

At the start of this new school year two Inspectors spent a day at Aston Rowant School to conduct a Statutory Inspection of Anglican and Methodist Schools (SIAMS). This sits alongside the other better known inspection framework, Ofsted, which focuses on results, compliance and finance as well as our overall strategic direction of all schools. SIAMS has a different focus to Ofsted and is targeted on looking at the vision and culture of church schools. SIAMS is designed to encourage schools to live up to their foundation as Church schools and ensure that our their unique Christian character remains central to their ethos and daily life.

On their day with us the SIAMS inspectors looked at the inner details of the vision, mission and culture of our school as well as the pastoral welfare of both the adults and children who are part of our school community. In doing so they provided an independent assessment of the work and culture that sit behind our processes and policies. But our inspection was so much more than that for the staff team and governing body. It was an verification and validation that the vision and culture we embrace and work hard to deliver is prevalent throughout our whole school community.

Fundamental to this process was that when school leaders, children, parents and governors explained our vision of growth and living life to its fullness to the SIAMS inspectors, we were able to back it up practically showing its presence in the paperwork, lessons, displays, language, culture and ethos of the school.

While a faith-based education may not be everyone's preference, by focusing on the effectiveness of the Christian vision, we contribute to the development of the 'whole child' encompassing key spiritual, moral, social, and cultural aspects. Indeed, by looking beyond just the results of our school (which are in themselves are outstanding) we can also focus on living up to our foundation as a church school and ensure that our unique Christian character remains central to our ethos and daily life and that our provision and support enables pupils and adults to flourish.

At the time of writing we are awaiting our final report. But as the feedback from our inspectors included 'inspirational', 'breath-taking', 'high aspirations' and talked about how each child in our care is 'known and cherished' we are confident that we are building on solid ground. And we do just that – we continue to build and continue to grow. Watch this space for our progress!

Kind regards

Mrs Helen France

Headteacher