

SIAMS Inspection Deferral Policy

September 2022



Methodist Schools



**THE CHURCH
OF ENGLAND**
EDUCATION OFFICE

SIAMS Inspection Deferral Policy

INTRODUCTION

1. There may be a small number of cases in which exceptional circumstances or concerns in a school warrant consideration of a deferred inspection.
2. The purpose of this document is to outline the procedure by which a school may request a deferred inspection.
3. Deferrals can only be approved by the National Director or the Deputy Director of SIAMS.

1. DEFERRING AN INSPECTION

1.1. SIAMS inspections will only be deferred in the following exceptional circumstances:

- 1.1.1. The school has very recently experienced a major incident, such as a fatal accident involving a member of staff or pupil.
 - 1.1.2. The headteacher or a member of the school's senior leadership team is the subject of a current police investigation which would be compromised by an inspection of the school.
 - 1.1.3. The school is closed to all pupils, for example, due to an Inset day, adverse weather conditions, or COVID-19, for at least half of the period for which the inspection has been scheduled.
 - 1.1.4. At least three quarters of the pupils will not be at school for example, due to a school trip, cases of COVID-19, or a religious festival, for at least half of the period for which the inspection has been scheduled.
 - 1.1.5. Cases of COVID-19 are widespread and would compromise the health and safety of the inspector and/or members of the school community. It should be noted that interviews and discussions can take place via an online platform to avoid the need for face-to-face meetings. See separate COVID-19 SIAMS Protocol, which can be found on the Education pages of [the Church of England website](#).
 - 1.1.6. The school is shortly due to close/cease operation.
 - 1.1.7. Other exceptional circumstances which, in the judgement of the National Director of SIAMS, justify a delay to the scheduled date of the inspection.
- 1.2. To request an inspection deferral, the headteacher should first of all notify the National SIAMS Team. This will usually occur either during the notification phone call or immediately after receiving the notification email.
 - 1.3. Occasionally, the need to request an inspection deferral may occur in the week between the notification and the day of the inspection. In such cases, the headteacher should contact the National SIAMS Team (SIAMS@churchofengland.org) as soon as possible.
 - 1.4. Once the National Team is aware of the intention to request a deferral, they will send the headteacher the SIAMS Inspections Deferral Request form for completion.

- 1.5. As part of completing this form, the headteacher should set out the reasons for the request (see list above) and refer to all relevant evidence that the National Director of SIAMS will need to make a decision.
- 1.6. The completed form will be provided to the National Director of SIAMS for a decision.
- 1.7. The decision will be communicated via email to the headteacher, and also to the Diocesan Director of Education and the Diocesan SIAMS Lead.
- 1.8. Applications to defer an inspection on the following grounds will not be accepted.
 - 1.8.1. The headteacher is expected to be out of school on the day of the inspection.
 - 1.8.2. Members of the school team are not available/working on the date of the inspection.
 - 1.8.3. There has been an unfavourable recent inspection judgement made by Ofsted.
 - 1.8.4. There are difficult relations between the governing body and the senior leadership team.
 - 1.8.5. There is a clergy vacancy in the parish.
 - 1.8.6. The school wants more time to improve in order to secure the best judgement.
 - 1.8.7. There is an imminent change of leadership.
 - 1.8.8. The school is due to become an academy (unless a conversion date is immediately imminent).
- 1.9. On occasion, a school's SIAMS and Ofsted inspections will be scheduled on the same day, or there may be a no-notice Ofsted inspection once the SIAMS inspection has begun. In such a situation the SIAMS inspection will be rearranged.
- 1.10. If a no-notice Ofsted inspection were to commence once the inspector has arrived at the school, the inspector must contact the SIAMS Duty Desk, and the inspection will be rescheduled.