5 Deputy R.J. Ward of the Minister for Children and Education regarding the Jersey Schools Review Framework (OQ.16/2023)

Given that the Minister has indicated that collaboration in relation to the Jersey Schools Review Framework depends upon the relationship between the Government of Jersey and the individual schools, will she outline what factors will impact the review process, and any subsequent actions, and advise how these may differ between fully state-funded schools and non-provided, grantfunded schools?

Deputy I. Gardiner of St. Helier North (The Minister for Children and Education):

I thank the Deputy for his question. All government-provided schools, whether fee paying or non-fee paying, are reviewed under the Jersey Schools Review Framework every 3 years. It was paused during COVID where we had virtual visits but the rolling plan of reviews are now fully up and running again. Through their grant agreements with the Government, grant-aided schools can be reviewed on the Jersey Schools Review Framework or provide evidence of external inspection, for example, through independent schools inspection, and again it is an every 3-year cycle. They may also choose to join relevant support networks, for example, the Independent Schools Council. The Jersey Schools Review Framework is a supportive and collaborative system to further enhance the effectiveness of education in Jersey through the evaluation, support and challenge of schools and colleges. It is externally led and includes peer review from local schools. The department supports all schools, provided and not provided, to improve, for example, through training and development, in school leadership, S.E.N. (special education needs) and others.

[10:15]

4.5.1 Deputy R.J. Ward:

It seems that that was a slight contradiction there saying an "all schools review" but some schools can provide evidence for review. Can I ask the Minister, given that there is a choice of providing separate evidence for a grant-funded school, will the outcomes be comparable across schools in Jersey?

Deputy I. Gardiner:

It is a really good question. This is what I asked when I have been presented with the current arrangements. As it currently stands, we have a 3-year agreement with the grant schools, which agreement includes options for the schools to go through the Jersey Schools Review Framework or to go to independent inspection that they need to publish, for example, that De La Salle published in May 2022. I am going to work with all schools, private, or what they call private, not government-provided schools because I would like to explore the option to work through the Jersey Schools Review Framework, that we will have a comparison, as the Deputy rightly said, across the board within Jersey and not with different frameworks.

The Bailiff:

I am afraid there is no one else who is seeking to ask a question, and there is no final supplementary if there have been no intervening questions.