

A Parents' Guide to the SIAMS Inspection Framework

A SIAMS inspection focuses on the impact of the Church school's Christian vision on pupils and adults. This involves looking at the school's Christian vision, the provision the school makes because of this vision and how effective this provision is in enabling all pupils to flourish. Church schools will employ a variety of strategies and styles appropriate to, and reflective of, their particular context in order to be distinctively and effectively Christian in their character and ethos. SIAMS inspectors therefore do not look for a set template of what a Church school should be like, but rather take the particular context of the school into account and base their evaluation on the outcomes rather than the process.

The Evaluation Schedule has one inspection question: how effective is the school's distinctive Christian vision, established and promoted by leadership at all levels, in enabling pupils and adults to flourish?

This is explored through seven strands:

- Vision and Leadership
- Wisdom, Knowledge and Skills
- Character Development: Hope, Aspiration and Courageous Advocacy
- Community and Living Well Together
- Dignity and Respect
- The impact of collective worship
- The effectiveness of religious education

One overall grade is awarded reflecting the contribution of these strands to the flourishing of pupils and adults in a Church school. In addition a standalone grade is awarded in all schools for collective worship and in voluntary aided (VA) schools and former VA schools for religious education (RE). This grade is based on teaching and learning alone.

Reporting

Like an Ofsted Inspection, there are four main judgements an Inspector can make based on the evidence seen. Inadequate, Requires Improvement (Not Yet Good), Good or Excellent.

If Ofsted has judged a school to be requiring improvement or inadequate within the twelve months preceding the SIAMS inspection it is unlikely that the school will receive a judgement of more than one grade higher in the SIAMS inspection.

If both collective worship and religious education are requiring improvement it is unlikely that the school could be good overall.

If leaders, including governors, cannot articulate how biblical teaching roots the school's vision, giving it coherence, relevance and sustainability the school could not be good overall.

In the case of a joint school, inspected under the SIAMS framework, it will not be possible for the school to achieve a grading of good or better if it does not equally reflect the ethos of each of the religious bodies of its trust deed. So, for example, a joint Methodist/Anglican school must show that it reflects both Methodist and Anglican inspection priorities.

The inspector will award one grade for the school. They will then in all schools also give a grade specific to the impact of collective worship. In VA schools and former VA schools only an additional grade will be given specifically for the effectiveness of RE.