

CAERPHILLY COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL

REPORT TO: STANDING ADVISORY COUNCIL FOR RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

DATE: 9TH MARCH 2015

SUBJECT: ESTYN REPORTING OF COLLECTIVE WORSHIP

Background

One of the functions of SACRE is to monitor the fulfilment of statutory requirements for collective worship. SACREs, complete this task by examining Estyn inspection reports and looking for comments made on the development of spiritual and moral education and the contribution made by acts of collective worship.

In the Estyn document *Supplementary guidance on inspecting collective worship in non-denominational schools* - published in September 2010 there is helpful advice which states:

“In judging the quality indicator 2.3 (Care, Support and Guidance) inspectors **will consider the quality of collective worship** and whether the school meets the relevant legal requirements”. It also states that “**Collective worship** ... may still make a **significant contribution to pupils’ spiritual, moral, social and cultural development**”.

In the majority of reports that are scrutinised by SACRE inspectors are heeding that advice and a comment is made, under 2.3 *Care Support and Guidance* section of the report, on the contribution the school makes to spiritual, moral, social and cultural development. However, an increasing number of inspectors are failing to make such a comment. It is important to SACREs that there is consistency in reporting and that all reporting inspectors make a comment on the contribution of SMSC.

SACRE is appreciative of those inspectors who make very helpful comments on the **quality of collective worship** as this enables SACRE to identify the good features and areas for development when supporting schools with collective worship and its contribution to spiritual and moral development. However, we note that each year there is a reduction in any kind of comment by inspectors upon this.

Response from Estyn

Caerphilly SACRE took this issue up with Estyn and the response of Anne Keane, Chief Inspector at Estyn was that she would be reminding inspectors to report on the spiritual, moral, social and cultural development of pupils in their next e-shot. See below the update for RIs.

Reporting on spiritual, moral, social and cultural development on school inspections

This is just a reminder to RIs that every school inspection report should contain an evaluative comment on the quality of provision for pupils’ spiritual, moral, social and cultural development. This is a statutory requirement. The evaluation should appear in every school inspection report under section 2.3 (care, support and guidance).

Sometimes RIs have asked whether this requirement still applies during inspections of Church in Wales schools or Catholic Church schools or whether this is an area solely for the section 50 (denominational) inspection team. The answer is that the requirement still pertains even when the school is a church school. However, in these cases, the evaluative comment on pupils' spiritual development should be in general terms rather than specific to the denomination of the school. Section 50 inspectors may report specifically on the denominational aspect, if they choose.

Please Note:

Estyn has a remit to inspect acts of collective worship in all schools that do not provide denominational education and ensure that statutory requirements are met. Inspectors are required to only report on instances where the school **does not** comply with statutory requirements.

RECOMMENDATION

For SACRE to note the report