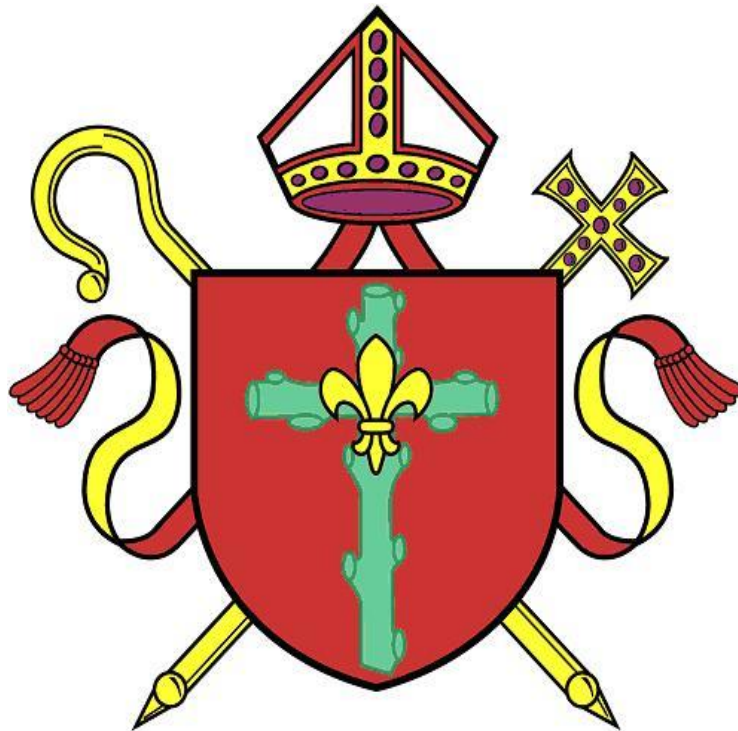


Nottingham Roman Catholic
Diocesan Education Service



Revised Guidance
in relation to
Diocesan Canonical Inspections
Post Covid-19

September 2021

Inspection Schedule

The Diocese of Nottingham will begin its schedule of Diocesan Canonical Inspections (DCI), using the existing *Evaluation Schedule (September 2018)*, in the second half of the Advent Term 2021. The schools to be inspected will be those which were scheduled for inspection in the academic year 2019-2020.

Pre-Inspection Phone calls

There will be an initial phone call informing the school of the date of the inspection and the practicalities of the inspection. Please see the *Inspection Handbook* and the revised script in the *Inspector's Notebook* for more details.

During the follow up phone call with the headteacher, the inspector will seek to understand the specific impact of COVID-19 on the school community and how the school's leaders responded to the situation. This discussion will also explore how the school implemented Catholic Life, Religious Education and Collective Worship remotely and which elements (if any) of remote education remain in place at the time of inspection.

In this conversation, the headteacher and inspector will agree safety protocols that the inspection team will follow to ensure that the inspection is completed in a COVID-19 secure way.

During the inspection

Inspectors recognise that most schools will have been unable to implement Catholic Life, Religious Education and Collective Worship in the usual way during the COVID-19 pandemic. The Diocese of Nottingham recognises that schools were not required by the DfE to provide education to all pupils from March 2020 to July 2020 due to COVID-19 and may not, therefore, have been doing so. Throughout the inspection, inspectors will seek to understand how the school adapted and prioritised Catholic Life, Religious Education and Collective Worship from September 2020.

This will include exploring how the school implemented Catholic Life, Religious Education and Collective Worship with pupils who were learning both on the school site and remotely. Inspectors will also look at how Religious Education leaders and teachers identified pupils' learning gaps and new starting points, and how they responded to that in their curriculum planning and delivery.

The Diocese of Nottingham does not have a preferred model for remote education. Throughout the inspection, inspectors will discuss the decisions that school leaders have taken and how these were implemented.

Where remote education remains in place, inspectors may observe remote teaching and review materials. Inspectors will only expect to see the school's typical approach to remote education; they do not expect schools to arrange anything solely for inspection.

To understand the implementation of Catholic Life, Religious Education and Collective Worship, inspectors may discuss remote education with teachers, parents and carers, and pupils. They may also review completed work and teaching materials. This will be the case regardless of whether remote education is in place at the time of inspection.

Given the above, when we refer to the implementation of Catholic Life, Religious Education and Collective Worship in documentation, we also include remote education.

Use of data

Inspectors will not *expect* internal data from schools and will look for curriculum coverage and progress in lesson observations and work samples

Progress since last inspection

We recognise that responding to COVID-19 has placed great demands on school leaders and may have disrupted schools' development plans and impacted on progress since the last inspection.

RSE & Health Education

When forming judgements about RSE & Health Education, inspectors will seek to understand what took place before the pandemic, what the school has in place currently and what is planned for the future. Inspectors recognise that many elements of RSE & Health Education were in place before the pandemic may have been disrupted. Therefore, they will focus on understanding the steps that leaders have taken to offer a wide range of RSE & Health Education opportunity since the school opened to all pupils in March 2021, understanding that the curriculum is now statutory from September 2021.

On Site Inspection

It is anticipated that all inspections will be carried out on site. Should circumstances dictate otherwise, further guidance will be provided.

Disruption to learning

We recognise that the disruption to learning caused by the pandemic may have impacted on what pupils have learned. This could result in some pupils having a wider than usual range of starting points and gaps in their knowledge. Inspectors will pay close attention to how schools identify and address any of these delays and gaps.