

## Official Statistics Release

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## **INTRODUCTION**

This official statistics release reports the number of non-association independent school inspections that occurred between 1 September 2012 and 31 August 2013. All inspections are carried out under section 162A of the Education Act 2002, as inserted by schedule 8 of the Education Act 2005, apart from pre-registration inspections of proposed new schools, which are conducted under section 99 of the Education and Skills Act 2008. A new framework for inspecting education in non-association independent schools in England came into effect in January 2013. The new inspection framework can be found at:

[www.ofsted.gov.uk/resources/framework-for-inspecting-education-non-association-independent-schools](http://www.ofsted.gov.uk/resources/framework-for-inspecting-education-non-association-independent-schools).

Under the new framework, a summative judgement on the overall effectiveness of a school was introduced. This takes account of the other six judgements made in a standard inspection (pupils' achievement, pupils' behaviour and personal development, quality of teaching, quality of curriculum, pupils' welfare, health and safety, and leadership and management). Under all previous frameworks, a summative judgement about the overall quality of education was made, which was informed by the judgements on the curriculum, teaching and assessment, and pupils' progress. Until the launch of the new framework, the overall quality of education judgement was used to represent the latest inspection outcome for independent schools.

Schools will be judged outstanding, good, adequate or inadequate for each of the seven judgements under the new framework.

These inspections have two purposes: first, they report on the school's compliance with the regulatory standards for independent schools; second, they provide an evaluative assessment of the school's performance.

The Department for Education introduced revised independent school standards in January 2013.<sup>1</sup> Most revisions were made to the standards in Part 2 (spiritual, moral, social and cultural development of pupils) and Part 5 (premises of and accommodation at schools).

Under the inspection cycle which started on 1 September 2011, the frequency of inspection is proportionate to risk. The education provision of mainstream independent schools which were judged good or outstanding at their last inspection, and which meet specific criteria, are inspected at an interval of up to six years rather than every three years. As a result, the schools inspected in any one year are not representative of the whole population of schools.

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<sup>1</sup> The Education (Independent School Standards) (England) Regulations 2010, as amended by The Education (Independent School Standards) (England) (Amendment) Regulations 2012; [www.legislation.gov.uk/uksi/2010/1997/contents/made](http://www.legislation.gov.uk/uksi/2010/1997/contents/made) and [www.legislation.gov.uk/uksi/2012/2962/contents/made](http://www.legislation.gov.uk/uksi/2012/2962/contents/made).

## Contents

<b>Introduction .....</b>	<b>2</b>
<b>Chart 1: Overall effectiveness for non-association independent schools inspected between 1 September 2008 and 31 August 2013 .....</b>	<b>7</b>
<b>Chart 2: Overall performance on compliance with standards by non-association independent schools inspected between 1 September 2008 and 31 August 2013 .....</b>	<b>8</b>
<b>Table 1: Number of inspections carried out in non-association independent schools inspected between 1 September 2012 and 31 August 2013, by inspection type .....</b>	<b>9</b>
<b>Table 2-i: Inspection outcomes for non-association independent schools inspected between 1 January 2013 and 31 August 2013 (provisional).....</b>	<b>10</b>
<b>Table 2-ii: Inspection outcomes for non-association independent schools inspected between 1 September 2012 and 31 December 2012.....</b>	<b>11</b>
<b>Table 3a-i: Overall performance on compliance with regulatory requirements for non-association independent schools inspected between 1 January 2013 and 31 August 2013 .....</b>	<b>12</b>
<b>Table 3a-ii: Overall performance on compliance with regulatory requirements for non-association independent schools inspected between 1 September 2012 and 31 December 2012.....</b>	<b>13</b>
<b>BACKGROUND INFORMATION .....</b>	<b>14</b>
<b>GLOSSARY .....</b>	<b>16</b>

## Key Findings

- In the period between 1 September 2012 and 31 August 2013, 294 standard inspections have been carried out, of which 161 were carried out under the new framework which came into effect in January 2013.
- Of the 161 standard inspections carried out under the new framework, 64% (103) of schools were judged good or better for their overall effectiveness whilst 36% (58) of schools were judged less than good, with 13% (21) being judged inadequate. Between 1 September 2012 and 31 December 2012, 69% (92) provided good or better overall quality of education and 31% (41) were judged less than good. It is too soon since the launch of the new framework to draw robust conclusions, and the new overall effectiveness judgement is not directly comparable with the previous judgement on the overall quality of education. The proportion of schools judged inadequate between 1 January 2013 and 31 August 2013, is eight percentage points higher than the period 1 September 2012 and 31 December 2012.
- Under the new framework, pupils' behaviour and personal development was judged most positively with 32% (51) of the schools being judged outstanding and 50% (81) judged as good. Between 1 September 2012 and 31 December 2012, pupils' behaviour and their spiritual, moral, social and cultural development were the strongest features since 29% (38) of schools were judged outstanding.
- Under the new framework, leadership and management was judged least positively with 36% (58) being judged less than good. Between 1 September 2012 and 31 December 2012, the overall welfare, health and safety was judged least positively, with 7% (nine) schools being judged inadequate.
- Ofsted also reports on the extent to which the school meets the independent school standards. Under the new framework, although all schools met at least 50% of all standards, 27% (43) of schools failed to meet 100% of the standards.<sup>2</sup> This continues the upward trend seen in recent years in inspections conducted under the old framework.

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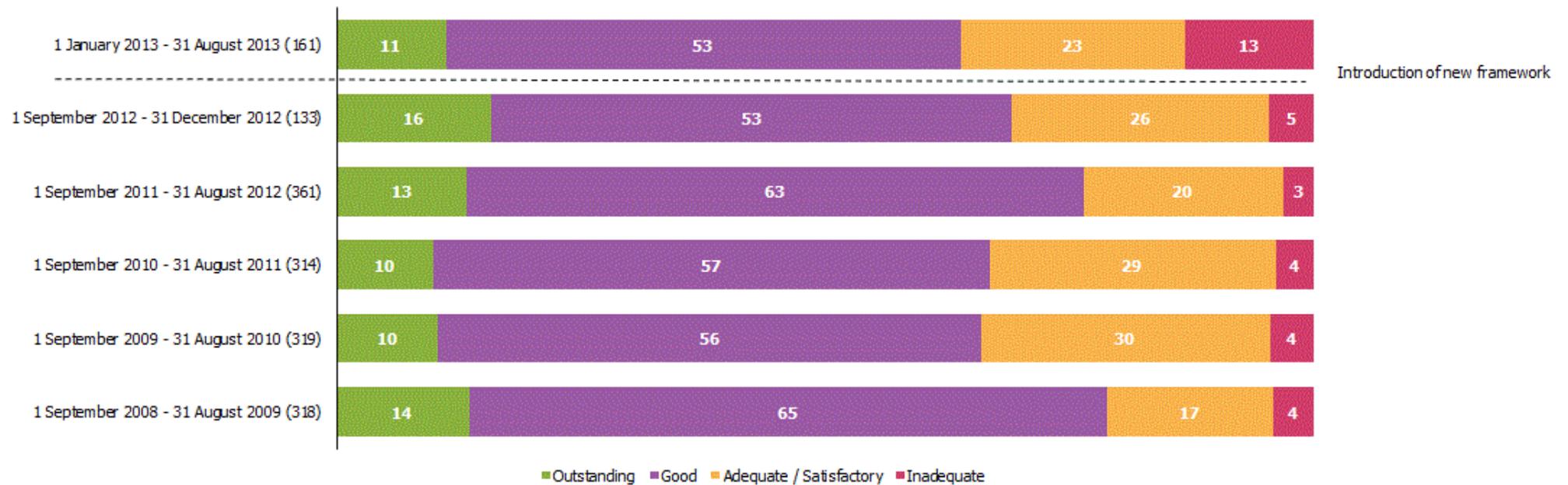
<sup>2</sup> In the published standards, each independent school standard is set out in one or more paragraphs. Not all paragraphs of the standards are applicable to all independent schools.

- Compliance with the standards continues to be weakest in relation to the quality of teaching and assessment, since 4% (seven) of schools inspected between 1 January 2013 and 31 August 2013 and 2% (three) of the schools inspected between 1 September 2012 and 31 December 2012 failed to meet these standards.

### **Impact of revisions of previous release**

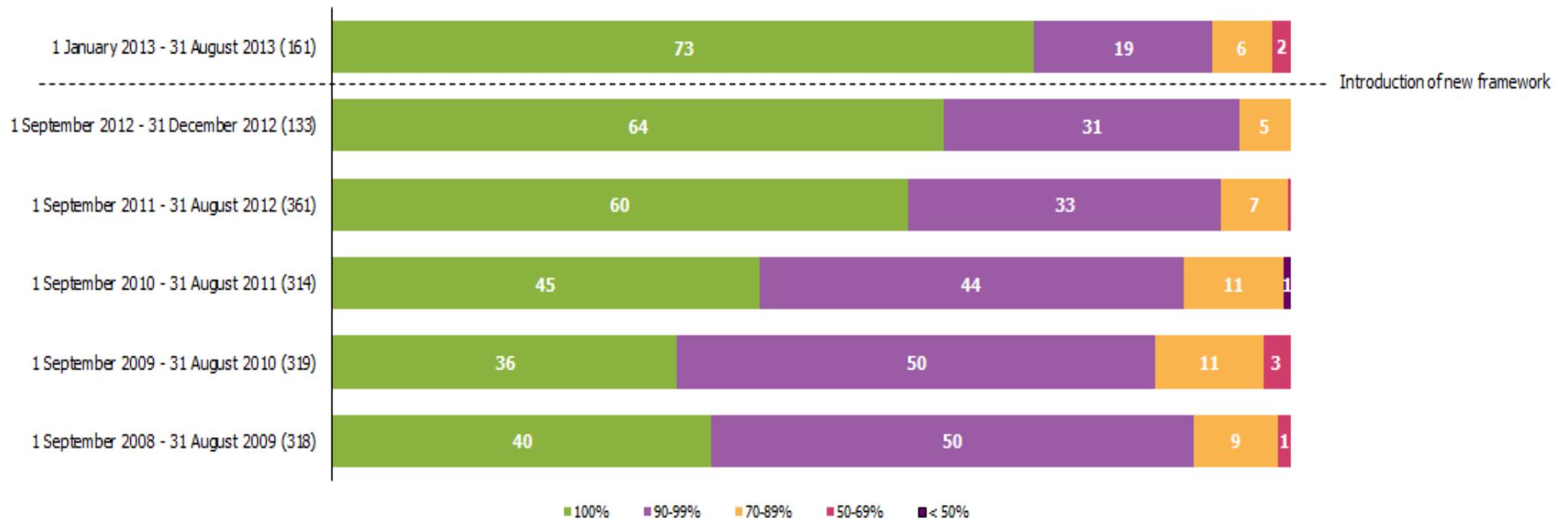
- Final data covering the period September 2012 to August 2013 have been released on the Ofsted website.
- Following a review on historical data, minor amendments have been made to final Table 1 data for the period from January to August 2013. The data now includes one additional Pre-registration inspection (Independent school). These amendments have no impact on the other tables included in this release.

**Chart 1: Overall effectiveness for non-association independent schools inspected between 1 September 2008 and 31 August 2013** <sup>1 2 3 4 5</sup>



1. From 1 January 2013 Overall effectiveness has replaced the previous Overall quality of education judgement.
2. Figures represent percentages.
3. Percentages are rounded and do not always add exactly to 100.
4. Since March 2012, data for 2008/09 have been revised to be consistent with other methodology.
5. There was one school which did not receive a judgement due to no children on roll.

**Chart 2: Overall performance on compliance with standards by non-association independent schools inspected between 1 September 2008 and 31 August 2013<sup>1 2 3</sup>**



1. Figures represent percentages.
2. Percentages are rounded and do not always add exactly to 100.
3. Since March 2012, data for 2008/09 have been revised to be consistent with other methodology.

**Table 1: Number of inspections carried out in non-association independent schools between 1 September 2012 and 31 August 2013, by inspection type<sup>1 2</sup>**

	<b>1 January 2013 and 31 August 2013</b>	<b>1 September 2012 and 31 December 2012</b>
<b>Inspection activity</b>	<b>Number</b>	<b>Number</b>
Pre-registration inspection (Independent school)	75	38
Pre-registration inspection (Academy)	134	1
Standard inspections	161	133
Progress monitoring inspection	26	29
Emergency inspection	49	22
Material change inspection	45	33
<b>Total</b>	<b>490</b>	<b>256</b>

1. The total number of standard inspections includes integrated inspections.

2. Figures represent the number of independent schools.

**Table 2-i: Inspection outcomes for non-association independent schools inspected between 1 January 2013 and 31 August 2013<sup>1 2</sup>**

	Total number inspected	Number of inspections				Percentage of inspections			
		Outstanding	Good	Adequate	Inadequate	Outstanding	Good	Adequate	Inadequate
Overall effectiveness	161	18	85	37	21	11	53	23	13
Pupils achievement	161	20	89	42	10	12	55	26	6
Pupils behaviour and personal development	161	51	81	23	6	32	50	14	4
Quality of teaching	161	20	90	42	9	12	56	26	6
Quality of curriculum	161	21	91	38	11	13	57	24	7
Pupils welfare, health and safety	161	36	84	26	15	22	52	16	9
Leadership and management	161	19	84	37	21	12	52	23	13

*Source: Ofsted inspections*

1. Figures represent the number of independent schools.
2. Where the number of inspections is small, percentages should be treated with caution.

**Table 2-ii: Inspection outcomes for non-association independent schools inspected between 1 September 2012 and 31 December 2012<sup>1 2</sup>**

	Total number inspected	Number of inspections				Percentage of inspections			
		Outstanding	Good	Adequate	Inadequate	Outstanding	Good	Adequate	Inadequate
Overall quality of education	133	21	71	35	6	16	53	26	5
How well the curriculum and other activities meet the range of needs and interests of pupils	133	22	70	35	6	17	53	26	5
How effective teaching and assessment are in meeting the full range of pupils' needs	133	20	71	36	6	15	53	27	5
How well pupils make progress in their learning	133	22	68	37	6	17	51	28	5
Quality of provision for pupils' spiritual, moral, social and cultural development	133	38	66	27	2	29	50	20	2
The behaviour of pupils	133	38	68	23	4	29	51	17	3
The overall welfare, health and safety of pupils	133	32	70	22	9	24	53	17	7

*Source: Ofsted inspections*

1. Figures represent the number of independent schools.
2. Where the number of inspections is small, percentages should be treated with caution.

**Table 3a-i: Overall performance on compliance with regulatory requirements for non-association independent schools inspected between 1 January 2013 and 31 August 2013<sup>1 2</sup>**

	<b>Total number inspected</b>	<b>100% Number</b>	<b>90-99% Number</b>	<b>70-89% Number</b>	<b>50-69% Number</b>	<b>&lt;50% Number</b>
<b>All Standards</b>	<b>161</b>	<b>118</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>0</b>
Quality of education provided	161	148	2	1	6	4
Quality of teaching and assessment	161	151	0	2	1	7
Spiritual, moral, social and cultural education of pupils	161	156	0	2	1	2
Welfare, health and safety of pupils	161	143	3	10	3	2
Suitability of the proprietor, staff and supply staff	161	152	2	6	1	0
Premises and accommodation of schools	161	133	12	14	2	0
Provision of information for parents, carers and others	161	149	0	11	1	0
Manner in which complaints are to be handled	161	155	0	2	1	3

*Source: Ofsted inspections*

1. Figures represent the number of independent schools.
2. Where the number of inspections is small, percentages should be treated with caution.
3. In the published regulations, each independent school standard is set out in one or more paragraphs. Not all paragraphs of the standards are applicable to all independent schools.

**Table 3a-ii: Overall performance on compliance with regulatory requirements for non-association independent schools inspected between 1 September 2012 and 31 December 2012<sup>1 2</sup>**

	<b>Total number inspected</b>	<b>100% Number</b>	<b>90-99% Number</b>	<b>70-89% Number</b>	<b>50-69% Number</b>	<b>&lt;50% Number</b>
<b>All Standards</b>	<b>133</b>	<b>85</b>	<b>41</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>
Quality of education provided	133	119	3	4	6	1
Quality of teaching and assessment	133	115	0	11	4	3
Spiritual, moral, social and cultural education of pupils	133	126	0	5	1	1
Welfare, health and safety of pupils	133	108	12	10	3	0
Suitability of the proprietor, staff and supply staff	133	127	1	3	2	0
Premises and accommodation of schools	133	117	14	2	0	0
Provision of information for parents, carers and others	133	117	0	12	4	0
Manner in which complaints are to be handled	133	127	0	4	2	0

*Source: Ofsted inspections*

1. Figures represent the number of independent schools.
2. Where the number of inspections is small, percentages should be treated with caution.
3. In the published regulations, each independent school standard is set out in one or more paragraphs. Not all paragraphs of the standards are applicable to all independent schools.

## **BACKGROUND INFORMATION**

1. There are approximately 1,200 independent schools, which are not members of school associations and are thus inspected by Ofsted. They are diverse in size and character. Roughly half of the schools are located in London and the south of England, and most are smaller than average. The smallest are children's homes which provide education for just one pupil. Over 40% of non-association independent schools cater wholly or mainly for children with a statement of special educational need or provide education for looked after children.
2. Section 157 of the Education Act 2002 specifies that regulations setting out the standards that independent schools must meet should be made on the following matters:
  - quality of education
  - spiritual, moral, social and cultural development of pupils
  - welfare, health and safety of pupils
  - suitability staff and proprietors
  - premises of and accommodation at the school
  - provision of information
  - manner in which complaints are to be handled.

Such standards are set out in The Education (Independent School Standards) (England) Regulations 2012.<sup>3</sup>

3. The inspection of an independent school is carried out by Ofsted under section 162A of the Education Act 2002, as amended, the purpose of which is to advise the Secretary of State for Education about the school's suitability for continued registration as an independent school. The school inspection covers the school's provision for all registered pupils from the term in which their third birthday occurs to the age of 18.
4. From 1 July 2011, Ofsted will include all types of inspection activity carried out in table 1. Inspections which result in a published inspection report and outcome will be included in subsequent tables, charts and data.
5. Revisions are published in line with Ofsted's revisions policy for official statistics. For more information about the policy please visit the Ofsted website:  
[www.ofsted.gov.uk/resources/statistical-notice-ofsted-revisions-policy-for-official-statistics](http://www.ofsted.gov.uk/resources/statistical-notice-ofsted-revisions-policy-for-official-statistics)
6. Under the inspection cycle which started on 1 September 2011, the frequency of inspection is proportionate to risk. The education provision of mainstream independent schools which were judged good or outstanding at their last inspection, and which meet specific criteria, are inspected at an interval of up to six years rather than every three years. There are, therefore, good and outstanding schools that will not be inspected for another six years,

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<sup>3</sup> <http://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukxi/2012/2962/introduction/made>

unless an issue arises and the Secretary of State asks Ofsted to inspect sooner. Independent special schools continue to be inspected every three years in recognition of the vulnerability of the pupils that they cater for.<sup>4</sup>

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<sup>4</sup> [www.ofsted.gov.uk/resources/090036](http://www.ofsted.gov.uk/resources/090036)

## **GLOSSARY**

### **Emergency inspections**

Emergency inspections of independent schools are conducted under section 162A of the Education Act 2002, as inserted by schedule 8 of the Education Act 2005. They are carried out at the request of the Secretary of State for a variety of reasons, including investigating a complaint, concern, or the presence of an unregistered school or unregistered boarding/residential provision at an existing school and will only look into the issues raised by the DfE request. Emergency inspections may be unannounced and reports of these inspections are only published at the request of the Secretary of State.

### **Standard inspections**

Standard inspections of independent schools are conducted under section 162A of the Education Act 2002, as inserted by schedule 8 of the Education Act 2005, at the request of the Secretary of State. The purpose of inspection is to advise the Secretary of State for Education about schools' suitability for continued registration as independent schools. In standard inspections, schools receive two days' notice of inspection and inspectors observe schools' compliance with all of the standards set out in The Education (Independent School Standards) (England) Regulations 2010, and also provide an evaluative assessment of the school's performance.<sup>5</sup>

### **Independent schools**

Independent schools are defined by section 463 of the Education Act 1996, as amended. They provide full-time education for:

- five or more pupils of compulsory school age, or
- at least one pupil of that age for whom a statement is maintained under section 324, or who is looked after by a local authority (within the meaning of [section 22](#) of the Children Act 1989).

It is immaterial if full-time education is also provided at the school for pupils under or over compulsory school age.

There are around 2,400 independent schools in England. Ofsted inspects the educational provision only in independent schools which are not members of independent schools associations (referred to as non-association independent schools). Schools which are members of independent schools associations are inspected by independent inspectorates approved by the Secretary of State for this purpose: the Independent Schools Inspectorate, the School Inspection Service, and the Bridge Schools Inspectorate. All inspections are carried out at the request of the Secretary of State, which is the registering authority for all independent schools.

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<sup>5</sup> [www.legislation.gov.uk/ukxi/2010/1997/contents/made](http://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukxi/2010/1997/contents/made)

## **Integrated inspections**

When the inspection of educational provision in non-association independent boarding or residential special schools is due at the same time as the welfare inspection, they are combined into an integrated inspection of the whole school. Inspections of welfare provision are carried out under the Care Standards Act 2000 having regard to the national minimum standards for boarding schools or residential special schools, as appropriate.

Ofsted also inspects the welfare provision of association independent boarding and residential special schools, whose educational provision is inspected by the Independent Schools Inspectorate, the School Inspection Service, or the Bridge Schools Inspectorate (see 'Independent schools' above). It aims where appropriate to carry out the inspection of welfare at the same time as the education inspection, although separate inspection reports are published.

## **Material change inspections**

Ofsted carries out material change inspections of registered independent schools at the request of the Secretary of State out of the normal inspection cycle when the school wishes to make a material change to their premises, intake or age range, or to the provision they make for pupils with special educational needs and / or disabilities.

Inspectors will consider the implications of the material change and recommend to the Secretary of State whether the material change proposed can be approved or not and, if not, what the school must do to improve. The provider cannot implement the proposed change until the Secretary of State grants permission.

## **Pre-registration (Academy)**

Academies are publicly funded independent schools and as an independent school must be subject to an initial independent school registration inspection under section 160 (4) of the Education Act. Once open academies will be subject to regular inspection by Ofsted under section 5 of the Education Act 2005.

## **Pre-registration (Independent school)**

The Secretary of State is the Registration Authority for Independent Schools in England, and maintains a register of independent schools. When a proprietor has made an application for registration of an independent school the Registration Authority will notify HMCI and HMCI will inspect the school and report to the Registration on the extent to which the independent school standards are met, and are likely to continue to be met, in relation to the school.

When a proprietor makes an application for a new residential special school, an integrated pre-registration inspection is made by both an education and a social care inspector.

## **Progress monitoring inspections**

Ofsted conducts monitoring inspections at the request of the Secretary of State to check the progress made by schools to address weaknesses identified at their last inspection.

The Secretary of State issues schools identified as having weaknesses with a notice. Schools must submit an action plan to the Secretary of State setting out the steps they will take to address their weaknesses and meet the relevant regulations or national minimum standards. Action plans must specify the timescale within which the steps will be taken.

In monitoring inspections, inspectors assess and report on the amount of progress schools have made with implementing their action plan. They will check whether the previously unmet regulations or national minimum standards are now met.

## **Regulations**

Section 157 of the Education Act 2002 specifies that regulations setting out the standards that independent schools must meet should be made on the following matters: quality of education; spiritual, moral, social and cultural development of pupils; welfare, health and safety of pupils; suitability staff and proprietors; premises of and accommodation at the school; provision of information; and manner in which complaints are to be handled. Such standards are set out in The Education (Independent School Standards) Regulations 2010, which specify the provision a school should make. Schools must meet these standards in order to register, and continue registration as independent schools.

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