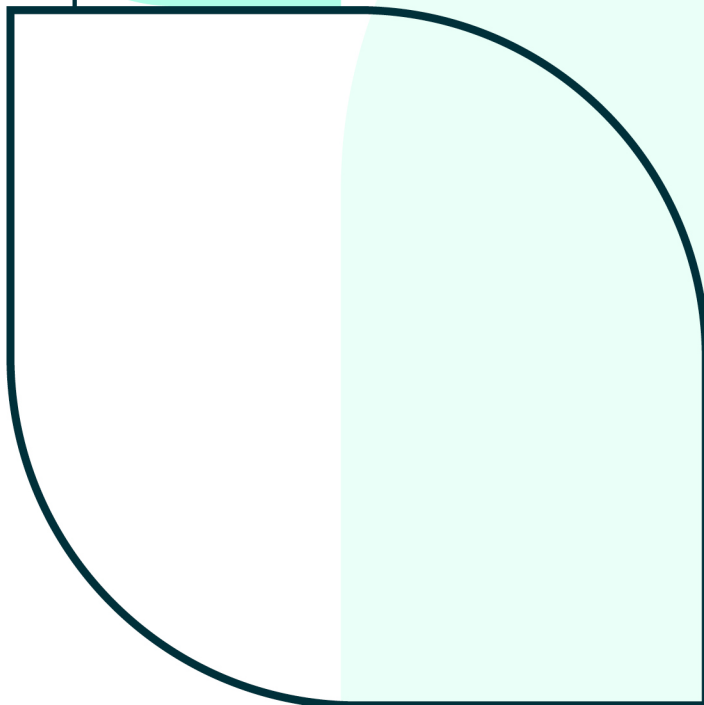




# SIAMS Policy for inspecting Church schools outside of the routine scheduling cycle

September 2025





## Introduction

1. Routine scheduling for SIAMS inspections follows the principle that schools are to be reinspected in the fifth academic year after the academic year in which they were last inspected.
2. Different principles apply to a small number of school categories, as set out in this policy. These categories are new schools and schools with a Requires Improvement or Ineffective grade or a J2 judgement.
3. There are different categories of Church schools that can be classified as 'new'.
  - 3.1. Newly built schools, new schools formed from the merging of two or more schools, and new Church schools that have changed designation from a former community school
  - 3.2. Church schools that have become academies
4. Please see below for the scheduling details of all of these categories of schools and contact [SIAMS@churchofengland.org](mailto:SIAMS@churchofengland.org) if you have remaining questions, having read this guidance.
5. Please note: when a maintained Church school becomes an academy it converts on an 'as is' basis. This means that a former VC school will be inspected on a VC basis, and a former VA school will be inspected on a VA basis.
6. The only exceptions to this principle occur by specific arrangement with the DfE at the time of conversion. Unless informed otherwise, the 'as is' principle will prevail.

## 1. Scheduling of SIAMS inspections for new Church schools, apart from academies

- 1.1. All types of new schools will be inspected at any time during the third academic year after the end of the academic year in which the new school opened.
- 1.2. For example, if the new school opens in January 2024, the SIAMS inspection will take place at any time in the academic year 2026-2027. If the new school opens in September 2024, the SIAMS inspection will take place at any time in the academic year 2027-2028.
- 1.3. The diocesan board of education is responsible for passing information on the opening of new schools to the national SIAMS team in a timely manner to allow for the scheduling to take place.
- 1.4. These schools will appear on the published list of schools that are likely to be inspected in the relevant academic year.

## 2. Scheduling of SIAMS inspections for new Church of England and/or Methodist academies

- 2.1. Church schools that become academies fall into two general categories.
  - 2.1.1. Schools that become academies voluntarily
  - 2.1.2. Schools that become academies at the direction of the Secretary of State
- 2.2. Schools that become academies voluntarily will be scheduled for inspection using the most recent inspection date of the predecessor school.
- 2.3. Schools that become academies at the direction of the Secretary of State will be scheduled for inspection in the second academic year after the end of the academic year in which they convert.
- 2.4. For example, if, at the direction of the Secretary of State, a school becomes an academy in September 2025 the first SIAMS inspection of the new academy will take place at any time during the academic year 2027-2028.



2.5. If, at the direction of the Secretary of State, a school becomes an academy in July 2026, the first SIAMS inspection of the new academy will also take place at any time during the academic year 2027-2028.

### 3. Scheduling of SIAMS inspections for Church schools that were graded Requires Improvement or Ineffective, or that were awarded a J2 judgement, at their most recent inspection

- 3.1. Schools that were graded RI or Ineffective, or that were awarded a J2 judgement, at their most recent inspection can be reinspected between three and five years after the end of the academic year within which they were last inspected.
- 3.2. This means that a school that was graded as either RI or Ineffective in June 2022 may be reinspected between the start of the academic year 2024-2025 (i.e. September 2024) and the end of the academic year 2026-2027 (i.e. July 2027).
- 3.3. A school that was awarded a J2 judgement in March 2024 may be reinspected at any time between the start of the academic year 2026-2027 (i.e. September 2026) and the end of the academic year 2028-2029 (i.e. July 2029).
- 3.4. However, a school that was awarded a J2 judgement in October 2024 may be reinspected at any time between the start of the academic year 2027-2028 (i.e. September 2027) and the end of the academic year 2029-2030 (i.e. July 2030).
- 3.5. These schools will appear on the published list of schools that are likely to be inspected in the relevant academic year.

**National Society for Education**

Church House  
Great Smith Street  
London SW1P 3AZ

**T:** 020 7898 1885

**W:** [churchofengland.org/education](https://churchofengland.org/education)

**E:** [siams@churchofengland.org](mailto:siams@churchofengland.org)