



Guidance

Summary of changes

Updated 28 June 2021

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This sets out changes we have made to the handbook to reflect our inspection practice. It does not include corrections or changes made to improve clarity.

June 2021

- Paragraph 7 to 28: changes to reflect the COVID-19 'transitional period'.
- Paragraph 15: added a new paragraph on how Ofsted will evaluate the use of tutors.
- Paragraph 21 and 218: updates to reflect that teacher assessed grades from 2020 and 2021 will not be used to assess curriculum impact.
- Paragraph 29 to 36: updated to reflect that EYFS disapplications end on 31 August 2021.
- Paragraph 38: clarified that alternative provision academies are also subject to inspection.
- Paragraphs 41, 55, 65, 147, 149, 164, 165 and 166: updated to reflect inspection intervals following the pandemic.
- Paragraph 47 to 48: clarified the risk assessment process for previously exempt schools.
- Paragraphs 78, 84 and 115: changed to reflect the new early career framework for teachers and the replacement of the term NQT with ECT.
- Paragraph 205: clarified that Ofsted will take into account any transitional provisions when looking at a school's curriculum.
- Quality of education 'Good' Implementation grade descriptor: clarified that leaders should provide effective support for those teaching outside their expertise.
- Paragraph 256 to 259: inserted a new section codifying Ofsted's position on careers information, education, advice and guidance (CLEAG).
- Paragraph 306 to 310: inserted a new section about Ofsted's position on harmful sexual behaviour.
- Leadership and management 'Good' grade descriptor: clarified that vision needs to be maintained beyond recovery.
- Early years education in schools 'Implementation' grade descriptor: updated text on staff teaching the language of feelings.
- Sixth form provision 'Good' grade descriptor: Updated text on RSE, bullying and harassment

April 2021

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 7 to 37: a new section on 'Inspection during the COVID-19 pandemic' has been included. This covers:

- preparation and planning
 - curriculum
 - remote education
 - external data
 - leadership
 - safeguarding and attendance
 - personal development
 - remote elements of the inspection
 - disapplication and modifications of the early years foundation stage (EYFS)
- Paragraphs 47 to 56: changes to reflect the removal of the outstanding exemption.
- Paragraph 70: clarified that meetings will be as COVID-19 restrictions allow, using video where necessary.
- Paragraph 72: clarified that we do not expect schools to provide records of live lessons, unless usually stored.
- Paragraphs 80 and 84: changes to the preparatory call due to COVID-19.
- Paragraph 116: added a reference to early career teachers.
- Paragraph 132 (footnote): inspectors will respect any COVID-19 safety messages when talking to students.
- Paragraph 133: Paragraph inserted on inspectors talking to pupils outside lessons.
- Paragraph 145: clarified that the clerk to the governors may be present at the final feedback meeting to the school.
- Paragraphs 171 to 182: updated to reflect new arrangements for publishing reports and handling concerns and complaints.
- Paragraph 187: clarified that COVID-19 cannot be the sole factor driving an inadequate judgement.
- Paragraphs 198, 205 to 206, 209 and 215: updates regarding curriculum and remote education during COVID-19.
- Paragraphs 212 and 214: COVID-19 update about assessment.
- Paragraphs 220 and 223: COVID-19 update clarifying our position on performance data.
- In the 'Grade descriptors for quality of education' section:
- added a note about how we review the handbook as we emerge from the COVID-19 pandemic
 - in the 'Good' grade descriptors sub-section, added a COVID-19 update on curriculums, remote education, assessment and teacher assessed grades
- In the 'Good' grade descriptors section under 'Grade descriptors for behaviour and attitudes', clarified what 'high attendance' means in the context of the COVID-19 pandemic.
- Paragraph 243: personal development opportunities during the COVID-19 pandemic.
- Paragraphs 250 to 255: Updated to reflect changes to relationships and sex education.
- Paragraph 274: update about catch-up funding.
- Paragraph 277: clarified that speaking to pupils who attend off-site provision may be through video calls.
- Paragraph 279 and 283: clarified that visits to alternative provision may be completed remotely due to COVID-19 and safety arrangements in alternative provision.
- Paragraph 286: COVID-19 update on the prioritisation of vulnerable pupils and returning pupils to school.
- Paragraph 292: update on protecting pupils while receiving remote education or self isolating due to COVID-19.
- Paragraph 302: added a new paragraph on corroboration of evidence on safeguarding.
- Paragraph 307 to 311: added section on inspecting the teaching of the protected characteristics.
- 'Good' grade descriptors section under 'Grade descriptors for leadership and management': COVID-19 updates on maintaining visions through the pandemic, inclusion of remote education and managing staff workloads.
- Paragraph 316: addition to refer users back to COVID-19 section on early years.
- Paragraph 332: added reference to T level technical education programmes.
- In the 'Good' grade descriptors section under 'Grade descriptors', added COVID-19 update about remote education and starting points.
- Paragraph 334 and 337: remote teaching of reading and maths during COVID-19.
- Paragraph 353, 355, 357 and 358: COVID-19 update regarding SEND, remote education of pupils with SEND, safeguarding arrangements for pupils with SEND, remote education and safeguarding.
- Paragraph 363: update on transitions for pupils to and from alternative provision during the pandemic.

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