

Inspections of maintained schools and academies

A leaflet for maintained schools and academies

Introduction

Ofsted's new [Common inspection framework](#) came into effect in September 2015.

Under the framework, for section 5 inspections, inspectors will make the following judgements about schools:

- overall effectiveness
- effectiveness of leadership and management
- quality of teaching, learning and assessment
- personal development, behaviour and welfare
- outcomes for children and learners.

Where the school offers early years provision and sixth form provision, judgements will also be made on these areas.

In short inspections, inspectors will determine whether the school continues to provide a good standard of education and whether safeguarding is effective.

Which school documents will the inspectors wish to see?

Schools are not expected to prepare anything extra for inspectors, but should make the following documents available at the start of the inspection:

- a summary of any school self-evaluation or equivalent
- the current school improvement plan or equivalent, including any strategic

planning that sets out the longer term vision for the school

- school timetable, current staff list and times for the school day
- any information about pre-planned interruptions to normal school routines during the inspection
- the single central record of the checks and vetting of all staff working with pupils
- records and analysis of exclusions, pupils taken off roll, incidents of poor behaviour, any use of internal isolation
- records and analysis of bullying, discriminatory and prejudicial behaviour, either directly or indirectly, including racist, disability and homophobic bullying and use of derogatory language and racist incidents
- a list of referrals made to the designated person for safeguarding in the school and those that were subsequently referred to the local authority, along with brief details of the resolution
- a list of all pupils who are open cases with children's services/social care and for whom there is a multi-agency plan
- up-to-date attendance analysis for all groups of pupils
- records of the evaluation of the quality of teaching, learning and assessment
- information about the school's performance management arrangements, including the most

- recent performance management outcomes and their relationship to salary progression, in an anonymised format
- documented evidence of the work of governors and their priorities, including any written scheme of delegation for an academy in a multi-academy trust
- any reports of external evaluation of the school, including any review of governance or use of the pupil premium funding.

If any of this information is available before the inspection begins, you can upload it onto the inspection portal. Instructions for using the portal are provided in the notification of inspection letter.

Seeking the views of parents, carers and staff

- Parents and carers will give their views about their child's school on [Parent View](#), which they can access at any time, including at the point of inspection, where they will be provided with a link.
- Staff working in the school will be asked to complete a voluntary questionnaire, provided at the point of inspection.

Where can further details be found about school inspections?

We have published the '[School inspection handbook](#)', which explains how inspections are conducted and the judgements that are made by inspectors under section 5 inspections. It contains the grade descriptors used by inspectors when making their judgements. We have published the '[School inspection handbook – section 8](#)', which explains how short inspections are conducted.

We have also published the '[Common inspection framework](#)', which sets out the statutory basis for schools inspected under section 5 of the Education Act 2005 (as amended).

Online inspection survey

Following your inspection we will invite you to complete an online inspection survey. The survey asks for your views on the inspection process, including the impact that the inspection is likely to have in bringing about improvement.

Ofsted values all survey responses: we use the outcomes to help keep us informed about the quality and impact of inspections, and help guide us in reviewing and improving the inspection process.

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