

Ofsted Review and SMSC

Ofsted launched a consultation on the revised school inspection framework and consultation ran from Monday 21 March until Friday 20 May.

As expected it is proposed that that school inspections will primarily focus on the quality of the education provided by the school, giving priority to the four areas of achievement of its pupils and their behaviour and safety, the quality of teaching and the quality of leadership and management of the school.

Reference is also made to the need to take account of the spiritual, moral, social and cultural development of pupils.

One area that the RE community has commented relates to the degree to which inspectors will check on compliance with statutory requirements.

Paragraph 31 under Leadership and Management states: "A broad, balanced and relevant curriculum is a key factor in raising attainment, improving behaviour and attendance and promoting personal development. In schools where the curriculum caters well for the individual needs, abilities and interests of the pupils, there are increased motivation and better outcomes. Ofsted propose to include the quality of the curriculum as an important consideration in judging leadership and management."

The section of the document which allowed for a response had a specific section on Leadership and Management. This gave the RE community an opportunity to urge Ofsted to include a clear focus on securing that schools comply with the statutory requirement to provide RE as part of a broad and balanced curriculum.