

*‘The child grew in wisdom.’* Luke 2 v 52



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The Diocesan  
Board of Education

Dear Head Teacher

I am writing to you about the Diocesan School Improvement Offer for 2024-25 academic year.

Many of you will have seen the School Improvement Offer as detailed in our SLA booklet. I just wanted to share some information about how this has worked in practice in our schools this year.

The work is carried out rigorously through the Christian lens and with full regard to Ofsted and SIAMS inspection frameworks. Working in the Diocesan team enables me to draw on current inspection experience across both frameworks. As a school and system leader I have over 30 years of experience in school development, senior leadership and governance. I have worked across Church and maintained schools, academies and trusts. I hold the Chartered College’s award for evidence-informed practice and also the NASENCO and NPQH awards.

When I begin working with schools I ask school leaders to share their SDP and SEFs (both SIAMS and Ofsted) I will also explore the school website too. Please note that a fuller website check, including statutory information and recommended content for church schools, can be accessed as an integral part of the school improvement service too.

At the first visit we discuss the priorities for the school and explore the SEF and SDP in more detail. There is usually a short learning walk to provide the context of the school and to meet staff.

We then work to identify areas of future work - these are bespoke to the school’s needs and are heavily focused on the process being developmental for all who are involved.

This initial work usually takes about ½ a day and doesn’t need to be repeated.

Schools identify a range of work to meet their needs. Work this year has been varied according to school context but has included:

- Work with HTs to quality assure aspects of school development
- Work with senior leaders to review the impact of the curriculum or to provide an external view of specific strategies
- Work with SENDCOs to audit provision and consider impact on pupils
- Work with Pupil premium champions to review the impact of their work
- Work with subject leaders (especially foundation subjects) to support their development, grow their skills to monitor and evaluate their subjects and review curriculum plans

- Work with Governors – meeting with new governors or those in specific roles and providing bespoke governor training on a range of school issues including inspection. - Carrying out reviews into SEND and pupil premium provision.

This year many schools have wanted to focus their improvement days on curriculum work and development of subject leaders. Feedback indicates that subject leaders find these days very supportive. I am able to provide support across the full range of subject areas as well as make links to the Ofsted and SIAMS frameworks.

Schools have also found it helpful to access bespoke governor training for their whole board. This has been especially impactful where schools have undergone significant changes in governance.

After each visit a report is prepared highlighting strengths and identifying areas for development. These reports can then be shared with governors to provide external verification of the school's work. This can be particularly helpful where schools are in a period of growth and need to evidence impact.

Whilst the SLA booklet sets out some suggested content for the school improvement visits, there is always scope to respond to a school's needs. If you have something in mind, whether that be for a day's support or for a series of visits, please don't hesitate to contact us and ask for a conversation about your needs.

The SLA booklet provides information about an annual offer and 'one-off days' however, this just gives an indication of the support which is available and which can be adjusted to circumstances.

As always, thank you for your time in reading this. Please refer to our SLA booklet (page 19 to 23) for more detail and costings. Link [here](#)

Please do feel able to contact me directly if you would like to discuss any development work.

Many thanks,

Yours Kindly



June Richardson.

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