

Inspection of maintained schools and academies

Consultation on the introduction of separate graded judgements on early school years and the sixth form from September 2014

Age group: 0-18

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Introduction

The four judgements that inspectors make on school inspections and that determine the overall effectiveness judgement of a school focus on the things that matter most in our schools:

- pupils' achievement
- the quality of teaching
- behaviour and safety
- leadership and management.

However, it is important to place as much emphasis during inspection on the early years and the sixth form - where there is one - as on the quality of provision for five- to 16-year-olds. Consequently, from September 2014, we are proposing to introduce separate graded judgements for the Nursery (where applicable) and Reception Years, and for the sixth form, in our inspections of maintained schools and academies.

More generally, Ofsted has begun to consider how school inspection might develop beyond the next academic year. Our evidence from the large number of inspections that we carry out each year indicates that not all schools need to be inspected in the same way. We are not yet ready to consult on any wider changes at this point, but we expect to be able to do so in due course.

In the meantime, we are keen to hear from schools and parents in particular about whether they think that the proposals set out in this consultation will provide a more rounded view of a school.

Early school years

We know that the earliest years of childhood are critical in children's personal and intellectual development and in their preparation for Key Stage 1. In an increasingly competitive world, it is imperative that we ensure that our children have the best possible start to their education.

Given the importance of Nursery and Reception classes (which together make up what is referred to as the Early Years Foundation Stage or EYFS) in a child's development, the significant resources involved, and the distinctive nature of that stage of education, we propose introducing a separate graded judgement about the overall effectiveness of Nursery and Reception classes in the inspection framework for maintained schools and academies. We would also require inspectors to write a discrete paragraph evaluating this provision. These changes would assist parents in making better-informed choices when deciding on the first steps in their children's education.

We propose developing a separate set of brief evaluation criteria, which will be published in the *School inspection handbook*, to support inspectors reaching a judgement on this stage and to help schools' self-evaluation. These criteria would encompass:

- achievement
- the quality of the teaching
- behaviour and safety
- leadership and management.

Inspectors would take account of this separate judgement when making their judgement on the overall effectiveness of the school.

The sixth form

The effectiveness of a school's sixth form is evaluated and reported on in the current school inspection framework, with lead inspectors required to state, in writing, whether a school's sixth form is outstanding, good, requires improvement or inadequate. However, there is currently no numerical grade.

In order to help parents and students make informed decisions about their choice of post-16 provision, we propose that the inspection framework for maintained schools and academies inspection framework includes a separate, numerical judgement on a school's sixth form. This would be accompanied by a discrete paragraph in the school inspection report that summarises the effectiveness of the sixth form.

We propose developing a separate set of brief evaluation criteria that will be published in the *School inspection handbook*, to support inspectors reaching a judgement on the sixth form and to help school self-evaluation. These criteria would encompass:

- achievement
- the quality of the teaching
- behaviour and safety
- leadership and management.

Inspectors would take account of the judgement on the sixth form when making their judgement on the overall effectiveness of the school.

Consultation arrangements

We welcome your responses to this consultation paper. The consultation remains open until Tuesday 13 May 2014.

Sending back your questionnaire

There are three ways to complete and submit the questionnaire and any other comments.

Online electronic questionnaire

Visit our website to complete and submit an electronic version of the questionnaire: www.surveymonkey.com/s/ofsted-judgements.

Download and email

Visit our website to download a Word version of the questionnaire that you can complete on your computer: www.ofsted.gov.uk/resources/140065. When you have completed the questionnaire, please email it to: enquiries@ofsted.gov.uk. Please put 'Consultation on the introduction of separate graded judgements on early school years and the sixth form from September 2014' in the subject line.

Print and post

This document can be printed and completed by hand. When you have completed the questionnaire, please post it to:

Consultation on the introduction of separate graded judgements on early school years and the sixth form from September 2014
Ofsted
Piccadilly Gate
Store Street
Manchester
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What happens next?

We will publish a report summarising the responses to this consultation. We will take account of the responses in our revised school inspection framework from September 2014.

Questionnaire on the introduction of separate graded judgements on the early years in school and the sixth form from September 2014 consultation

Confidentiality

The information you provide will be held by us. It will only be used for the purposes of consultation and research to help us to become more effective, shape policies and inform inspection and regulatory practice.

We will treat your identity in confidence, if you disclose it to us. However, we may publish an organisation's views.

Are you responding on behalf of an organisation?

Yes please complete Section 1

No please complete Section 2

Section 1

If you are completing the consultation on behalf of an organisation and would like us to consider publishing the views of your organisation, please indicate this below.

Organisation: _____

Section 2

Which of the below best describes you? Please tick one option.

I am:

a governor	<input type="checkbox"/>	a pupil/student (including youth panels)	<input type="checkbox"/>
a headteacher (including equivalents such as principal and acting headteacher)	<input type="checkbox"/>	a teacher	<input type="checkbox"/>
a local government representative	<input type="checkbox"/>	a member of the general public	<input type="checkbox"/>
other (please specify)	<input type="checkbox"/>	prefer not to say	<input type="checkbox"/>
other school staff	<input type="checkbox"/>		<input type="checkbox"/>
other service provider	<input type="checkbox"/>		<input type="checkbox"/>
a parent/carer	<input type="checkbox"/>		<input type="checkbox"/>

Q1. To what extent do you agree or disagree with the proposal that there should be a separate graded judgement on the overall effectiveness of the nursery and Reception stage?

Strongly agree <input type="checkbox"/>	Agree <input type="checkbox"/>	Neither agree nor disagree <input type="checkbox"/>	Disagree <input type="checkbox"/>	Strongly disagree <input type="checkbox"/>	Don't know <input type="checkbox"/>
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Comments:

Q2. To what extent do you agree or disagree with proposal that there should a separate judgement on the effectiveness of a school's sixth form?

Strongly agree <input type="checkbox"/>	Agree <input type="checkbox"/>	Neither agree nor disagree <input type="checkbox"/>	Disagree <input type="checkbox"/>	Strongly disagree <input type="checkbox"/>	Don't know <input type="checkbox"/>
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Comments:

What did you think of this consultation?

One of the commitments in our strategic plan is to monitor whether our consultations are accessible to those wishing to take part.

Please tell us what you thought of this consultation by answering the questions below.

	Agree	Neither agree or disagree	Disagree	Don't know
I found the consultation information clear and easy to understand.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
I found the consultation easy to find on the Ofsted website	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
I had enough information about the consultation topic.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
I would take part in a future Ofsted consultation.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

How did you hear about this consultation?

- Ofsted website
- Ofsted News*
- Ofsted email alerts service
- @ofstednews
- Ofsted conference
- Another organisation (please specify, if known)
- Other (please specify)

Is there anything you would like us to improve on or do differently for future consultations? If so, please tell us below.

Thank you for taking part in our consultation.

Additional questions about you

Your answers to the following questions will help us to evaluate how successfully we are communicating messages from inspection to all sections of society.

We would like to assure you that all responses are confidential and you do not have to answer every question.

Please tick the appropriate box.

1. Gender

Female <input type="checkbox"/>	Male <input type="checkbox"/>
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2. Age

Under 14 <input type="checkbox"/>	14–18 <input type="checkbox"/>	19–24 <input type="checkbox"/>	25–34 <input type="checkbox"/>	35–44 <input type="checkbox"/>	45–54 <input type="checkbox"/>	55–64 <input type="checkbox"/>	65+ <input type="checkbox"/>
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3. Ethnic origin

a) How would you describe your national group?

British or mixed British	<input type="checkbox"/>	English	<input type="checkbox"/>
Irish	<input type="checkbox"/>	Northern Irish	<input type="checkbox"/>
Scottish	<input type="checkbox"/>	Welsh	<input type="checkbox"/>
Other (specify if you wish)	<input type="checkbox"/>		

How would you describe your ethnic group?

Asian		Mixed ethnic origin	
Bangladeshi	<input type="checkbox"/>	Asian and White	<input type="checkbox"/>
Indian	<input type="checkbox"/>	Black African and White	<input type="checkbox"/>
Pakistani	<input type="checkbox"/>	Black Caribbean and White	<input type="checkbox"/>
Any other Asian background (specify if you wish)	<input type="checkbox"/>	Any other mixed ethnic background (specify if you wish)	<input type="checkbox"/>

Black		White	
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African	<input type="checkbox"/>	Any White background (specify if you wish)	<input type="checkbox"/>
Caribbean	<input type="checkbox"/>	Any other ethnic background	
Any other Black background (specify if you wish)	<input type="checkbox"/>	Any other background (specify if you wish)	<input type="checkbox"/>
Chinese			
Any Chinese background (specify if you wish)	<input type="checkbox"/>		

4. Sexual orientation

Heterosexual <input type="checkbox"/>	Lesbian <input type="checkbox"/>	Gay <input type="checkbox"/>	Bisexual <input type="checkbox"/>
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6. Religion/Belief

Buddhist	<input type="checkbox"/>	Muslim	<input type="checkbox"/>
Christian	<input type="checkbox"/>	Sikh	<input type="checkbox"/>
Hindu	<input type="checkbox"/>	None	<input type="checkbox"/>
Jewish	<input type="checkbox"/>	Any other, please state:	<input type="checkbox"/>

7. Disability

Do you consider yourself to have a disability?	Yes <input type="checkbox"/>	No <input type="checkbox"/>
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