



East Bierley CE (VC) Primary School  
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27<sup>th</sup> March 2019

Dear Parents/Carers

As a Church of England school, in addition to monitoring by OfSTED, we are also inspected under a system called the Statutory Inspection of Anglican and Methodist Schools (SIAMS). The SIAMS inspection takes place usually on a five yearly cycle but it can be earlier depending on circumstances. This is a national inspection schedule, which is organised for our school through the Diocese of Leeds and carried out by nationally trained, independent inspectors. The SIAMS inspection is part of our ongoing process of school development and improvement.

From September 2018 there has been a new SIAMS schedule in place with two significant changes. These are: Moving from making a judgement about the school based around four key questions to one key 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 inspection question is addressed through seven strands:

1. Vision and leadership
2. Wisdom, knowledge and skills
3. Character development: Hope, Aspiration and Courageous Advocacy
4. Community and Living Well Together
5. Dignity and Respect
6. Collective Worship
7. Religious Education

The last time East Bierley Primary school was inspected under the SIAMS system, there were four possible grades. A school might have been awarded 'outstanding', 'good', 'satisfactory' or very rarely 'inadequate'.

The SIAMS process has now been reviewed and these grades have been changed. The old 'outstanding' grade has now gone, and the criteria that would previously have attracted an 'outstanding' grade has been merged with those for a 'good' grade. A new grade of 'excellent' has been introduced with a higher threshold than the old 'outstanding' grade. It will be awarded only in exceptional circumstances. There is no longer a 'satisfactory' grade but 'requires improvement' might be awarded instead. Very occasionally a school may be deemed 'ineffective' as a Church school.

We have been informed that our SIAMS inspection will take place next Wednesday, 3<sup>rd</sup> April. Once the report is published all parents/carers will be given access to a copy. It will also be uploaded onto our website and published through the Church of England Education Office.

If you have any further questions, please do come and talk to us.

Yours faithfully

Mrs L Upham  
Head Teacher