

SOUTHWARK DIOCESAN BOARD OF EDUCATION

BRIEFING SHEET

SUBJECT: The Statutory Inspection of Anglican Schools (SIAS) – Section 48 Inspection

RECIPIENTS: Headteachers, Chairs of Governors and Clerks to the Governors of all C of E Schools

SDBE CONTACT: Martin Andrews

DATE: July 2005

1 Background to the report

1.1 From September 2005 revised arrangements for the inspection of denominational aspects of church schools will come into effect in line with the new requirements for Section 5 (Ofsted) inspection. This will be known as the Statutory Inspection of Anglican Schools (SIAS). It is now referred to as Section 48 (S48) rather than Section 23. As previously, all church schools are required to be inspected under S48 when identified for a short-notice S5 inspection. This paper sets out new arrangements for S48.

2 The SIAS framework

2.1 The National Society has published a revised Framework for S48. It is accompanied by a Self-Evaluation Toolkit to assist schools in evaluating their effectiveness as a church school. The Framework is statutory. The Toolkit is not statutory but seen as an essential element for both school development and inspection. Both can be obtained (free) on the National Society website (www.natsoc.org.uk/schools/inspection).

3 The focus of the inspection

Core purpose of the inspection

To evaluate: 'How distinctive and effective is the school as a Church of England School?'

Key questions

'How well does the school, through its distinctive Christian character, meet the needs of all learners?'

'What is the impact of collective worship on the school community?'

'How effective is the religious education?'

'How effective are the leadership and management of the school as a church school?'

3.1 The report will address each of these questions, giving a clear judgement based upon the four point scale now used for Section 5 (1- outstanding; 2 – good; 3 – satisfactory; 4 - inadequate). The questions broadly cover the areas formerly reported in S23 inspection, but with a stronger emphasis on the leadership of the church school and the impact of the church school on members of the school community, particularly learners.

4 Changes within S48 inspection

New Section 48 Procedures	Previous S23 Procedures
Conducted within 8 weeks of the S5 inspection.	Conducted within the same school year as the S10 inspection.
Date agreed with the school.	Date agreed with the school
1 day (primary) 2 days (secondary) conducted within a period of 10 days.	1 day (primary) 2 days (secondary) with no time period specified; inspection days were usually within the same week.
Inspector appointed by the diocese.	Inspector agreed between the diocese and the school.
Inspection based on the school's self evaluation.	No self-evaluation required; inspectors relied on documentary evidence sent by the school.
Report 2 sides of A4 with no parents' summary.	Report up to 6 sides of A4 plus a 1-side summary for parents.
No parents' questionnaire.	Parents' questionnaire relating to the church school sometimes used.
No formal feedback to governors; feedback will be to the headteacher and chair at the end of the inspection.	Often formal feedback to a meeting of the governing body.

5 The place of self-evaluation - the Toolkit

5.1 As with S5 inspection, the school's own evaluation will provide the basis for dialogue between the school and the inspector and will determine the conduct and focus of the inspection. This will mean that inspectors will be more selective about the focus of each inspection in the light of issues raised in the school's self-evaluation. They will seek to verify the school's own judgments and follow trails arising from the self-evaluation, while at the same time forming a view on the 4 key questions. This may mean, for example, that not every class is observed for RE (as in the past) and that more time is spent gathering the views of learners on what it means to them to belong to a church school.

5.2 Schools will need to ensure that evaluations relating to the school as a Church of England school are included in the Self-Evaluation Form (SEF) used for the S5 inspection. These evaluations need to be supported by secure evidence collected by the school. To assist schools in this, the Board produced the booklet *'The Self-Evaluation of Church Schools'* in 2004. Many schools within the diocese and further afield have found this useful. *'The National Society Self-Evaluation Toolkit'* issued in June 2005 provides a similar format for collecting evidence about the effectiveness of the school as a church school and has the added advantage of directly matching the four key questions of the Framework (see section 3 above). Schools will need to decide which format to use. Although these are not statutory (unlike the SEF) the S48 inspector will request the school's self-evaluation record as a starting point to the inspection. The inspector is also required to make a judgement on the quality of the school's self-evaluation under the section on leadership – describing it as 'secure', 'developing' or 'ineffective'. The Board therefore strongly recommends the use of either the SDBE document or the Toolkit; both include guidance.

6 What schools need to do

- (i) Ensure that at least a start has been made on self-evaluation of the effectiveness of the school as a church school ready for September 2005. Many schools have already made a good start using the SDBE booklet.
- (ii) Ensure that evaluations relating to the school as a church school are included in the SEF (guidance is given on this in the National Society Toolkit).
- (iii) Inform the Board as soon as notification is received of a S5 inspection - Anne White 0207 234 9207 or martin.andrews@southwark.anglican.org
- (iv) Agree the date of the inspection with the S48 inspector appointed and send (electronically) the SEF (when 'unfrozen'), self-evaluation document and inspection report.
- (v) Seek training on church school self-evaluation for governors, if necessary.

7 The role of the Diocesan Board

7.1 The Board is eager to support schools throughout the self-evaluation process, including inspection. In the more general areas, this is more difficult because of the short notice given for S5 inspection. However, the Board is committed to providing specific support for the S48 inspection process by:

- (i) providing central and school-based training (on request) on the self-evaluation process and use of the Toolkit.
 - (ii) ensuring that every school is aware of the new Framework and is able to access it.
 - (iii) recruiting, training and deploying S48 inspectors.
 - (iv) providing quality assurance through the monitoring inspections and reports.
 - (v) analysing data on inspections and reporting to the Board's Schools Committee in order to monitor the effectiveness and distinctiveness of schools across the diocese.
 - (vi) providing advisory support following the inspection.
 - (vii) developing more systematic and strategic ways of sharing in the self-evaluation process with all diocesan schools.
 - (viii) providing training for RE Coordinators.
- Note: The RE Coordinators' Conference at the Board's offices on 20 October 2005 will include training on S48.