

Calls with the diocese and/or MAST and MAT

Evidence gathering with a representative of the diocese and/or MAST

Speaking with a representative of the diocese and/or MAST is a vital part of the evidence gathering process. It will allow you to triangulate your evidence and support your understanding of the school's context.

Remember:

- Once the inspection is triggered, you should make contact with the DDE to make arrangements for a conversation.
- The conversation should take place after the PIP has gone to the school. It can take place before the inspection day.
- On rare occasions (for example the DDE or their representative is unavailable during the period after the PIP has gone to the school), the conversation can take place prior to the PIP being sent. On these occasions the conversation may need to be in more general terms as LOEs may not have been fully established.
- Speak to the DDE or to a member of the diocesan education team *as directed by the DDE*.
- You need to answer the IQs – this is the purpose of the inspection.
- The conversation should be focused on your LOEs and so on gathering the specific evidence required to answer each of the 6/7 IQs.
- Adopt an exploratory approach and be mindful of context. Dioceses engage with and work with schools in different ways.
- Have clear questions/areas for conversation prepared in advance.
- Be professional at all times, and record significant evidence of impact on an EF.

Do not:

- Ask the DDE/rep to 'tell me what you know about the school' or 'is the school J1 or J2?' or 'what does the school need to do next?' Do not outsource your responsibility for evaluating evidence and making judgements to others.
- Follow the school's instruction about who you should contact.
- Ask 'test' questions e.g. 'What do you know about worship?' Or 'What do you know about RE?' These will not yield rich evidence.
- Leave the conversation until late in the day on the day of the inspection as this is likely to minimise the value of the evidence that is gathered.

Evidence gathering with the MAT CEO

Speaking with the MAT CEO is a vital part of the evidence gathering process. It will allow you to triangulate your evidence and support your understanding of how the MAT is supporting the school to live up to its foundation as a Church school.

Remember:

- That the inspection is an inspection of the individual school and not of the MAT. The discussion should enable you to gather evidence about the impact on the school of being part of the MAT, and details of the MAT's engagement with the school.
- Once the inspection is triggered, you should make contact with the CEO to make arrangements for a conversation.



- The conversation should take place after the PIP has gone to the school. It can take place before the inspection day.
- On rare occasions (for example the CEO is unavailable after the PIP has gone to the school), the conversation can take place prior to the PIP being sent. On these occasions the conversation may need to be in more general terms as LOEs may not have been fully established.
- Remember the purpose of the inspection: you need to answer the IQs. This conversation will help you to do that.
- The conversation should be focused on your LOEs and so on gathering the specific evidence required to answer each of the 6/7 IQs. You need to tease out the impact that the MAT is having on the ability of the school to live up to its foundation as a Church school. How does the MAT engage with/work with the school and how does that enable them to best support/meet their needs as a Church school?
- Be prepared to probe and seek further evidence. Push back where you need to and request clarification or further evidence where appropriate.
- Have clear questions/areas for conversation prepared in advance.
- Be professional at all times, and record significant evidence of impact on an EF.

Do not:

- Make any assumptions that you know how the MAT works, even if you have inspected trust schools before or know the trust in another guise.
- Ask the CEO to 'tell me what you know about the school' or about organisational details of which you should already be aware from your initial research and phone call to the headteacher. Do not outsource your responsibility for evaluating evidence and making judgements to others.
- Ask 'test' questions e.g. 'What do you know about worship?' Or 'What do you know about RE?' These will not yield rich evidence.
- Stray into inspecting the MAT- remember this is an inspection of the individual school.