

EXPECTATIONS OF THE BRIDGE SCHOOLS' INSPECTORATE IN RESPECT OF ITS FUNCTIONS AS AN APPROVED BODY UNDER SECTION 162A OF THE EDUCATION ACT 2002, AND THE ADDITIONAL RESPONSIBILITY UNDER SECTIONS 28D AND 28E OF THE DISABILITY ACT 1995

1. The Secretary of State recognises the Bridge Schools' Inspectorate as an approved body for the purposes of inspecting registered independent schools under *section 162A(1) of the Education Act 2002*.
2. The Bridge Schools' Inspectorate will ensure that it maintains its independence from colleagues in member organisations in accordance with the terms set out in the inspectorate framework.
3. The Bridge Schools' Inspectorate will inspect schools in England currently affiliated to the Christian Schools' Trust or the Association of Muslim Schools UK where this is agreed by the Department for Education. At least one term in advance The Bridge Schools' Inspectorate will provide the Department for Education (DfE) and Ofsted with a schedule of inspections under the agreement. Inspections will be undertaken at the time set out in the Schedule of Inspections as agreed with the DfE each term. Any alteration to the Schedule or requests to defer an inspection must be agreed in consultation with DfE. DfE may request an inspection to be deferred or brought forward from this Schedule where circumstances require this.
4. Inspections will be carried out in accordance with the Bridge Schools' Inspectorate framework which includes effective reporting on the registration standards as set out in the Education (Independent School Standards) (England) Regulations 2003 and the Early Years Foundation Stage in relation to provision for pupils aged 3 to 5. Any subsequent changes to the Inspection framework must continue to enable the Bridge Schools' Inspectorate to report effectively on all the registration standards and must be agreed with DfE. The Bridge Schools' Inspectorate will make any alterations to the framework and guidance needed to maintain alignment with any new regulations.
5. At the time of a school's Section 162A inspection, the Bridge Schools' Inspectorate will also report on the extent to which it complies with Sections 28D and 28E of the Disability Discrimination Act 1995, as inserted by the Special Educational Needs and Disability Act 2001.
6. Six weeks after an inspection, the Bridge Schools' Inspectorate will issue its inspection report to the school to distribute to parents and will also provide DfE and Ofsted with a copy. The report will be published on the Inspectorate website and will incorporate prominently at, or near, the start of the inspection report the following wording "Ofsted monitors the work of independent inspectorates, including a sample of inspections, and you can find the latest evaluation of the work of The Bridge School Inspectorate on the Ofsted website". Initially the statement will be

required to read “Ofsted monitors the work of independent inspectorates, including a sample of inspections” as no report will be available until the end of the first year of operation. Bridge Schools Inspectorate will make changes to the wording if asked to do so by DfE. Complaints made about the Inspectorate inspections and reports will not normally delay publication but will be properly considered under the Inspectorates complaints procedures and if necessary by an independent adjudicator.

7. On request, the Bridge Schools’ Inspectorate will provide advice to DfE about Action plans provided by schools to address any failure to meet the registration standards. DfE will, in consultation with the Inspectorate determine the timescale for response in each case depending on the seriousness of the weaknesses.
8. Where DfE determines that there are serious shortcomings in meeting the registration standards DfE may ask the Bridge Schools’ Inspectorate to carry out a follow-up inspection and provide a report on the extent to which the school has addressed the findings of the previous inspection and whether it now meets the registration standards. DfE will determine the timescale of the follow-up inspection and the standard(s) to be inspected subject to consultation with the Inspectorate.
9. The Bridge Schools’ Inspectorate will consider whether follow-up reports should be published, and, if so, it will agree with DfE the parameters for this.
10. Where a material change in registration status is proposed, as defined in Section 162 of the Education Act 2002, which DfE considers to be substantial, the Bridge Schools’ Inspectorate will advise DfE about whether the registration standards will continue to be met taking into account the change. The Inspectorate will inspect in any circumstances DfE consider necessary. DfE will, in each case, set out the timescale by which advice must be provided, in consultation with the Inspectorate and, where necessary, the standard(s) to be inspected and the date by which the inspection should be carried out, taking into account the date on which the change is to take place.
11. DfE may ask the Bridge Schools’ Inspectorate to undertake inspections at short notice if complaints about school are received. Any complaint will be forwarded to the Chief Inspector. DfE retains the right, in exceptional circumstances, to ask Ofsted to undertake an inspection of an Inspectorate school.
12. The Bridge Schools’ Inspectorate will keep the quality and reliability of its inspections and reports rigorously under review, in accordance with the procedures set out in the framework, and take all necessary actions to improve quality and remedy deficiency.
13. The Bridge Schools’ Inspectorate will agree to Ofsted monitoring of samples of Inspectorate inspections and reports and to Ofsted reporting to DfE on a regular basis on the quality of the Inspectorate’s inspections

and reports, in relation to the expectations set out herein and the Inspectorate's framework as agreed with DfE. DfE will require Ofsted to monitor and report on:

- Whether inspections, reports and inspection team building comply with the Inspectorate quality requirements , as agreed with DfE and set out in the Framework ;
 - Whether inspectors have received appropriate training. In relation to the Early Years Foundation Stage this should be to the standards agreed for other approved inspectorates.
 - Whether inspections establish and reports state if the Inspectorate schools meet the standards for registration;
 - Any action the Inspectorate needs to take to address concerns about inspections and reports.
14. The Bridge Schools' Inspectorate will make any improvements recommended in the Ofsted report, subject to an appeals procedure, the basis of which is agreed between the Inspectorate and Ofsted/DfE and which will include a formal process of appeal in relation to findings from monitoring reports and its regular report on the Inspectorate inspections
 15. The Chief Inspector will attend liaison meetings with DfE at intervals to be agreed.
 16. The Bridge Schools' Inspectorate will attend conferences/meetings to discuss schools causing serious concern and will provide statements for tribunals and attend tribunals if required.
 17. Any questions arising on a day to day basis about the operation of this agreement will be taken forward between the Chief Inspector of the Bridge Schools' Inspectorate and the Team Leader for the Independent Schools Registration Team.
 18. The Bridge Schools' Inspectorate will be responsible for any costs incurred in meeting the expectations set out herein. Any future changes in the requirements for inspection will be subject to full consultation between the Inspectorate and DfE. The Inspectorate will seek the Secretary of State's approval before appointing any new Chief Inspector or Lead Inspectors, or making any change in the composition of the pool from which inspection teams are drawn.
 19. The Bridge Schools' Inspectorate will publish on its website the names of Board members and a register recording their interests in schools the Bridge Schools' Inspectorate inspects (employment, governor positions etc).