



## Guidelines for Monitoring and Support Visit (good and outstanding schools<sup>1</sup> only)

### Purpose of Visit

With inspections now taking place at five yearly intervals it is important that the Department for Schools and Colleges has a formal process for maintaining contact with its many schools. The purpose of the visit is to monitor progress since the last denominational inspection and to ascertain if the school is still providing good or outstanding provision.<sup>2</sup> This should be seen as **a robust but supportive process** as well as a means of gathering data about the school.

Monitoring reports **will not** be formally published and **will not change the grade** awarded at the last inspection. However, the findings will be shared with the Headteacher and Governors and recorded in a report which will be internal to the school, the Director for Schools and Colleges and the Deputy Director. This document will not be shared with the inspector/s conducting a full denominational inspection.

### Timescale and Personnel

The monitoring visit will be carried out by 1 Diocesan Inspector but secondary schools with a sixth form will have two Inspectors on a monitoring visit. The monitoring visit will usually take place in the third year following the full inspection. The visit will last for one day unless there are concerns that the provision has dropped. In this case, the Inspector will visit the school for a second day to confirm findings.

### Documents required in advance

- The previous denominational inspection report.
- The school improvement plan or whatever document contains the response to the previous denominational inspection; and any other plans for the improvement of religious education, chaplaincy, the prayer life of the school and leadership.
- The diocesan form (or any alternative means) which provides information on staffing/no of pupils etc.

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<sup>1</sup> School throughout this document should be taken as shorthand for schools/colleges/academies.

<sup>2</sup> NB A school which was deemed RI at the last denominational inspection will receive a full inspection in the 3<sup>rd</sup> year.

- A copy of the current SEF or any alternative documentation which provides information on outcomes for pupils, provision and leadership with regard to the Catholic life of the school.
- The Inspector will also check the school's website and Parent View.
- RAISEonline

**During the visit, the inspector will:**

- Meet with the Headteacher, the RE subject leader, Chair of Governors/RE Link Governor, and the person responsible for chaplaincy. Discussion will centre around progress made since the last denominational inspection. The school should provide evidence of **sustained** progress including their evaluation of any strategies put in place to bring about improvement.
- Scrutinise a sample of written work from each class, which should reflect the spectrum of ability in that class.
- Meet with small groups of pupils and explore their views on RE/ the Catholic life of the school
- Carry out a 'learning walk' around the school
- Provide feedback to the Headteacher/Chair of Governors at the end of the visit.

A report will be provided to the school within 10 working days of the visit. This report will summarise the outcomes of the discussion and any agreed action points. This will be forwarded to the Headteacher, Chair of Governors, Director of Schools and Colleges and Deputy Director. This document will not be shared with the inspector/s conducting a full denominational inspection.

Inspectors reserve the right to vary this programme depending on the specific issues identified in the last denominational report.

In the case of secondary schools with sixth forms, the Additional Inspector will:

- Interview the Head of Sixth Form and the person responsible for general RE
- Interview sixth form pupils
- Discuss chaplaincy provision for the sixth form with the appropriate person

**In coming to a conclusion the monitoring inspector will consider the following:**

- Did the school produce good quality, practical and achievable improvement plans for those areas which were subject to recommendations in the last inspection report?

- Does the school have evidence that progress with the plans is being monitored and evaluated?
- Does the school have evidence that the progress highlighted in the improvement plan/plans is being monitored and evaluated?
- Does the evidence gathered by the inspector (in the interviews and through the pupils' work) reflect at least the previous grade of the denominational inspection?
- Is the leadership in the school still good/outstanding?
- In summary, is the school continuing to make good/outstanding progress since its last visit?
- What recommendations can be made to sustain good practice and improve it further?

If, at the end of a visit, an inspector informs the Headteacher and Governors of a Good school that they consider that the school is now showing signs of working at an Outstanding level, they will make this clear in both the feedback and monitoring report.

Where the Inspector has insufficient evidence to confirm that the school remains at least Good, this will be made clear to the school before the end of the day and the monitoring visit will be extended to another day in order to gather further evidence.

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