

Policy paper

# Reducing teachers' workload

Published 2 October 2015

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We are working to help teachers reduce the time they spend on tasks which can cause unnecessary workload, so they can concentrate on teaching.

## Teacher workload review groups

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Teachers say 3 of the biggest areas that can lead to unnecessary workload

are:

- marking
- planning
- data management

We have set up review groups to make recommendations about reducing workload in these 3 areas:

- [Marking Policy Review Group](#) - to look at marking practices in schools that are raising standards successfully while reducing marking workload
- [Planning and Resources Review Group](#) - to consider the effect of lesson planning and use of resources in schools
- [Data Management Review Group](#) - to develop principles for good data management in schools, including how to monitor pupil progress

These groups will make recommendations in late spring 2016.

## Background to workload challenge

In October 2014, we launched the workload challenge. This was a month-long survey where we asked the teaching profession for their views on how to reduce unnecessary workload.

The survey asked about:

- unnecessary or unproductive tasks
- strategies that work in schools to manage workload
- what government and schools can do to minimise workload

More than 44,000 people responded to the workload challenge.

On 6 February 2015, we published:

- an [analysis of the responses](#) we received from teachers
- our [response to the workload challenge](#)

In response to the comments we received, we've committed to:

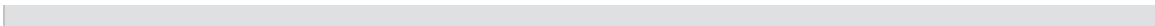
- giving schools more time to prepare for any changes we make to accountability, the curriculum or qualifications - read our [protocol for changes to accountability, curriculum or qualifications](#) for more information
- sharing examples of successful practices schools have used to deal with teaching tasks that can cause unnecessary workload
- tracking teacher workload by running a large-scale survey every 2 years starting in early spring 2016

As a result of the workload challenge, Ofsted committed to clarifying the guidance that explains what inspectors do and do not expect to see when they inspect a school. These updates should help teachers and school leaders avoid some unnecessary tasks.

Ofsted's latest '[School inspection handbook](#)' includes these updates.

## Contact us

Email us if you would like to get in touch about workload or if you want to share examples of effective practices that reduce workload in schools.



## Teacher workload team

Email

[workload.solutions@education.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:workload.solutions@education.gsi.gov.uk)

[v.uk](http://www.gsi.gov.uk)

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