

# Responses to Ofsted's consultation 'A good education for all' on initial teacher education– FAQs

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## How will the new framework be different from the current framework?

The most important changes that initial teacher education (ITE) partnerships will see when they are inspected is in the much shorter notice period and in the way judgements will be made. There will also be changes to the timing of some initial teacher education inspections – partnerships judged to 'require improvement' will be re-inspected sooner.

The key changes are that Ofsted will:

- **Introduce a single judgement of 'requires improvement' to replace the current 'satisfactory' judgement**  
This will bring ITE in line with the revised four-point scale for making judgements being used in the new school and learning and skills inspection frameworks from September 2012.
- **Introduce earlier full inspection of ITE partnerships judged as 'requires improvement'**  
ITE partnerships judged to require improvement will be inspected within 12 months of their previous inspection.
- **Introduce a protocol that limits the number of times a provider can be deemed as 'requires improvement' to two consecutive inspections before it is deemed 'inadequate'**  
ITE partnerships that are 'satisfactory' at the end of August 2012 will start with a clean slate in September.
- **Change the notice period for inspections – ITE partnerships will normally be contacted two working days before an ITE inspection is scheduled to start by the relevant inspection service provider**  
The necessary practical arrangements for the inspection will then be made by telephone between the lead inspector(s) and the ITE partnership.
- **Introduce no-notice monitoring inspections**  
inspectors will make unannounced focused monitoring inspections to primary ITE partnerships to evaluate the quality and effectiveness of training in phonics.

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## **Why has Ofsted reduced the notice period for ITE inspections from eight weeks to two days?**

We have taken account of wide ranging views on this matter. Trainees and former trainees had a strong preference for giving no notice. Providers supported a shorter notice period, but were concerned about having enough time to make essential practical arrangements. We believe that by reducing the notice from eight weeks to two working days we have gone a long way to meet the approach preferred by trainees and former trainees while taking account of the need for preparation.

The focused monitoring inspections to primary ITE partnerships to evaluate the quality and effectiveness of training in phonics will be unannounced.

## **Why change from satisfactory to 'requires improvement'?**

ITE partnerships want to provide the very best training for their trainees and we believe that all partnerships must be at least good, if we are to achieve the high ambitions we have set out for education in this country. By replacing the judgement 'satisfactory' with 'requires improvement' we will be signalling that the provider is not doing sufficiently well.

In addition, those partnerships judged as 'requires improvement' will be inspected within 12 months of their last inspection, which gives them sufficient time to make the improvements needed.