



THE CHURCH OF ENGLAND

**DIOCESE OF
ST ALBANS**

April 2009

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Schools RE Adviser

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Dear Colleague

Statutory Inspection of Anglican Schools (SIAS)

I am writing to update you on the current situation regarding the Statutory Inspection of Anglican Schools (SIAS). From April 2009 all Ofsted inspections will be followed **within three weeks** by a SIAS inspection (under Section 48 of the Education Act 2005).

Church schools should contact Eileen Bigg or me at Diocesan Office as soon as they receive notification of an Ofsted inspection. I will then give the school a possible date for the SIAS inspection. The SIAS inspector will make immediate contact with the school to ask for documentation, including the SIAS SEF/Ofsted SEF. Eileen will send the necessary paperwork to the Clerk to the Governors.

Schools will need to have their completed SIAS SEF available immediately for the inspection, together with the school toolkit. It would greatly help the inspection process if church school SEFs could be sent to me when they are updated, either annually or every two years. There is information helping schools to update their toolkit on our website <http://www.stalbanseducation.org.uk/>

Schools may continue to use the original diocesan toolkit or may choose a number of other options. There is an updated diocesan toolkit on our website (and recently e-mailed to schools) and a new National Society toolkit which will be available shortly.

As with an Ofsted inspection, SIAS inspectors will use the SEF to make initial hypotheses. The inspection will probably involve end of Key Stage RE lesson observations (in primary and secondary VA schools) or end of Key Stage 2 and Year 8 (in middle schools), and one or two observations of Acts of Collective Worship in all schools. The SIAS inspector will ask to see evidence to support the self-evaluation in VA and VC schools and will want to speak to key adults (eg head-teacher, teachers, governors and clergy) and pupils. The parent and pupil questionnaire (which can be adapted from our website) should also be made available.

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Feedback to Senior Management at the end of the inspection will focus on:

- the distinctive Christian Character of the school
- RE (in VA schools)
- Collective Worship
- Management and Leadership of the school as a C of E school
- the overall judgement: How distinctive and effective the school is as a Church of England school

Schools do not pay for this inspection as the inspector is paid centrally from the DCSF via The National Society.

The SIAS report will be written and returned to the school within thirty working days of the inspection and will be available on the diocesan and National Society websites once it has been agreed with the school. Ofsted may also have a link to the school's SIAS inspection report.

There will be more training available from Autumn 2009 on Self-Evaluation and the SIAS inspection. If you would like me to come to your school or speak to governors, please contact me: readviser@stalbans.anglican.org or phone 01727 818170.

Yours sincerely



Mrs Jane Chipperton
Diocesan RE Adviser