

Official Statistics Release

Policy area:	Independent schools inspections and outcomes, including compliance with regulations
Theme:	Education, children's services and skills
Published on:	19 June 2014
Coverage:	England
Period covered:	1 September 2013 to 31 March 2014
Status:	PROVISIONAL
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Link to official statistics release web page:	www.ofsted.gov.uk/resources/official-statistics-independent-school-inspections-and-outcomes-including-regulation-compliance
Publication medium:	Ofsted website
Publication frequency:	Bi-annual

INTRODUCTION

This official statistics release reports the number of non-association independent school inspections that occurred between 1 September 2013 and 31 March 2014. 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. The current framework for inspecting non-association independent schools in England came into effect in April 2014. The current inspection framework can be found at:

www.ofsted.gov.uk/resources/framework-for-inspecting-non-association-independent-schools.

However, the inspections reported in this official statistics release were conducted under the previous framework, which was in effect from January 2013 to March 2014.

Under the January 2013 framework, a summative judgement on the overall effectiveness of a school was introduced. This took 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 January 2013 framework the overall quality of education judgement was used to represent the latest inspection outcome for independent schools.

Schools are judged outstanding, good, adequate or inadequate for each of the seven judgements under the current 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 (DfE) introduced revised independent school standards in January 2013.¹ 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, is inspected at an interval of up to six years rather than every three years. Adequate and

¹ 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 and www.legislation.gov.uk/uksi/2012/2962/contents/made.

inadequate schools continue to be inspected every three years. As a result, the schools inspected in any one year are not representative of the whole population of schools.

The official statistics figures covering inspections conducted under the new framework will be reported along with Chief Inspector's 2014 annual report later this year.

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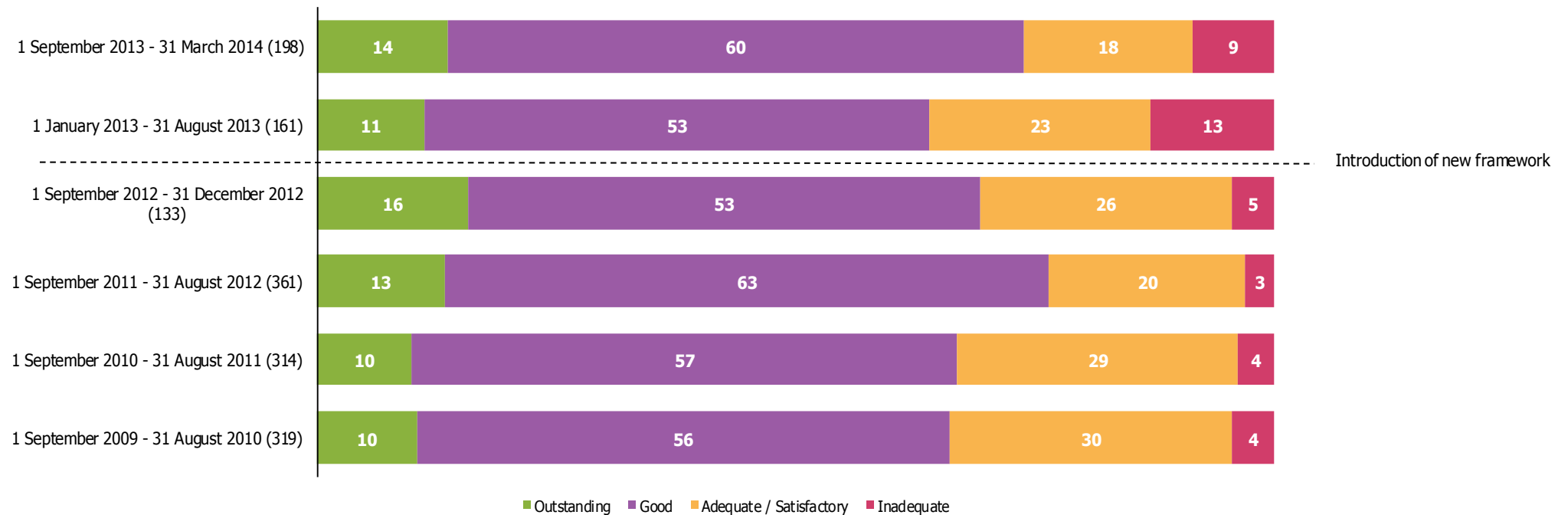
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Key Findings

- In the period between 1 September 2013 and 31 March 2014, 198 standard inspections have been carried out.
- Of the 198 standard inspections carried out under the January 2013 framework, 74% (146) of schools were judged good or better for their overall effectiveness whilst 27% (52) of schools were judged less than good, with 9% (17) being judged inadequate. The current 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 March 2014 is 10%. Under the previous framework, the proportion judged inadequate between 1 September 2012 and 31 December 2012 was 5%.
- Pupils' behaviour and personal development was judged most positively with 30% (60) of the schools being judged outstanding and 54% (106) judged as good.
- Leadership and management was judged least positively with 30% (58) being judged less than good.
- Ofsted also reports on the extent to which the school meets the independent school standards. Although all schools met at least 50% of all standards, 21% (42) of schools failed to meet all of the standards.² This continues the upward trend seen in recent years in inspections conducted under the previous framework.
- Compliance with the standards continues to be weakest in relation to the quality of teaching and assessment, since 5% (nine) of schools inspected between 1 September 2013 and 31 March 2014 failed to meet at least 50% of these standards.

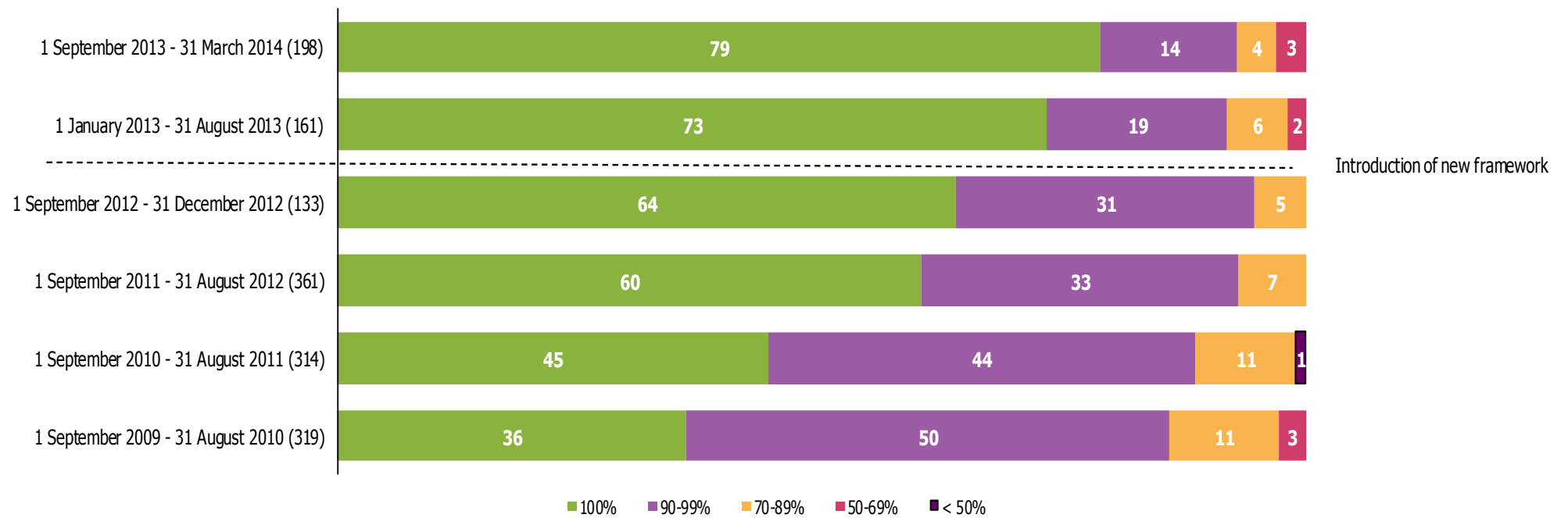
² In the published standards, each independent school standard is set out in one or more paragraphs. Not all paragraphs of the standards are applicable to all independent schools.

Chart 1: Overall effectiveness for non-association independent schools inspected between 1 September 2009 and 31 March 2014^{1 2 3 4}



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. 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 2009 and 31 March 2014^{1 2}



1. Figures represent percentages.

2. Percentages are rounded and do not always add exactly to 100.

Table 1: Number of inspections carried out in non-association independent schools between 1 September 2013 and 31 March 2014, by inspection type^{1 2}

Inspection activity	Number
Pre-registration inspection (Independent school)	49
Standard inspections	198
Progress monitoring inspection	45
Emergency inspection	54
Material change inspection	37
Total	383

Source: Ofsted inspections

1. The total number of standard inspections, progress monitoring visits and pre-registration visits includes integrated inspections.
2. Figures represent the number of independent schools.

Table 2: Inspection outcomes for non-association independent schools inspected between 1 January 2013 and 31 March 2014^{1 2 3}

	Total number inspected	Number of inspections				Percentage of inspections			
		Outstanding	Good	Adequate	Inadequate	Outstanding	Good	Adequate	Inadequate
Overall effectiveness	198	27	119	35	17	14	60	18	9
Pupils' achievement	197	29	128	30	10	15	65	15	5
Pupils' behaviour and personal development	198	60	106	22	10	30	54	11	5
Quality of teaching	197	29	127	30	11	15	64	15	6
Quality of curriculum	198	31	122	33	12	16	62	17	6
Pupils' welfare, health and safety	198	52	95	34	17	26	48	17	9
Leadership and management	198	28	112	41	17	14	57	21	9

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. The data include two inspections where there were no pupils on roll at the time of the inspection. As there were no pupils on roll at the school, the inspector was unable to check compliance with all of the paragraphs in part 1 of the independent school standards and was unable to gather sufficient evidence to make a judgement on achievement of pupils and quality of teaching.

Table 3: Overall performance on compliance with regulatory requirements for non-association independent schools inspected between 1 January 2013 and 31 March 2014^{1 2 3}

	Total number inspected	100% Number	90-99% Number	70-89% Number	50-69% Number	<50% Number
All Standards	198	156	28	8	6	0
Quality of education provided	198	186	1	1	4	6
Quality of teaching and assessment	198	187	0	1	1	9
Spiritual, moral, social and cultural education of pupils	198	188	0	3	0	7
Welfare, health and safety of pupils	198	177	2	12	2	5
Suitability of the proprietor, staff and supply staff	198	191	1	6	0	0
Premises and accommodation of schools	198	168	11	15	4	0
Provision of information for parents, carers and others	198	176	0	15	6	1
Manner in which complaints are to be handled	198	189	3	4	1	1

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 1,100 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 can 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 2010, as amended.³

3. The standard 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 has included 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
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, is

³ 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 and. www.legislation.gov.uk/uksi/2012/2962/contents/made.

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, unless an issue arises and the Secretary of State asks Ofsted to inspect sooner. Adequate and inadequate schools continue to be inspected every 3 years. Independent special schools also continue to be inspected every three years in recognition of the vulnerability of their pupils.⁴

⁴ 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. These inspections will only report on 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.⁵

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.

⁵ 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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