



CHURCH OF ENGLAND
ARCHBISHOPS' COUNCIL
EDUCATION DIVISION



The **Methodist** Church 

DEFERRAL OF SIAMS INSPECTIONS

This document sets out the National Society's approach to the deferral, cancellation and re-scheduling of Statutory Inspection of Anglican and Methodist Schools (SIAMS) under Section 48 of the Education Act 2005.

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There may be rare cases when diocesan staff identify exceptional circumstances or particular concerns in a school that warrant consideration of a delayed inspection. In such cases it is expected that the school is inspected as soon as possible after the original date and no later than six working weeks.

The purpose of this document is to outline the procedure for requesting a deferred inspection in accordance with the protocol agreement between The National Society and the Department for Education.

The diocese will need to make request to The National Society addressed to the Head of School Effectiveness. This should be in the form of a formal letter signed by the Diocesan Director of Education with a copy of any evidence relevant to the individual circumstances of the school which is the subject of the request.

In the event that the diocese does feel there is a case for a deferral, diocesan staff should **first conduct a review** to establish whether the concerns/issues identified are having such a profound impact that a SIAMS inspection would be unable to evaluate the school's Christian distinctiveness and effectiveness.

Listed below are some examples of the type of things that **might** warrant a deferral inspection:

1. The school has experienced a major incident, such as a fatal accident involving a member of staff or pupil
2. The headteacher or a member of the school's senior leadership team is the subject of a current police investigation which would be compromised by an inspection of the school
3. The school is due to close and Her Majesty's Chief Inspector (HMCI) has decided, in accordance with sections 5 and 8 of the Education Act 2005 that no useful purpose will be served in inspecting it. This should normally only apply when:
 - having followed the required statutory process, the proposed closure has been formally approved by a decision of the local authority (LA) or the Schools Adjudicator, as appropriate, under the school organisation statutory local decision making regime
 - the date of closure is within six months of the inspection.
4. The school is closed to all pupils – for example, owing to a staff training day or adverse weather conditions – for at least half of the period for which the inspection has been scheduled
5. At least three quarters of the pupils will not be at school – for example, owing to a school trip or a religious festival – for at least half of the period for which the inspection has been scheduled.
6. Other exceptional circumstances which, in the judgement of The National Society justify deferral or cancellation of the inspection as the named religious authority in the Grant Agreement with the DfE.

Applications to defer a planned inspection on following the grounds will **not** be accepted as pupils at the school are still receiving education

- the headteacher is out of school
- the school has been judged to require improvement by Ofsted
- difficult relations between the governing body and the senior leadership team
- the school wants more time to improve in order to secure the best judgement
- Imminent change of leadership