



## HILLESLEY PRIMARY SCHOOL

### Governors' SIAMS Newsletter

#### SIAMS, the headlines!

You will have already seen a copy of the SIAMS report and an explanation from the Head about how the categories and judgements have recently been changed. Although it's difficult for staff who have been working hard to implement all of the new requirements, Governors are pleased with the "good" outcome of the inspection under this new, even more demanding regime. We know that the school has improved since its previous "outstanding" rating in the old system and we're delighted that the inspection identified how **pupils are inspired to be the 'best they can be'** and that it also recognised the **exceptionally supportive culture** here, where **pupils feel safe because they are listened to and valued**.

As we are a "VA" school, SIAMS also assessed the quality of RE lessons and judged that we have "**very effective teaching which both motivates and engages**".

#### What is SIAMS & how is it different from Ofsted?

SIAMS is the Statutory Inspection of Anglican and Methodist Schools and occurs every 5 years in "good" or better church schools. Its purpose is to make sure that all children (and staff too) can flourish through the school's Christian vision.

Church of England schools like Hillesley Primary have to undergo SIAMS as well as Ofsted inspections.

Whereas our latest Ofsted inspection focussed primarily on the academic progress & achievement of children, SIAMS concentrated more on what is sometimes referred to as SMSC - their spiritual, moral, social and cultural understanding.

#### What does CEVA really mean?

CEVA stands for Church of England Voluntary Aided and Hillesley Primary is a Church of England school, not a faith school. Faith schools serve primarily only one religious group, whereas Church of England schools are schools for families of all faiths, agnostics, and those of no faith at all too. The ethos and way of operating in CofE schools is set from a Christian perspective but recognises the uniqueness of every child and welcome all children equally. Besides setting out a vision for education, the Church of England contributes to the buildings and their upkeep.

Voluntary Aided schools have more freedom to change the way they do things than other state community schools.



### More about our Christian Vision.

The Church of England has set out an educational vision “for the fullness of life” and aims to educate for: wisdom, knowledge & skills; for hope and aspiration; for community & living well together; and finally for dignity & respect. These are the areas that SIAMS explores to see how well our school’s own vision helps us deliver in these areas.

Governors and staff worked together to capture the spirit of everything we value about the distinctive Christian character of this school and used that as the basis of our own vision for all our pupils. This is what we came up with.....

“Our vision, based on our School’s Christian values, is to provide a welcoming, nurturing environment for learning at the heart of our community. Together, we provide a solid foundation of growth, appreciating each child with their God-given uniqueness and individual needs, thus empowering them to become responsible and fulfilled members of society.” This is the way that we think Hillesley School can help children and staff achieve fullness of life.

### So what? (especially for families who are not practicing Christians)

We think that pupils and staff at Hillesley School benefit from the ethos created by our vision; it emphasises that each person is treated as an individual with their own strengths and needs. It provides a model for living together in a respectful and supportive way. For example, a new element of the inspection asks how pupils are encouraged to address issues of justice and equality so that they can make a difference in the world through ‘courageous advocacy’. Wow! That’s a huge and relevant skill for today’s world and all our futures.

In summary, it helps us to educate well rounded, emotionally intelligent citizens and gives them the wisdom and tools to be able to live their future lives in all their fullness.

We hope this has provided some useful information about the recent inspection. If there is anything you would like to discuss in more detail then please don’t hesitate to get in touch.

Further information about the Governing Body is available on the school website at <http://www.hillesleyprimary.com/governors/>.

### Developing the Governing Body

We have 4 foundation governor vacancies. It is important that these roles are filled as soon as possible to ensure that our Governing Body remains as effective as possible with a wide range of skills. If you are interested in taking on this rewarding role then please don’t hesitate to get in touch with any of the team for an informal chat to find out more. You can also email our clerk on [clerk@hillesley.gloucs.sch.uk](mailto:clerk@hillesley.gloucs.sch.uk)