow report, separate from the official report, written by the probationary inspector, which is assessed by the diocese.

Retrained inspectors should submit one written task to be evaluated by NM or member of JSEICG. This is normally a standard SIAS report that 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 (less than 3 years old) 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 a 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 being negotiated by the Society with DfES are expected to make the recovery of the investment quicker.

The National Society wishes all SIAS inspectors and diocesan schools officers a peaceful Christmas and a fulfilling New Year.