

The purpose of SIAMS inspections is to provide an evaluation of the effectiveness of the school's distinctive Christian vision, established and promoted by leadership at all levels, in enabling pupils and adults to flourish for the school. The inspection meets the requirements of section 48 of the Education Act 2005 for schools which have a religious character. Additionally, the inspection verifies the outcome of the school's self-evaluation and should make a significant contribution to improvement in church schools.

The role of the school

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.

In preparation for the inspection

(Responsibility of the Headteacher to complete or delegate, where appropriate)

- Complete/update SEF and SDP including reference to the school vision
- Check policies are up-to-date and put on website to support SIAMS schedule eg Assessment and marking, Behaviour/Anti-bullying, Collective Worship, Equality and Inclusion, Mental Health and Wellbeing, Religious Education, Relationships and Sex Education, Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND), Spiritual Moral Social and Cultural Development (SMSC)
- Ensure the school website is updated including the school's vision and its associated values - grounded in a clear theology, firmly rooted in a Christian narrative
- Ensure the most recent SIAMS inspection report is on the school website
- Be ready for the call from your assigned inspector following the initial call from the Diocesan SIAMS Manager - DSM (to the Headteacher, Deputy Headteacher or designated Senior Teacher)
- Be ready to send the inspector the relevant paperwork, or signpost on the website eg SDP, SIAMS SEF, policies, IDSR (data), minutes, action plans, monitoring and evaluation

Prior to inspection day

- Provide information about parking and access to the school
- Chair of Governors to complete and return the contract agreement to the inspector
- If relevant, provide maps and plans eg if split site or extended site
- Finalise timetable with the inspector for the inspection day
- Read the Pre-Inspection Plan (PIP) from the inspector and collate relevant additional evidence

On the day of inspection

- Check inspectors ID and registration number (DBS details with the relevant Diocese); they should wear their badge at all times
- Share health and safety, safeguarding and emergency procedures with the inspector
- Provide a confidential space for the inspector to work in and hold meetings in
- Be prepared for meetings and activities detailed in the the agreed timetable
- Be flexible and accommodate any changes to the timetable requested by the inspector during the day
- Provide requested relevant additional information to support the lines of enquiry
- Headteacher, Deputy Headteacher or Senior teacher and Chair of Governors only to attend the final feedback meeting and confirm 1) the outcome is fair and accurate 2) the inspection was conducted in a professional and appropriate manner. A member of the Trust may attend by agreement with the inspector.

After the inspection

- Read draft report and check for factual accuracy; report back to DSM
- Publish the final report on the school website within 5 working days and make available to the school community
- Headteacher to feedback to rest of staff and school community following checking of inspection judgement and report
- Complete evaluation of the inspection day and return to the DSM
- Develop and monitor action plan which addresses areas for development, in line with key findings

The role of the Diocesan SIAMS manager

- Make initial call to the school to inform them who will be undertaking the inspection and when
- Agree with school the time for the inspector to call to speak to the Headteacher or delegated senior member of staff (within the same day)
- Following the inspection, send the draft report to the school for factual check
- Following checks by the critical reader and the school, send final report to the Church of England Office, the Diocese of Gloucester education team and the school

The role of the SIAMS inspector

- Focus on the impact of the Church school's Christian vision on pupils and adults
- Consider 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
- Judge how this school employs 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
- Take the particular context of the school into account and base their evaluation on the outcomes rather than the process

Prior to inspection day

- Contact the school to explain the day, expectations, request paperwork and discuss proposed timetable of activities, the contract
- Prepare and send PIP to the school 9.00am the day before the inspection; agree timetable; send contract for Chair of Governors to sign and return

On the day of inspection

- Sign in and present ID badge at reception at agreed time
- Undertake inspection in line with Diocesan and Church of England Office protocols
- Keep detailed written evidence forms to inform feedback on the day to the Headteacher and the writing of the inspection report

After the inspection

- Inform the Diocese if the school does not consider the outcomes to be a fair and accurate reflection
- Ensure the draft report is checked by critical reader: report is sent by DSM to the school for factual accuracy check
- Make any necessary amendments and agree final report with critical reader

The role of the Diocese of Gloucester Central Team

- Provide training for inspectors, schools, Diocesan staff including clergy
- Liaise with and co-ordinate the work of the DSM
- Point of contact if an appeal cannot be resolved during the inspection
- Implement the SIAMS Appeals Policy, if required, and inform the Church of England Office
- Follow the SIAMS Complaints Policy, if required
- Have in place critical reader to quality assure and hold inspectors to account for their report writing and judgements

The role of the Church of England Office

- Provide annual training for inspectors
- Publish all SIAMS reports <https://www.achurchnearyou.com/>
- Support the SIAMS appeals and complaints policies, if required
- Agree scheduling of inspections



- 5 working days before the designated inspection date, the Diocesan SIAMS manager contacts the Headteacher
- On the same day, the inspector phones the Headteacher to agree the arrangements and the timetable for the inspection; school sends agreed documentation and evidence to the inspector
- Chair of Governors completes and returns the contract agreement
- 1 day before, the school receives the Pre-Inspection Plan from the inspector (PIP)



**Approx 8.00am – 6.00pm the inspection day
(2 days for Secondary schools)**

- Initial brief meeting with the Headteacher and/or Senior Leadership team to confirm arrangements for the day; confirm school's understanding of the issues raised by the PIP
- Formally update the Headteacher on the progress of the inspection
- Carry out learning walks, observations, scrutiny of work, meetings etc



- Within 5 working days, draft report is sent to the critical reader
- Factual check is completed by the school
- Within 15 working days, final report is received and published by the school on their website and made available to the school community