



Official Statement: Catholic School Inspection

Addressee: All headteachers and Chairs of Governors

Address: by email

Colleagues

Due to the surge in COVID-19 infections, the Omicron variant and what appears to be a new variant emerging, Officers of the Diocese have concluded that the most sensible, fair and proportionate course of action is to pause Catholic School Inspection activity. This is until further notice or until such time as we are required by law to re-start the programme. Please, therefore, note the following, but that each point is subject to variation or amendment:

1. Catholic School Inspection activity in the Archdiocese of Southwark will not begin again until September 2022, at the earliest.
 1. This excludes schools participating in the pilot programme for the new National Framework for Catholic School Inspection as it is hoped these trial inspections can proceed if at all possible. We will write separately to leaders of the two pilot schools in the Diocese in relation to this.
2. Schools expecting to be inspected between now and July 2022 will be inspected under the existing framework, once we feel it is permissible to re-commence inspection activity. Realistically this is unlikely to be before September 2022 as per point 1.
3. Schools expecting to be inspected under the new framework from September 2022 will still be inspected under that framework but only once the existing cycle is completed (as per point 2). Realistically this is unlikely to be before Easter 2023.
4. Planning, preparation and normal self-evaluation activities for inspection should still be undertaken taking account of the relevant framework for each school. Both the existing evaluation schedule and the National Framework for inspection have been available since December 2021.

We will provide half termly updates as the picture becomes clearer.

Yours sincerely,

Dr Simon Hughes
Director of Education and Diocesan Schools Commissioner
CC. The Most Reverend John Wilson, Archbishop of Southwark