

**Good practice in SIAMS self-evaluation**

You may find the Church of England self-evaluation templates helpful, but it is not essential to use them. Inspectors will accept any self-evaluation, but a summary is helpful for them. <https://www.churchofengland.org/sites/default/files/2022-11/siams-2023-ongoing-self-evaluation-template.docx>

<https://www.churchofengland.org/sites/default/files/2022-07/summary-self-evaluation-template-220714.docx>

Some tips to help with SIAMS ongoing self-evaluation:

* Keep your school’s vision in mind, and the theological rootedness of it
* Try to keep your SEF document ongoing and reviewed at regular intervals – record date of review and any agreed actions
* Perhaps review at termly Ethos Committee meetings, then report to the FGB for comment and input – perhaps focus on one or two aspects/Inspection Questions each time
* Self-evaluation is for everyone, although one person might collate
* Remember, it’s about impact of the actions/events on the life of the school and particularly the flourishing of the children
* There are no grade descriptors from 2023 but the IQs and sub-questions will be a guide
* Gather and keep evidence in line with these IQs – perhaps store in a box or file or portfolios
* What counts as evidence?
* RE planning and children’s work, Collective Worship plans and evaluation, letters from parents, parental questionnaires, photos of events, displays or spiritual areas inside and out, governor minutes, governor visit notes, notes from SIAMS reviews, relevant Ofsted comments etc. information on withdrawals from RE and Collective Worship
* Your website is crucial – make sure your school’s theologically rooted Christian vision and values are really clear and relevant policies are there - include Collective Worship and RE policies, and parents’ right of withdrawal
* Keep the website up to date with recent evidence of how you are living out your Christian vision and foundation
* Check the school is adhering to the RE Statement of Entitlement and the Collective Worship Guidance (good idea to make reference to them)
* Above all, try to demonstrate how your school’s Christian vision runs though the life of the school, like a golden thread and enables all to flourish.

You will have lots more ideas and examples of good practice. Please do send them to us by email, so we can share with others.

We don’t know when, within an academic year, your SIAMS inspection will happen, so we are really keen to give as much support as possible, so you can feel confident to welcome the inspector at any time.

Pauline Dodds August 2023