

18<sup>th</sup> May 2012

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Susan Gregory HMI  
National Director, Inspection Delivery,  
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Dear Susan Gregory,

### **School inspections in Staffordshire**

On behalf of Staffordshire SACRE, may I thank you warmly for your letter of 6<sup>th</sup> March 2012, in reply to my earlier letter of 10<sup>th</sup> February 2012. Staffordshire SACRE has only just held its next meeting since that earlier letter, hence our delay in acknowledging your reply. SACRE appreciates the trouble to which you have gone in responding to our enquiry at some length, and takes note of the points you make.

While we have no desire to extend this correspondence further, we would wish to comment on the idea that Section 5 inspectors would normally be constrained in their capacity to evaluate RE provision in a school because adequate subject expertise would probably not be available. This is a fair position. However, in the school in question, one of the central issues identified in the subsequent inspection of RE at the school was that the school was simply not meeting its statutory requirements, and that there was a noticeable lack of compliance with the law in this matter. One does not need "adequate subject expertise" to be able to discern such a situation.

I am able to assure you that Staffordshire SACRE, through the good work of Emma Senior, the County's Senior Adviser in RE, is continuing to give active support to the development of RE in this particular school, and we are optimistic that sound and sustainable progress is being made.

Yours sincerely,

Rev. Prebendary Michael Metcalf  
Chair, Staffordshire SACRE



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