

## Diocese of St Albans

### SIAS 2

#### What are SIAS expectations in the second round of inspections?



#### 1 All the things in SIAS 1

There will shortly be a new National Society Inspection Framework available which retains the four Key Questions from SIAS 1 and most of the sub questions. The Diocese of St Albans will make some changes to the current inspection. Inspectors will judge the evidence against criteria that have changed slightly to reflect a greater emphasis on values, community cohesion and citizenship.

The inspection makes judgement on impact, not provision. For instance, pupils should be able to speak about the ways in which they can apply what they hear in Collective Worship to their own lives (not just describe what happens).

#### 2 New things in SIAS 2

There will be a question on Community Cohesion in RE when the new framework is published in Spring 2009, and community links will still be commented on under Leadership and Management.

There is a much clearer focus on the impact of the school's Christian values in Key Question 1. Inspectors, therefore, must find out exactly what are the 'Christian values' of the school and how these are distinctively Christian (eg all schools must be inclusive, because 'Every Child Matters'; but church schools will do their best for every child, whatever their needs, because everyone is a child of God and every child matters to God). Key people involved in the life of the school should be able to articulate these Christian values and they should be clearly identified as such in their school aims, prospectus, policies etc.

#### 3 We hope that the following is in place:

- The school promotes itself clearly as a Church of England School in its signage, documentation and vision.
- All worship is Christian and may be Anglican.
- Teachers regularly attend worship.
- Leaders and managers give good support to RE.
- Foundation Governors are clear about their role in upholding the Church of England foundation of the school.

**In addition, inspectors would look for:**

**(i) Evidence that the school has acted on the Focus for Development in their previous inspection report**

Inspectors will probably start the inspection here. This will certainly impact on Leadership and Management. If the school has not addressed the previous Focus for Development, this will be added in the new Focus for Development list: 'this was an issue in the last inspection'.

**(ii) Evidence of on-going self-evaluation since the last inspection**

All schools should have SIAS self-evaluation in place, but it must be an on-going process and not something done especially for the inspection! Therefore, please establish how it has been done, who has been involved in it, and what developments have come about as a result. This will impact particularly on Leadership and Management.

**(iii) Practical effectiveness of the Governing Body**

The Governing Body is responsible, amongst other things, for the Anglican foundation or church aspects of a church school. They should be kept informed through regular reports and should know what goes on in school worship, RE etc. It is their responsibility to make sure that these aspects are monitored and evaluated, and that areas for improvement go into the school development/improvement plan. It is good practice to have link governors for RE and Worship – not necessarily the incumbent, but probably Foundation Governors. Inspectors will check on these things. The headteacher and incumbent should not be carrying all of this responsibility. It will impact on Leadership and Management if this is the case. Some schools establish 'ethos groups' which involve governors and teachers to do the ground work and then report back to the head and governors.

**(iv) Evidence of pupil and parent involvement in self-evaluation**

Inspectors hope that schools have done their own questionnaires (or organised forums) to discover pupils' and parents' views on the church aspects of the school. These may be used as evidence to support the views of pupils/students. If used, inspectors hope to see an analysis of these questionnaires and evidence that they have influenced developments.

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