

Using the National Society Self-Evaluation Toolkit

A briefing for schools and advisers.

Is the Church school a reflective organisation?

The Toolkit is designed to be used in whole or in part and may be adapted or modified for use by schools and dioceses in the light of existing school or diocesan self-evaluation materials. Work on the Toolkit should be embedded within a *holistic* spectrum of school self-evaluation and integrated within school or Local Authority processes. Evidence for Church School focused self-evaluation will be available from all aspects of school life.

The NS Toolkit is not a Church of England SEF. There is only one SEF and that is the “Ofsted” whole school SEF.

The Toolkit feeds the whole school SEF with summary findings based on the main SIAS outcomes (the overarching judgement on distinctiveness and effectiveness and the Key Questions). These summary findings in themselves form the basis of the school’s own “internal SIAS report”.

The Toolkit should be used strategically for school improvement and planning purposes. It is designed to facilitate an on-going process. It is not an end in itself and nor is it simply a pre-inspection exercise which will be judged by its completeness. Section 48 (SIAS) inspectors will use the reflection and thinking generated by the Toolkit as a basis for dialogue during the inspection.

Some guidelines

Don't

- proceed to fill up the boxes from the beginning without prioritising areas for evaluation,
- regard it as a task for any one person (*including the head teacher*),
- approach it in isolation from whole school SSE and planning,
- assume completeness in itself will result in a better Section 48/SIAS inspection outcome.

Do

- an initial SWAT or *similarly brief* analysis across the Key Questions
- prioritise areas for development and link to the school improvement and planning cycle
- involve staff, learners, governors, parents, clergy, PCC and all relevant stakeholders
- use the Toolkit for staff and governor training and development
- share the Toolkit proves with school improvement partners such as your Local Authority and SIP
- integrate the Toolkit processes with wider SSE activities
- use the Toolkit to stimulate a reflective habit about the life of your school as a Church school
- include the summary outcomes from the Toolkit in your SEF
- share Toolkit findings on the distinctive Christian character of your school and its impact on attitudes, behaviour, learning and achievement with Ofsted as well as SIAS.