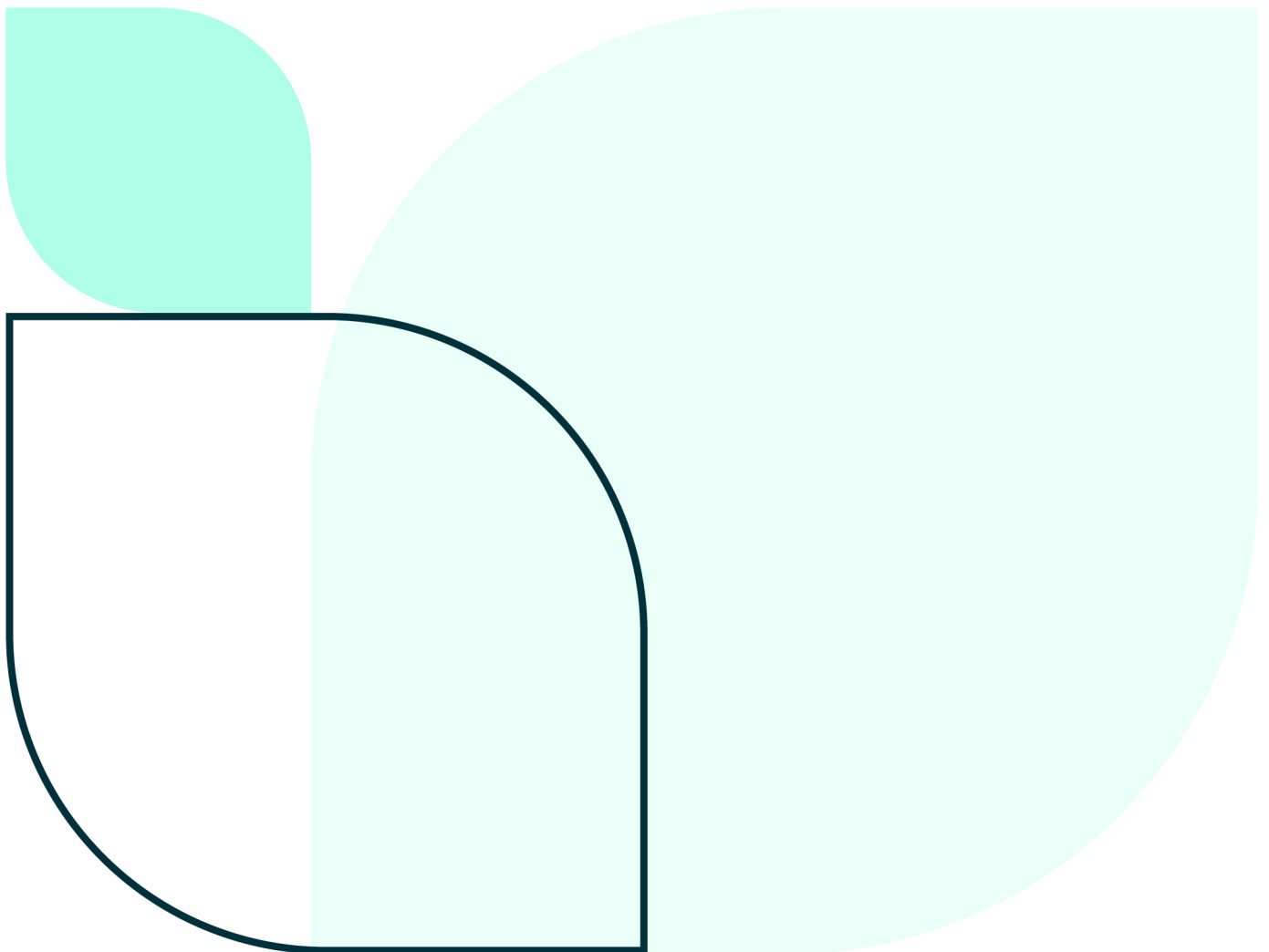




**Statutory Inspection of
Anglican & Methodist Schools**
National Society for Education

SIAMS Safeguarding Policy

September 2025





Introduction

1. The Church of England Vision for Education states: 'Human dignity, the ultimate worth of each person, is central to good education...'
2. This includes 'vigilant safeguarding' (Church of England Vision for Education). In the same way as the National Society for Education (NSE) expects this from schools, it must hold all areas of its own work to the same standard. The work of SIAMS inspectors sits within this expectation and this policy reflects that.
3. The NSE commits itself to seeing 'life in all its fullness' for the members of its own team as well as for those with whom it works.
4. The Methodist Church is committed to safeguarding as an integral part of its life and ministry. Safeguarding is about the action the Church takes to promote a safer culture.

1. Inspectors' and QA inspectors' responsibilities

1.1. Inspectors' and QA inspectors' responsibilities – in all cases of disclosure

- 1.1.1 Every academic year, all inspectors will read Part 1 of the most up-to-date version of [Keeping children safe in education](#) (KCSiE) and confirm to the National Director that they have read and understood it.
- 1.1.2 SIAMS neither inspects nor reports on safeguarding. This responsibility sits with Ofsted.
- 1.1.3 Under Inspection Question 4, however, SIAMS inspectors explore how the school's vision creates a culture in which pupils and adults are treated well. It is not possible for an inspector to report positively on this if they have evidence that pupils and adults do not feel safe in any way.
- 1.1.4 Inspectors therefore have a responsibility to ensure that their evidence-gathering and their final evidence base for IQ4 are robust, and that all evidence has been sufficiently triangulated.
- 1.1.5 All inspectors must familiarise themselves with the inspected school's Safeguarding Policy before the day/s of the inspection. In doing so, they must ensure that they know to whom they should report safeguarding concerns (including disclosures) involving pupils or adults during the course of the inspection. This will be the school's designated safeguarding lead (DSL) or, in their absence, the school's deputy designated safeguarding lead (DDSL).

1.2. Inspectors' and QA inspectors' responsibilities in light of school-based evidence relating to safeguarding

- 1.2.1 In the case of a disclosure, and immediately after speaking with the school's DSL, or the school's DDSL in their absence, the inspector must contact the SIAMS duty desk. If the inspector is accompanied by a QA inspector, the inspector should ensure that the QA inspector is informed instead. In this case, there is no requirement for the inspector to contact the duty desk.
- 1.2.2 When speaking to the appropriate QA inspector, the inspector must ask them (either on the duty desk or in-school) to record the occurrence of the incident. This must include the inspector's name, details of the school, the date, time and the inspector's actions. It must not include details of the disclosure itself. The QA inspector must note the details and immediately contact the National Director of SIAMS or the Deputy Director of SIAMS. If making this contact by phone, the QA inspector should ring either the National Director or the Deputy Director. If making the contact by email, they should contact both.



- 1.2.3. Before the inspector leaves the school at the end of the inspection, they must ask the school's DSL (or the school's DDSL as appropriate) for confirmation that the disclosure has been appropriately dealt with in line with the requirements set out in KCSiE.
- 1.2.4. Immediately after the inspection, if the disclosure indicated that a child is at risk of imminent harm, and the next morning at the very latest for all other concerns, the inspector must email the school's DSL requesting written confirmation that the incident has been dealt with appropriately.
- 1.2.5. The written confirmation must, therefore, contain no identifying information, such as names of children or details of the disclosure. It must just include the name of the school, the date of the disclosure, and assurance that it has been dealt with in line with KCSiE. Once received, the inspector must pass this confirmation by email directly to the National Director of SIAMS and the Deputy Director of SIAMS.
- 1.2.6. The inspector must not contact other members of the national SIAMS team or use the SIAMS email address to pass on information.
- 1.2.7. On the day of an inspection, if a child is in immediate danger and there is no immediate access to the school's DSL (or the school's DDSL), the inspector must call 999. In such cases, the inspector must inform a QA inspector as explained above.

1.3. Inspectors and QA inspectors' responsibilities in light of church-based evidence relating to safeguarding, including information for Methodist and Joint Anglican/Methodist Schools

- 1.3.1. In the case of a disclosure that relates to a member of the Church community, and immediately after speaking with the school's DSL, or the school's DDSL in their absence, the inspector must contact the diocesan safeguarding officer (DSO) for the diocese of which the school is a part. Contact details for each DSO will be found by carrying out an internet search for the relevant diocese and 'diocesan safeguarding officer'. The DSO will advise if the inspector needs to take any further action.
- 1.3.2. In the case of a disclosure that relates to a member of the Methodist Church community, and immediately after speaking with the school's DSL, or the school's DDSL in their absence, the inspector must contact the relevant Methodist Regional Safeguarding Manager. Contact details for each regional manager will be found at [Methodist safeguarding contacts](#). The Regional Manager will advise if the inspector needs to take any further action.
- 1.3.3. In the case of a disclosure in a joint Anglican/Methodist school, that relates to a member of the Church community, and immediately after speaking with the school's DSL, or the school's DDSL in their absence, the inspector must contact both the diocesan safeguarding officer (DSO) for the diocese and Methodist Regional Safeguarding Manager of which the school is a part. Contact details for each diocesan DSO will be found by carrying out an internet search for the relevant diocese and 'diocesan safeguarding officer'. Contact details for the relevant Methodist Regional Safeguarding Manager can be found at [Methodist safeguarding contacts](#). The respective Anglican DSO/Methodist Regional Officer will advise if the inspector needs to take any further action.
- 1.3.4. In that communication, the inspector should include their name and role, details of the school, details of the church, and that a disclosure has been made relating to a specific member of the church community. They should pass on the name of that person, if it has been disclosed to them, but no details of the disclosure itself at this stage.
- 1.3.5. The inspector must then contact the SIAMS duty desk to pass on details of the disclosure and of the action taken. If the inspector is accompanied by a QA inspector, the inspector should ensure that the QA inspector is informed instead. In this case, there is no requirement for the inspector to contact the duty desk.



- 1.3.6. When speaking to the appropriate QA inspector, the inspector must ask them (either on the duty desk or in-school) to record the occurrence of the incident. This must include details of the school, the date, time and the inspector's actions. It must not include details of the disclosure itself. The QA inspector must contact the National Director of SIAMS or the Deputy Director of SIAMS immediately after speaking to the inspector. If making this contact by phone, the QA inspector should ring either the National Director or the Deputy Director. If making the contact by email, they should contact both.
- 1.3.7. If a child is in immediate danger and there is no immediate access to the school's DSL (or the school's DDSL), the inspector must call 999. In such cases, the inspector must inform a QA inspector as explained above.

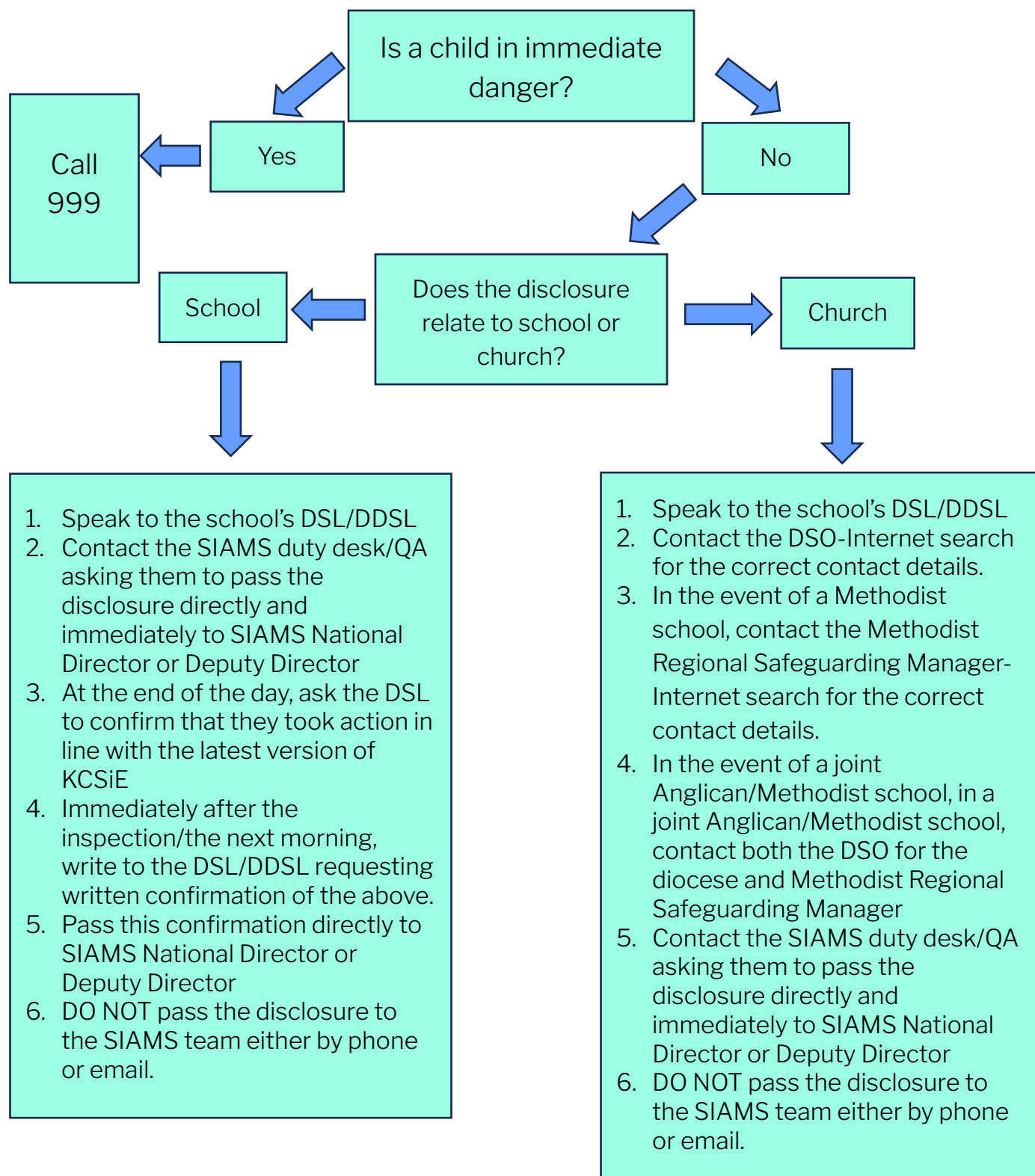
2. Responsibilities of the National SIAMS team

- 2.1. The national SIAMS team must, at all times, operate within the National Society for Education's (NSE) Safeguarding Statement and the NCIs' Safeguarding Policy¹.
- 2.2. On receipt of confirmation that either a school-related or a church-related disclosure has been dealt with appropriately, the National Director of SIAMS, or in their absence the Deputy Director, must pass the information to the NSE's DSL(s) or in their absence the DDSL. The DSL or DDSL will store this information in a secure location in line with NSE policy and where necessary (if the disclosure relates to a risk of harm to a child) will report this to the Church of England National Safeguarding Team or the relevant Methodist Regional Safeguarding Manager. In the case of a joint Anglican/Methodist school, the National Director of SIAMS, or in their absence the Deputy Director, will report this to the Church of England National Safeguarding Team or the relevant Methodist Regional Safeguarding Manager.
- 2.3. The DSL or DDSL will then advise if any further action is required.
- 2.4. Whenever a disclosure is passed to the National Director of SIAMS (or the Deputy Director of SIAMS), they should inform the relevant diocesan director of education, for the purpose of information sharing only.
- 2.5. In the case of Methodist schools, whenever a disclosure is passed to the National Director of SIAMS (or the Deputy Director of SIAMS) should inform the Methodist Regional Safeguarding Manager and Methodist Director of Schools.
- 2.6. In the case of joint Anglican/Methodist schools, whenever a disclosure is passed to the National Director of SIAMS (or the Deputy Director of SIAMS), they should inform the Methodist Regional Safeguarding Manager, Methodist Director of Schools and relevant diocesan director of education and for the purpose of information sharing only.

¹ [NCIs Safeguarding Policy 1.docx](#)



Flowchart of actions to be taken following a safeguarding disclosure



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