



THE CHURCH OF ENGLAND

**DIOCESE OF
ST ALBANS**

Date

Jane Chipperton
Schools RE Adviser

Tel: 01727 818175; Fax: 01727 844469
e-mail: readviser@stalbans.anglican.org

Dear

Statutory Inspection of Anglican Schools (SIAS)

I hope you find the points below useful.

1 Arrangements for SIAS Inspection

- (a) Please contact me at the Diocese (01727 818175) to confirm your Ofsted dates (or leave a message with Eileen Bigg on 01727 818170).
- (b) The Diocese will propose a date for the SIAS inspection.
- (c) A SIAS inspector will be in contact with you shortly after you have notified the Diocese.
- (d) When Ofsted have issued a contract for their inspection, and the registered inspector has contacted the school and dates have been agreed, the governors are in a position to sign the contract for the SIAS inspection to take place within three weeks of the Section 5 (Ofsted) inspection.
- (e) It is up to the governing body to ensure the quality of the SIAS Inspection. As the contract is with the governing body the governors hold the responsibility should the Inspector prove to be inappropriate. I enclose two copies of a draft contract which you may care to use. Please note that once both parties have signed the contract, each should keep a copy.

2 Fees for SIAS Inspections

The Inspectors are paid directly by the National Society on submission of the final Report and Judgment Recording Form to the National Society.

3 Nominating an Inspector

- (a) Initially the Diocese will allocate an inspector to each school. Governors have the right to request a different inspector, but need to give prompt notice of dissatisfaction with the appointed person.
- (b) We do not encourage schools to use anyone who has not been trained to inspect church schools. It is essential that each school works in partnership with the Diocese. (See Education Act 2005.)

4 Governors' Responsibilities

- (a) It is important that there is a professional dialogue between the school and the inspector regarding the SIAS report. While grades themselves cannot be challenged, errors in the factual information can be corrected. At the end of the dialogue the Governors need to accept the report formally.
- (b) The governors have responsibility to publish the report and to draw up an action plan based on the report in the same way as for the Ofsted document.

5 SIAS Framework for Inspection

If you wish to have further information regarding the SIAS inspection, the National Society's Statutory Inspection of Anglican Schools Framework 2009 can be downloaded from the National Society website www.natsoc.org.uk. I am available to advise schools in preparation for the SIAS inspection. Please contact me via Eileen Bigg at the Diocesan Office (01727 818170), or via e-mail (readviser@stalbans.anglican.org). A copy of the Grade Descriptors is enclosed to help understanding of what the inspector is looking for and new grade descriptors will be issued to schools and placed on our website as they are updated.

6 Self Evaluation Toolkit

Each church school in the Diocese has been issued with a SIAS toolkit (September 2005) and a digital copy of the updated toolkit (2009). We strongly advise you to complete a toolkit before filling in the SIAS SEF. The Christian Character handbook has also been sent to schools. These documents can also be found on our Diocesan schools website www.stalbanseducation.org.uk.

Yours sincerely

Jane Chipperton
RE Adviser