



3rd July 2023

Dear Parents/Carers,

RE: Statutory Inspection of Anglican and Methodist School

We would like to share with you the results of a two-day inspection that took place in school on the 19th and 20th June 2023, a Statutory Inspection of Anglican and Methodist Schools (SIAMS). In a similar way to Ofsted, all Church of England schools are visited regularly to evaluate the key question:

How effective is the school's distinctive Christian vision, established and promoted by leadership at all levels, in enabling all pupils and adults to flourish?

This is explored through seven strands:

- Vision and Leadership
- Wisdom, Knowledge and Skills
- Character Development: Hope, Aspiration and Courageous Advocacy
- Community and Living Well Together
- Dignity and Respect
- The impact of Collective Worship
- The effectiveness of Religious Education

One overall grade is awarded reflecting the contribution of these strands to the flourishing of pupils and adults in a Church School. In addition, a standalone grade is awarded in all schools for Religious Education. We are delighted to tell you that we received an overall grade of **Excellent** (the highest grade) and were also judged to be **Excellent** in the effectiveness of Religious Education.

The key findings of the inspection included:

- The vision statement, together with the Christian values, underpins the strategic and operational life of the academy on all levels. Lived out through associated affirmations and 'Bishop Character', it has a transformational impact on adults and students.
- Difference and diversity, in all its forms, are joyfully celebrated. Students and staff are accepted for who they are and loved and welcomed into the Bishop Young Academy family.
- Religious studies (RS) is excellent. The curriculum is structured to accommodate the needs and contexts of students and reflects the wider community. As a result, students enjoy success in their learning.
- The rich curriculum is augmented by trips and visits which enable students to develop undiscovered skills and enjoy new life experiences. This drives their aspirations and gives them hope for the future.

As part of the process, the inspector looked at what happens within the classroom. They found that 'Behaviour in classes is calm and purposeful. Students behave well because interactions with adults are characterised by positivity and affirmation.'

They also recognised the importance of our inclusive curriculum. 'Leaders take courageous decisions around the way the curriculum is put together. Identifying key barriers, oracy is a priority and placed at the centre of all learning activities... Interventions are in place which ensure students with special educational needs and disabilities, or who are vulnerable, flourish.'





It was extremely pleasing to see that the hard work of our students was recognised, and we are grateful to everyone who spent time with the Inspector over the two days. The inspector found that, 'Student voice is strong and valid. Students know that they matter because changes are made as a result of their views being heard. Their opinions help shape the 'safe' environment of the vision statement and develops mutual trust between adults and students. They take pride in fulfilling many roles which help the academy fulfil its mission statement. The welcome team supports students new to the academy, for example.'

I'd like to extend a huge thank you to all the hard-working staff at school who care deeply about the children here and strive for excellence every day. Staff were commended in the report. There was an acknowledgement that they are 'Deeply committed to ensuring that students receive the best possible learning experiences, they work together to provide the safe, loving environment embodied by the vision.'

We must also pay homage to our students, who strive to be the best they can be every day and who demonstrate our values through the way they live. And also to the parents and children who spoke to the SIAMS inspector and were so positive about our school.

We have published the report on the school website for parents and carers to access as well as making paper copies available from the main office should you wish to take a copy. You can find the full report here: <https://tinyurl.com/BYA-SIAMS>

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'R. Cole'.

Rachael Cole
Head of School