

SIAMS and your school website

With the increasing demands of SIAMS inspections, it is vital that schools present their evidence for inspectors in a succinct way that captures the impact of their actions across the 7 strands of the Schedule.

Inspectors will visit the school website prior to an inspection and this provides an opportunity to present valuable evidence at an early stage in the inspection process. This can be used by inspectors, alongside any written self-evaluation, in determining the lines of enquiry for the SIAMS inspection. An informative website should remove the need for a lengthy written SEF. This should reduce workload for both schools and inspectors. A brief Summary SEF of no more than 4 sides of A4 should be all that is needed.

Evidence on websites can be in the form of video, photo and links to social media platforms as well as written. The recording of a well-organised 15 minute 'learning walk' on your website could provide a wealth of evidence covering many of the items below.

The following list may provide schools with useful pointers for website evidence:

- The headteacher's welcome letter – embracing the Christian character of the school and the difference it makes to the whole community + Newsletters which illustrate what this looks like in action
- The school vision and associated values – showing the link between the two and the biblical theology that underpins them
- Outline information about the school curriculum. The way it meets the needs of that community and springs from the school vision and the local context.
- Evidence of the work of a school Ethos Group (or similar) and their contribution to the Christian character of the school.
- Website reports such as Pupil Premium, SEND and Sports Premium can all be linked back to the vision and pupil flourishing
- A list of extra-curricular activities and their links with the vision – bringing 'Life in all its fullness'. Some schools are drawing up a list of 'promises to the children' and this will provide excellent evidence of the school's commitment to personal development
- Behaviour policy – which should indicate the links with children's character development and their hopes for the future – 'Life in all its fullness'.

- The place of Christian forgiveness and reconciliation throughout school – this could well be linked with the behaviour policy
- Support of charities – local, national and international – and the way in which these are introduced in order enable pupils to become courageous advocates for change against injustice
- Policy for mental health (staff, parents and pupils) + evidence of how the school operates as a Christian community in addressing the wellbeing of pupils, staff and families
- The school's approach to enabling pupils to embrace difference and diversity through faith, culture, gender and lifestyle – enabling all to be treated with dignity and respect
- Links with the local church particularly the way in which church and school work together for the 'common good'. Wider links with the diocese and other church schools.
- Governance – the way it is organised and operates to support the Christian character (vision) of the school. Many schools already have a governor section on their websites.
- Collective Worship policy – showing how worship is planned, delivered and evaluated and the pupils' role in all of this. The way in which worship is an expression of the vision.
- Religious Education policy – showing how RE is planned, delivered and evaluated. The way in which RE is an expression of the vision.
- The effectiveness of teaching and learning in RE and how this is evaluated. It is appreciated that a good proportion of this evidence will have to be gathered on site.
- The last SIAMS report together with outline details of how the Areas to Improve have been addressed.

At first sight, this may appear to be a long list but many of the above items are already well established on school websites.