



Guidance

Summary of changes

Updated 28 June 2021

Contents

[June 2021 \(for September 2021 version\)](#)

[April 2021](#)

[Print this page](#)

June 2021 (for September 2021 version)

This section outlines changes to inspection practice. This does not include corrections or changes made to improve clarity in how the framework is written.

Paragraphs 10 to 31: updated the 'Inspection and the COVID-19 (coronavirus) pandemic' section to reflect that this now covers the transitional period, and made other minor changes for clarity.

Paragraphs 32 to 38: changes to reflect the current situation on EYFS requirements.

Paragraph 44: added to explain the impact of the pandemic on the inspection cycle.

Paragraphs 61 and 62: updated to clarify that inspection fees will be charged unless a deferral is granted in line with our deferral policy prior to the start of on-site inspection activity, or – in the case of pre-registration inspections – unless the school withdraws their application prior to being notified that an inspection will take place.

Paragraph 207: clarified that inspectors will take transitional provision into account.

Paragraph 220: clarified that nationally published data does not include teacher or centre assessed grades.

Quality of education – implementation 'Good' grade descriptor: clarification that leaders provide effective support including for those teaching outside their expertise. Clarification on those at the early stage of reading.

Paragraphs 305 to 309: added new section codifying Ofsted's position on harmful sexual behaviour.

Leadership and management – 'Good' grade descriptor: clarification that vision and proactive management of staff needs to be maintained beyond recovery from the pandemic.

Paragraphs 359 to 362: clarified how settings with an EYFS exemption are inspected in teaching early reading.

April 2021

Changes and additions have been made throughout the handbook in response to the coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic. A new section on 'Inspection during the COVID-19 pandemic' has been included, covering how we will reflect the COVID-19 context and the disruption it has caused to all education providers when making judgements.

Another new section covers 'Disapplication and modifications of the early years foundation stage' to support early years providers and schools during the pandemic.

A new section sets out scenarios in which the DfE may decide to bring forward a school's next standard inspection, following an additional inspection, to update the school's graded judgements.

Arrangements and timescales for publishing reports and handling concerns and complaints have been updated.

Sections on 'Relationships and sex education' and 'Inspecting teaching of the protected characteristics' have been updated to reflect revised expectations in light of disruption caused by the coronavirus pandemic.

The 'Safeguarding' section has been updated to clarify the impact on judgements if inspectors are prevented from talking to pupils on inspection. It also now clarifies that if the safeguarding requirements of the independent school standards are judged to be not met, safeguarding will be judged ineffective.

We have removed the criterion relating to compliance with the independent school standards (ISS) from the overall effectiveness grade descriptors. Compliance with the ISS impacts the leadership and management judgement, because it is the proprietor's responsibility to comply with the standards. There is no change to the leadership and management judgement criteria.

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