14th June 2019

Dear Families,

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.

The last time 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.

Whinmoor St. Paul’s was last inspected in 2014 and was awarded a grade of Good under the previous system. We have been given notice that we are to be inspected on Thursday 20th June under the new system.

We look forward to welcoming our SIAM inspectors into Whinmoor St. Paul’s next week and sharing our work and values driven curriculum with them.   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.

We thank you for your continuing support, as always.

Miss McBride