

SOUTHWARK DIOCESAN BOARD OF EDUCATION

POLICY STATEMENT

OFSTED INSPECTION OF SCHOOLS

The Board of Education views OFSTED inspection (Section 5) as a positive contribution to a school's ongoing improvement. The inspection process provides a school with a comprehensive and objective evaluation of the standards being achieved, the curriculum provided, the efficiency of its management and the quality of its ethos as a church school. It provides the schools with an objective assessment of its self-evaluation and enables a school to re-assess the priorities it has set in its own development plan and celebrates the areas where there is solid achievement and in which significant progress has already been made.

The Board welcomed the modifications to the OFSTED framework introduced in 2005 which lightened the demands on schools; the Board is committed to the support of schools within the Diocese in relation to inspection in the following ways:

- by offering training for the staff and governors, when requested, as part of their preparation for inspection;
- by advising on the Statutory Inspection of Anglican Schools (SIAS) as defined in Section 48 of the Education Act 2005;
- by maintaining a register of SIAS inspectors and coordinating and monitoring the SIAS inspection of Diocesan schools;
- supporting schools in the ongoing self-assessment process relating to SIAS through consultation and the provision of training;
- by offering support to governors and senior management of schools in responding to issues raised in SIAS inspection;
- by working closely with the governors of schools requiring special measures, or with a notice to improve, in close collaboration with the Local Authority. The Board will also exercise its statutory right to appoint additional governors where it considers that such action will strengthen the governing body;
- by monitoring the outcomes of both OFSTED and SIAS inspections through presentations to the Schools Committee of the Board;
- by working closely with the National Society in the development and monitoring of SIAS inspection nationally;
- by monitoring the conduct of Section 5 inspections and making representation to the DfES and OFSTED when appropriate.

March 1995 (Schools Committee)

Revised September 2000

Revised 2 November 2006