



Bridge Schools Inspectorate

Newsletter for schools

Issue 2. Spring 2010.

Welcome to the Spring 2010 newsletter for schools.

Feedback from the first issue last term showed that many schools found it helpful and gave them pointers to find further information. Please keep letting us know your thoughts. Thanks to those who made suggestions, for example, can BSI help schools from each association to collaborate more? At BSI we must remain impartial, however, we have learnt through our team inspectors, from both CST and AMSUK, how much they have gained personally, as well as professionally from working together. They have discovered many shared values and come to a greater understanding and friendship. This mutual respect can only be beneficial to BSI and our work in schools as an independent inspectorate. To locate other independent faith schools in your area you may wish to search on the AMSUK and CST websites: www.ams-uk.org and www.christianschoolstrust.co.uk

Who's who?

We hope this will be a regular feature in the newsletter. So, meet the newest colleague to join the BSI team.



We are very pleased that Dr Linden Philips joined the BSI lead inspectors team in Autumn 2009. Linden had recently retired as one of Her Majesty's Inspectors of Schools (HMI) serving from 2001 to 2009. She has extensive experience in the inspection of maintained schools and independent faith schools. Her focus is always on the outcomes and quality of education for children and young people.

Linden's work as HMI included managing surveys of how well curriculum change met pupils' and students' needs. She was part of the HMI ICT team and continues with that interest. Linden is a keen caravanner and enjoys being out in the countryside. She spends quite a bit of time in France and is improving her French – if rather slowly.

Spring term 2010.

BSI will have conducted our six planned inspections by the end this term. Our sincere thanks to the lead inspectors and team inspectors from AMSUK and CST as well as to the schools involved. We are already well on the way with plans for the coming summer term.

Single Central Record ALERT!

Some schools are still unclear about setting out the Single Central Record. Our step by step guide was sent to all BSI schools last summer and can be found on the BSI website with a suggested format for this important document.

For more information visit

www.bridgeschoolsinspectorate.co.uk

Improving the quality of SMSC in independent schools.



Ofsted conducted a survey in 2009 at the request of the Secretary of State to establish the fitness for purpose of the spiritual, moral, social and cultural (SMSC) standard and five regulations that all independent schools, including registered independent faith schools are required to meet, and their contribution to preparing children and young people for life in Britain. In the 51 schools visited by Ofsted, there were representatives of CST and AMSUK. There was found to be no conflict between their aims and the regulations. The survey found that the provision made by independent schools was at least good with many cases of excellent practice. The regulations enable schools to prepare their pupils appropriately, although clarification of the language was said

to be required in some instances. To facilitate this process, three meetings were planned for practitioners in schools and representatives of the independent inspectorates. Senior managers from CST and AMSUK were members of the group. BSI has been represented by Julia Morgan at the two very beneficial meetings which have already taken place with a third on March 18th. The guidance which will be produced is intended to clarify for teachers the meaning of the SMSC regulations and how to put them into practice in the school environment. We await this with anticipation and will let schools know when it is out. The original survey report can be found on Ofsted's website entitled 'Independent Faith Schools' dated October 2009 www.ofsted.gov.uk

Useful websites.

BSI
www.bridgeschoolsinspectorate.co.uk

EYFS qualifications
www.cwdcouncil.org.uk/qualifications-list

DCSF guidance on bullying
www.teachernet.gov.uk/wholeschool/behaviour/tacklingbullying/safetolearn

Regulations on pupil admissions
www.opsi.gov.uk

DDA Accessibility plans
www.dcsf.gov.uk/sen
www.teachernet.gov.uk/wholeschool/disability/disabilityandthedda

CRB
www.crb.org.gov.uk

Safeguarding
www.isa-gov.org.uk
www.everychildmatters.gov.uk/socialcare/safeguarding

Access to List 99
www.teacherspensions.co.uk

BSI wishes all schools a restful holiday at the end of term. Best wishes to all pupils in secondary schools for the GCSEs in the summer term.

BSI administration. Please inform BSI immediately if any of your school contact details change.