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Ofsted Reports June - December 2004

A summary of the main points from both section 10 and section 23 reports for both primary and secondary schools in Walsall.

Aldridge High School – 27th September 04:

- Provision in Religious Education is unsatisfactory.
 - Not enough time is allocated to the subject in Year 10 to cover the Locally Agreed Syllabus.
 - At the end of Year 9 and Year 11 standards are consistent with the expectations of Walsall Agreed Syllabus and national expectations.
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Darlaston Community School – 22nd November 04:

- Provision in Religious Education is very good.
 - In 2004, GCSE results were at the national average.
 - Teaching is very good.
 - Leadership is excellent.
 - Few opportunities for pupils to use ICT for research.
 - Pupils in Year 9 have a good knowledge and understanding of the important beliefs and practices of major religions.
 - Shortcoming in provision are recognised, such as: - lack of visits and visitors.
 - The information and communication resources are not fully used.
 - The improvement plan identifies these issues.
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County Bridge Primary – 22nd November 04:

- Provision in Religious Education is unsatisfactory.
 - Teaching and Learning opportunities are unsatisfactory in some classes.
 - There is too little development of literacy and ICT skills.
 - Standards in Year 2 and Year 6 are at the level expected by Locally Agreed Syllabus.
 - Coverage of the curriculum in some years is patchy and thin and there is too little recorded work.
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Delves Infants – 5th July 04:

- Provision in Religious Education is satisfactory.
 - Some very good teaching.
 - Standards achieved at the end of Year 2 as expected for children's ages. Both years cover a broad range of topics in line with Walsall's Agreed Syllabus but this will need to be revised in line with the new Agreed Syllabus.
 - Teaching and Learning are not monitored.
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Birchills Church of England Primary – 20th September 04:

- Provision of Religious Education is good.
 - Standards are average but pupils' achievement is good.
 - Assemblies contribute well to learning.
 - A new coordinator is managing the subject well.
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Clothier Street Primary – 13th September 04:

- Provision in Religious Education is satisfactory.
 - There is a strong emphasis on multi-faith with standards at Years 2 and 6 are as expected and in line with the requirements of the Locally Agreed Syllabus.
 - Achievement is good for all pupils'.
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Mossley Primary – 18th October 04:

- Provision in Religious Education is good.
 - Artefacts and a rich curriculum are used well to interest and engage the pupils.
 - More opportunities could be planned to develop the pupils' understanding of living in a multi-cultural Britain.
 - Year 2 gained knowledge of many of the key aspects of Christianity. By the end of Year 6 pupils are able to describe the main features, symbols and beliefs of the main world religions.
 - The local vicar visits the school. The subject leader has identified the need for pupils to have opportunities to understand other faiths and cultures through organised visits and visitors coming into class.
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Old Church CE Primary School – 28th June 04:

- Provision in Religious Education is very good.
 - Standards in Year 2 match the expectations of the Walsall Agreed Syllabus and standards in Year 6 exceed them.
 - Aspects of Christianity are covered in all classes. In addition Judaism, Hinduism, Islam and Sikhism are also studied.
 - The curriculum is enriched by visits to the church, temple and mosque and by visits from other faiths.
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Park Hall Infants – 27th September 04:

- Provision for Religious Education is satisfactory.
 - Standards are in line for pupils of a similar age in the Locally Agreed Syllabus for Religious Education.
 - The pupils are developing some awareness of Judaism and Sikhism but are not as well developed in their knowledge of Christianity or of how they can learn from and integrate with a wider range of beliefs.
 - Teaching is good.
 - Resources are good.
 - Subject leader is managing the subject well.
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The Radley's Primary School – 28th June 2004:

- Standards meet the expectations of the Locally Agreed Syllabus.
 - Pupils have a good knowledge and understanding of Christian festivals/ stories.
 - Appropriate time is given to faiths other than Christianity.
 - By the end of Year 6 pupils have knowledge of Christianity, Sikhism, Islam and Judaism.
 - However, there is a lack of visits to different places of worship.
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**St Thomas More Catholic School and Sixth Form College – 18th October 04
(Section 23):**

- Provision is consistent with requirements
 - Standards in Religious Education are above the national averages in public examination
 - Teaching is good or better in most lessons
 - Provision for spiritual and moral development is good
 - Ensure acts of collective worship are frequently monitored
 - Consider establishing a forum for improving contact between school and parishes
 - Seek to raise attainment of boys
 - Encourage pupils to access higher order skills
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St Thomas of Canterbury Catholic Primary – 29th June 04 (Section 23):

- Good progress in establishing the requirements for both key stages
 - Provision for pupils' spiritual, moral and social development is very good
 - Quality of collective worship is very good
 - More attention is needed for pupils in respect of their writing
 - Teaching was good overall
 - Resources are sufficient
 - ICT remains an area for development
 - Religious Education is well led by the coordinator
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Summary:

- Provision varies from unsatisfactory to very good.
- The majority of schools recently inspected are providing a satisfactory course for most pupils.
- Studies of a broad range of faiths are prevalent in most schools.
- When provision and standards are high there are many comments related to pupils using or making visits connected to other faiths alongside those for Christianity.
- Pleasing to note that most schools are obviously following closely the Locally Agreed Syllabus and finding it helpful.
- ICT and research of faiths are noted as weaknesses in some schools.
- The setting-up of a Walsall's Religious Education website should help facilitate searches for information and provide guidance for organised visits.
- Schools no doubt will make good use of this site if we give some guidance.