

# SACRE MONITORING OF OFSTED INSPECTIONS 2003-2004

**Report By: Consultant for Religious Education**

## Purpose

To consider the findings of Ofsted inspections in relation to Religious Education, Collective Worship, and Spiritual Moral Social Cultural development.

## Introduction

This report is based on Ofsted inspections at 8 schools. These included: two special needs schools; three secondary schools, including one Roman Catholic Voluntary Aided (VA) school and two Community High schools; and three primary schools, one Community school and one Voluntary Controlled (VC) school.

## Good news:

RE in the two community secondary schools inspected is very good largely due to the very good leadership of subject specialists. In both cases they are using a wide range of effective teaching and learning strategies to develop pupil's skills and understanding of key concepts and questions. The VA school included in the sample is subject to a section 23 report so no RE information is available for comment in this report.

In regards to primary schools the small sample and inadequate reporting makes it impossible to draw any representative conclusions. The main issue arising is the quality of inspection in 2 out of the 3 schools.

There have also been improvements in Special Schools. In both schools included in this report, improvements have been made due to the hard work of committed co-ordinators, using well-planned tasks to match pupil needs. One school was inhibited by a lack of resources. There were also aspects for development in both schools including the use of P levels to record pupil progress.

## Religious Education: Summary of aspects requiring further support.

**Secondary: Non specialist staff** – the Ofsted report commented that use of non-specialist staff slowed the pace of progress for Key Stage 3 pupils in one school. The school in question had independently raised the issue of support and training for non-specialist staff being a real need in secondary RE.

**Cross phase Assessment** – use of this to support planning to meet individual needs.

## Collective Worship: some issues:

**Issues of compliance at secondary level:** This is particularly referring to the start of the inspection period (Sept-Dec 04). This was when guidance from Ofsted required governance to be found to be unsatisfactory if statutory requirements were not fully met – evidence of this is more apparent in the report of Lady Hawkins, Kington, when

compared to John Kyrle, Ross-on-Wye. This is possibly due to the change of guidance in Update 44 taking effect; guidance that if governors had done all they could to meet requirements an unsatisfactory judgement could be avoided.

**Spiritual Moral Social and Cultural development of pupils:**

SMSC development of pupils was reported to be good overall with a generally improving picture in terms of spiritual development since previous inspection in most schools. However, there was one exception at secondary level where a lack of opportunities for spiritual development across the curriculum was reported.

**Inspection issues:**

These reports were the first under the revised Ofsted Framework for inspection 2003, implemented from Sept 2003.

Issues to be reported include one report that appears to suffer from a lack of correct interpretation of the framework by inspectors.

The Gorsley Goff's report is inadequate for RE and does not meet the requirements of the framework (see guidance note from one inspection provider on this issue). A full subject report should have been included with a clear statement on provision, strengths and weaknesses and commentary paragraphs. It is not acceptable to say as this report does that "This area of the curriculum was not a focus for the inspection". Nor is it acceptable to state "it was not possible to make judgements on the quality of teaching and learning or about the effectiveness of subject leaders". The relevant inspector acknowledged this personally.

Another report (Colwall) omitted RE from a Section 10 report stating that it was subject to a separate inspection (Section23). This was an error on the part of the inspection provider.

**Actions and outcomes following March SACRE meeting**

In accordance with the wishes of SACRE at their meeting on 23rd March, 2004, the Chairman sent a letter to Ofsted concerning the inadequate reporting of RE in two Herefordshire schools. In relation to this a reply was received from Ofsted and at least one Inspection provider has since notified its inspectors about complaints from SACRE and brought their attention again to the requirements of the framework to fully report on RE.

**RESOLVED**

**THAT subject to any issues SACRE wish to raise the report be noted.**