



CAERPHILLY STANDING ADVISORY COUNCIL FOR RELIGIOUS EDUCATION – 9TH JUNE 2009

SUBJECT: ANALYSIS OF INSPECTION REPORTS (SPRING 2009 - SPRING 2010)

REPORT BY: ESIS

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 To inform the SACRE of the outcomes of the analysis of inspection reports for the period Spring 2009-Spring 2010 for primary and secondary schools.

2. SUMMARY

- 2.1 For all inspections, there is a written report on seven key questions.
- 2.2 There are three types of inspection, detailed as follows:
- For **short** inspections, there are no subject reports.
 - For **standard** inspections, there are also reports on six subjects.
 - For **full** inspections, there are also reports on all subjects.
- 2.3 The five-point scale used by Estyn is as follows:
- Grade 1 good with outstanding features
 - Grade 2 good features and no important shortcomings
 - Grade 3 good features outweigh shortcomings
 - Grade 4 some good features, but shortcomings in important areas
 - Grade 5 many important shortcomings

3. MAIN FINDINGS

3.1 Primary

- 3.1.1 Spiritual development is a grade 2 (good features and no important shortcomings) or higher in every school inspected during Spring 2009 - Summer 2009. One school was awarded a grade 1 (good with outstanding features) and five schools a grade 2 (good features and no important shortcomings) in relation to pupils' spiritual development.
- 3.1.2 The inspection reports states that nearly all schools meet statutory requirements in relation to collective worship. No judgement is made in relation to one school that was inspected as part of the pilot for the 2010 inspection framework.
- 3.1.3 The inspection reports identify positive features in relation to collective worship.

3.1.4 **Good Features**

- Makes a positive contribution towards pupils understanding of spiritual issues
- Creates a sense of awe and wonder
- Opportunities provided for pupils to reflect
- Strong emphasis on the sense of community
- Significant contributions made to the acts of collective worshiping by members of the community

3.1.5 **Shortcomings**

- Limited opportunities for personal reflection

3.1.6 **Progress since the last inspection: Twyn Primary**

It was a key issue for action in the previous report of Twyn Primary to comply with statutory regulations in providing a daily act of collective worship and provide opportunities to develop pupils' spiritual awareness. The current report states that the school has made good progress in addressing the key issue. Pupils are now provided with daily opportunities for collective worship that contributes well towards the development of their spiritual awareness.

3.1.7 **Religious Education**

- (1) Tyn y Wern Primary was inspected as part of the pilot for the 2010 inspection framework where no subjects are inspected.
- (2) One school received a short inspection where no subjects were inspected – Blackwood Primary.
- (3) Two schools received a standard inspection where RE was not one of the six subjects inspected – Glyn-Gaer Primary and Coed y Brain Primary.
- (4) Standards in religious education were inspected in two schools – Hendredenny Park and Twyn Primary. Standards were judged to be a grade 2 (good features, no important shortcoming) at Key Stage 1 and 2 in both schools.

3.1.8 **Good Features**

- Pupils develop a good knowledge and understanding of Christianity and other world religions.
- Use of visitors and visits to places of worship in the local and wider community enhance pupils' knowledge and understanding of religions.
- Good understanding of the use and significance of religious artefacts.
- Opportunities provided for pupils to explore and engage with fundamental questions raised by their own experiences.
- Opportunities provided for pupils discuss and to reflect on religious and moral issues.
- Good understanding of religious concepts and symbols.
- Pupils able to identify similarities and differences across religions.

3.1.9 **Shortcomings**

- No major shortcomings were identified in the reports. However, in one report it notes that pupils in year 3 record information, feelings and ideas in a limited range of ways.

3.2 **Secondary**

- 3.2.1 One secondary school, Lewis Girls, was inspected during this period. The school received a short inspection.
- 3.2.2 The pupils make good progress in their spiritual development.
- 3.2.3 No judgement is evident in the inspection report regarding meeting statutory requirements in relation to collective worship.

4. **RECOMMENDATIONS**

- 4.1 Members are asked to note and discuss the inspection reports.

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Appendices:

Appendix 1 Primary School Inspection Reports 2009-2010: SACRE Synopsis

Appendix 2 Secondary School Inspection Reports for Religious Education – Lewis Girls School