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Official Statistics

State-funded schools inspections and outcomes as at 31 August 2020

This is the latest inspection data for schools in England from inspections up to 31 August 2020. Please, the following are also available:

- underlying data
- methodology
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Summary

This release includes:

- schools' most recent inspections and outcomes as at 31 August 2020 - this includes inspections completed between 1 September 2019 and 31 March 2020
- data for inspections completed between 1 September 2019 and 31 August 2020 and published by 31 August 2020

Impact of coronavirus (COVID-19) on this release

All routine inspections and the publication of most inspection reports were suspended in March 2020 due to the coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic. Inspection reports again from May and all those published by 31 August 2020 are included in this release.

This year, 70% of schools inspected improved from requires improvement to good or outstanding, compared with 69% last year.

Introduction

Eighty-eight per cent of all primary schools are good or outstanding, compared with 76% of secondary schools.

This year, 70% of schools have been judged good or outstanding for overall effectiveness, a small decrease from last year (71%).

Schools at their most recent inspection

Eighty-eight per cent of all primary schools are good or outstanding, compared with 76% of secondary schools.

Eighty-six per cent of all schools are good or outstanding. The percentage of primary schools that are good or outstanding has increased by 1 percentage point but is a substantial increase from 80% in 2019. Since August 2018, the percentage of schools judged outstanding has declined from 21% to 14%, while the percentage judged requires improvement has increased from 3% to 5%. The proportion judged inadequate has remained stable at 1%. The percentage of secondary schools judged to be good or outstanding increases by remaining outstanding at their inspections this year than in previous years.

Figure 1: Overall effectiveness of state-funded schools at their most recent inspection, by phase

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Many primary schools are good or outstanding than secondary schools. 85% compared with 76%. This is an increase of 1 percentage point for primary schools compared with last year, while the figure for secondary schools remained the same. Special schools have the lowest proportion of good or outstanding, at 74%. Of special schools, 4 percent were judged with 92% last year and 65% of pupil referral units (compared with 63% last year) are good or outstanding.

Inspections between 1 September 2019 and 31 August 2020

In this academic year, we have carried out:

- 1,281 section 5 inspections. This includes section 8 inspections of good and outstanding schools and monitoring inspections for inspections completed between 1 September 2019 and 31 March 2020
- 1,244 section 8 inspections of good and non-exempt outstanding schools between 1 September 2019 and 31 March 2020
- 302 section 8 monitoring inspections, no formal designation inspections and exempt school inspections

Figure 2: Overall effectiveness of state-funded schools in 2019/20 and 2018/19, by phase

This includes section 5 inspections and section 8 inspections of good and non-exempt outstanding schools.

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In September 2019, we began inspections under the education inspection framework (EIF). Between 1 September and 31 March 2020, we carried out 1,241 inspections. This included 1,087 section 5 inspections and section 8 inspections of good and non-exempt outstanding schools. Of these, 154 inspections that were carried out, for instance, just prior to the pandemic, 1,087 inspections. This decrease is because schools closed in March 2020 due to the impact of COVID-19 on education and childcare.

This year, 77% of schools have been judged good or outstanding for overall effectiveness, compared with 79% last year. This includes 1,244 section 8 inspections of good and non-exempt outstanding schools and 154 section 5 inspections, which were carried out prior to the pandemic. Of these inspections, 79% were judged good or outstanding for overall effectiveness. Of the 1,087 section 5 inspections, 76% were good or outstanding for that provision. However, as the early years judgement is not included in the EIF, 77% of schools were good or outstanding for leadership. This figure was not affected by quality of the schools we visited this year.

Figure 3: Inspections judgements for state-funded schools inspected this academic year

This includes section 5 inspections and section 8 inspections.

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This year we have inspected 1,135 section 5 primary schools. Of these, 37% were judged good or outstanding for overall effectiveness. This proportion was the same as last year. Secondary schools have been inspected 154 times and 58% were judged good or outstanding. Special schools were often critically taken for the other judgements than for overall effectiveness.

Overall, 76% of schools have been judged to be good or outstanding for under-and, of these, 8,163 were 2 and 3 year-olds. Our early years judgement covers childcare on non-domestic premises. This year, 80% of childcare on non-domestic premises that had a full inspection this year were good or outstanding for that provision. However, as the early years judgement is not included in the overall effectiveness judgement, this figure has not affected the quality of the schools we visited this year.

Inspections of schools previously judged to be outstanding

The percentage of non-exempt outstanding schools that have remained outstanding this year has decreased to 84%, compared with 93% last year.

This year we have inspected 293 previously outstanding primary and secondary schools that are exempt from routine inspection and 1,244 non-exempt schools that were inspected last year. The percentage of these schools that remained outstanding was 84%. Of the 293 exempt schools, 90% remained with 10% last year. Many schools are part of the exempt cohort because they are in decline, a larger proportion than last year only declined to good 60% compared with 70% last year. Of the non-exempt schools, 1% declined to inadequate, compared with 0% last year. Of the 1% of schools that declined to inadequate, 1 school was a primary school and 1 was a secondary school. The other judgements than for overall effectiveness.

Figure 4: Overall effectiveness of previously-exempt state-funded schools, by academic year

1. The dashed lines indicate that these exam changes to the Inspection Framework in September 2015 and September 2019.
2. This includes section 5 inspections and section 8 inspections of good and non-exempt outstanding schools.

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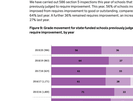
Since 2012, outstanding primary and secondary schools have been exempt from routine inspection. As a result, we have to inspect more than 1,000 exempt schools for a decade or longer. On 1 September 2019, the government introduced a new inspection framework, the Education Inspection Framework. Following a public consultation, the Department for Education, Parliament approved the changes. We began to start the routine inspection of these schools from January 2020.

This year we have inspected 90 previously outstanding non-exempt secondary schools. Of these, 84% remained outstanding, 6% declined to good and 1% declined last year. The percentage of these schools that have remained outstanding the year has decreased to 84%, compared with 93% last year.

Figure 5: Overall effectiveness of previously non-exempt state-funded schools, by academic year



1. The dashed lines indicate that these exam changes to the Inspection Framework in September 2015 and September 2019.
2. This includes section 5 inspections and section 8 inspections of good and non-exempt outstanding schools.

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Inspections of schools previously judged to be good

Eighty-three per cent of the previously good schools inspected this year remained good and 2% became outstanding.

We have carried out 1,844 section 5 and section 8 inspections of previously good schools this year. Of these, 83% remained good, 2% became outstanding, 14% declined to requires improvement and 1% declined to inadequate.

Between 2019/20 and 2018/19, the proportion of previously good schools remaining good or improving is substantially increased each year. This year, 85% of primary schools and 71% of secondary schools from 67% last year to 69%.

Figure 6: Grade movement for state-funded schools previously judged to be good, by phase

1. The dashed lines indicate that these changes to the Inspection Framework in September 2015 and September 2019.
2. This includes section 5 inspections and section 8 inspections of good and non-exempt outstanding schools.

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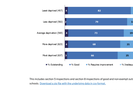
Secondary schools have the highest proportion of schools that declined to requires improvement or inadequate, 15%.

Figure 7: Grade movement in 2019/20 for state-funded schools previously judged to be good, by phase



This includes section 5 inspections and section 8 inspections of good and non-exempt outstanding schools.

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Inspections of schools previously judged to be requires improvement

This year, 50% of schools inspected improved from requires improvement to good or outstanding, compared with 60% last year.

We have carried out 588 section 5 inspections this year of schools that were previously judged to requires improvement. This year, 50% of schools inspected improved from requires improvement to good or outstanding, compared with 60% last year. Further, 20% remained requires improvement, an increase from 17% last year.

Figure 8: Grade movement for state-funded schools previously judged to require improvement, by year

1. The dashed lines indicate that these changes to the Inspection Framework in September 2015 and September 2019.
2. This includes section 5 inspections.

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Primary schools have the highest proportion of improvement are more likely to improve to outstanding than requires improvement. Secondary schools, 20% of their grade this year compared with 42% of secondary schools. This pattern is true across each of the last three years.

Figure 9: Grade movement for primary schools previously judged to require improvement, by year

1. The dashed lines indicate that these changes to the Inspection Framework in September 2015 and September 2019.
2. This includes section 5 inspections.

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Figure 10: Grade movement for secondary schools previously judged to require improvement, by year

1. The dashed lines indicate that these changes to the Inspection Framework in September 2015 and September 2019.
2. This includes section 5 inspections.

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The outcomes of inspections by level of deprivation

Eighty-six per cent of schools with the least deprived pupils were judged good or outstanding this year, compared with 69% of schools with the most deprived pupils.

Figure 11: Overall effectiveness judgements by level of deprivation, 2019/20

This includes section 5 inspections and section 8 inspections of good and non-exempt outstanding schools.

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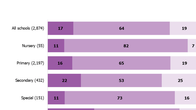
A higher proportion of schools with the least deprived pupils were judged good or outstanding than those with the most deprived pupils. This pattern was also

Under the common inspection framework between 2013 and 2019 and is the case under the EIF this year. Last year, 88% of schools with the least deprived pupils were judged good or outstanding compared with 72% of schools with the most deprived pupils. Nevertheless, 69% of the schools we visited this year in the most deprived quintile were judged good or outstanding, so a positive inspection outcome is far from unusual for these schools.

Changes in overall effectiveness grades

Overall, 81% of schools inspected this year have either retained or improved on their previous overall effectiveness grade (this includes schools that had a section 8 inspection that did not convert to a section 5 inspection). This ranges from 93% of nurseries to 75% of secondary schools. Within this, 64% of schools kept the same grade as at their previous inspection compared with 65% last year.

Figure 13: Change in overall effectiveness of state-funded schools inspected in 2019/20, by phase



This includes section 5 inspections and section 8 inspections of good and non-exempt outstanding schools.

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Overall, this is a fairly stable picture, with nearly two thirds of schools keeping the same grade under the EIF, and almost as many schools improving as declining. Underneath this high-level picture of minimal change, we have seen small changes for different groups of schools, such as fewer outstanding schools keeping the top grade, slightly fewer good schools improving and fewer requires improvement schools improving. After 7 months of inspections, the overall proportion of all schools graded good or outstanding with their most recent inspection is unchanged and remains at 86%, the same proportion as in August 2019. This year, 13% of all state-funded schools had either a section 5 inspection or a section 8 inspection of a good and non-exempt outstanding school.

Revisions to previous release

The provisional data in the previous release relates to inspections that took place between 1 September 2019 and 31 March 2020, with the reports published by 30 April 2020.

All routine inspections and the publication of most inspection reports were suspended in March 2020 due to COVID-19. As we only started to publish inspections reports again from May, this has led to a larger number of changes between the provisional and revised data than usual.

We provide revised data for inspections in this period in tables 1R and 2R of the Excel file accompanying this release: State-funded schools inspections and outcomes as at 31 August 2020: charts and tables.

This revised data includes an additional 235 section 5 inspections that had not been published by 30 April 2020 but were published by 31 August 2020. These inspections resulted in the following number of additional judgements at each overall effectiveness grade:

- 6 outstanding
- 113 good
- 75 requires improvement
- 41 inadequate

Table 1: Changes in overall effectiveness proportions for schools inspected between 1 September 2019 and 31 March 2020

Ofsted phase	Provisional % outstanding	Revised % outstanding	Percentage point change in % outstanding	Provisional % good	Revised % good	Percentage point change in % good	Provisional % requires improvement
All schools	4	4	0	54	53	-1	35
Nursery	24	20	-4	59	60	1	12
Primary	3	3	0	57	56	-1	35
Secondary	3	3	0	45	43	-2	40
Special	15	15	0	34	31	-3	30
Pupil referral unit	7	6	-1	61	59	-2	25

Provisional includes inspections published up to 30 April 2020 and revised includes inspections published up to 31 August 2020.

We publish revisions to data in this publication in line with our revisions policy for official statistics.

Notes

The purpose of these official statistics is to disseminate the data on school standards collected through Ofsted's role as an inspectorate. They provide information about how the judgements of schools have changed over time. They vary across different phases of education and different parts of the country.

This official statistics release reports on the outcomes of state-funded school inspections carried out under sections 5 or 8 of the Education Act 2005. We carried out these inspections between 1 September 2019 and 31 March 2020. This release includes all inspections published by 31 August 2020. This release also includes the most recent inspections and outcomes for all schools that we have inspected, as at 31 August 2020.

Throughout this release, we use the term 'schools' to cover all local authority maintained schools, state-funded academies and non-maintained special schools in England that section 5 of the Education Act 2005 requires us to inspect.

We carried out inspections between September 2015 and August 2019 under the common inspection framework.

From September 2019, we carry out inspections under the EIF.

You can find an explanation of the main uses of this data, further contextual information and the arrangements for quality assurance in the methodology report. This report provides information about strengths and limitations of the statistics.

Where we have quoted percentages in this report, figures have been rounded and may not add to 100.

Section 5 and section 8

Ofsted carries out inspections under sections 5 and 8 of the Education Act 2005.

We are required to inspect at prescribed intervals all schools to which section 8 applies. The regulations set the interval for section 5 inspections 'within 5 school years from the end of the school year in which the last inspection took place'. The exceptions to this requirement are schools that are exempt from section 5 inspection (known as 'exempt schools').

Section 8 enables Her Majesty's Chief Inspector (HMCI) to carry out inspections for a range of purposes. This includes monitoring visits by Her Majesty's Inspectors (HMI) to schools that are in a category of concern following a section 5 inspection. HMI may also visit schools to aid HMCI in keeping the Secretary of State informed or to contribute to reports on, for example, the teaching in a curriculum subject or a particular aspect of the work of schools. Section 8 is also used to enable HMCI, if they have concerns, to carry out an inspection of those outstanding schools that are exempt from routine inspection under section 5.

Inspections carried out under section 8 include:

- section 8 inspections of schools judged to be good at their most recent section 5 inspection and those outstanding schools that are not exempt from section 5
- monitoring inspections of schools judged as requires improvement, having serious weaknesses or requiring special measures
- any inspection carried out in other circumstances if the inspection has no specific designation
- unannounced behaviour inspections

Section 8 inspections of schools judged to be good at their most recent section 5 inspection and those outstanding schools that are not exempt from section 5

These section 8 inspections are usually either a 1- or 2-day inspection and take place approximately every 4 years. The section 8 inspection determines whether the school continues to provide the same good or outstanding standard of education for pupils. The inspection does not result in individual graded judgements nor does it change the overall effectiveness grade of the school. If there are serious concerns, we convert the section 8 inspection to a section 5 inspection, when inspectors will make the full set of graded judgements.

From November 2017, some previously good schools are subject to a section 5 inspection instead of a section 8 inspection if our risk assessment tells us that a section 8 inspection would be highly likely to convert. For example, this applies if a school underwent significant change, such as changing its age range, or if the quality of provision may have deteriorated significantly.

From January 2018, section 8 inspections are only converted to a section 5 inspection if there are serious concerns. If a section 8 inspection does not convert, there are additional outcomes if the school remains either good or outstanding, but the next inspection will be a section 5 inspection.

Glossary

Definitions of terms are within the statistical glossary.

Further information

Contacts

If you are a member of the public and have any comments or feedback on this publication, contact Louise Butler on 03000 131 457 or the schools data and analysis team on inspectionsinsight@ofsted.gov.uk.

Press enquiries should be sent to our press team on pressenquiries@ofsted.gov.uk.

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1. Based on the indices of multiple deprivation (IDACI) 2019. Each school is assigned a score based on the home postcodes of the pupils who attended the school at the time of the January 2020 school census. The schools are then placed into one of 5 deprivation bands. ↩

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