

Clive House
70 Petty France
London
SW1H 9EX

T 0300 123 1231
Textphone 0161 618 8524
enquiries@ofsted.gov.uk
www.gov.uk/ofsted

Direct T 030 0013 1044
sean.harford@ofsted.gov.uk



20 November 2019

Mr Paul Smalley
Chair
NASACRE

Sean Harford HMI
National Director, Education

Sent by email

Our ref: 431624

Dear Paul

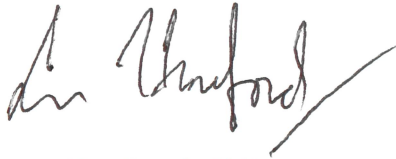
Thank you for your email of 22 October 2019 about our inspection framework and RE.

We have put a lot of work, including engagement with a range of faith stakeholders, NATRE and others, to try and ensure the right focus on RE in our new framework. I am glad to see that this has clearly had the right result in terms of focus in reports, and it is good to hear your feedback on that point.

In terms of deep dives, it is worth pointing out, that they are a way for us to understand the quality of education being offered by the school as a whole, rather than us inspecting that subject specifically. We have been very clear, both to our inspectors and publicly, that RE should absolutely be considered as one of the subjects for potential inclusion in inspections as one of the four to six deep dives. We do not, however, set quotas, or any central expectations as to what subjects should and should not be included in general, or for any specific school. The subjects are chosen by our inspectors, in consultation with school leaders, on the basis of what will provide the best evidence of the school's curriculum and ethos.

As such, I cannot say with any certainty how often RE will be included in a deep dive, although it is, of course, very early days in the new model still. However, I am sure that there will be deep dives into RE – not least because I know some schools will want that to happen.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Sean Harford". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Sean Harford HMI

National Director, Education