

Wednesday 4 December 2024

OFSTED Updates – a guide for Governors

OFSTED updates – a guide for Governors

What governors should expect, under the latest inspection procedures, when your school gets the call

Polite Request

Please do not record the session. We want governors to be able to speak freely about their schools

The slides and accompanying documents will be made available on LEAP

Introductions:

- **Jason Hughes - Primary School Advisor (presenting)**
- **Richard Woodfinn - Primary School Advisor (supporting)**
- **Nicki O'Flanagan - Education Improvement Coordinator (supporting)**

Introductions:

Jason Hughes - Primary School Advisor

- **Former Lead OFSTED inspector**
- **Former Chair of Governors (primary)**
- **Current Safeguarding Governor (secondary)**

Suggestions

- **Please use the 'chat' option to ask questions, all questions will be answered, some by a follow up email**

Further Training

Further training includes:

- a session on **Achievement for all** which will be delivered on Tuesday 21 January 2025

Agenda

- 1. Reminders on types of Inspection**
- 2. Key changes**
- 3. Feedback from recent inspections**
- 4. Challenge and support**
- 5. DATA**
- 6. OFSTED and the deep dive methodology**

**What is the most important area that OFSTED
inspect?**

SAFEGUARDING

Agenda

- 1. Reminders on types of Inspection**
- 2. Key changes**
- 3. Feedback from recent inspections**
- 4. Challenge and support**
- 5. DATA**
- 6. OFSTED and the deep dive methodology**

Reminders on types of Inspection

Suggest leaders, including governors, are familiar with this document:

Guidance

School inspection handbook

Updated 16 September 2024

Applies to England

Contents

[Introduction](#)

[Clarification for schools](#)

[Part 1. How schools will be inspected](#)



This guidance came into force on 16 September 2024.

Reminders on types of Inspection

- **Inspections are usually for 2 days**
- **Schools will know by Monday, usually AM, if Ofsted are coming and most inspections will start on a Tuesday**

Reminders on types of Inspection

Section 8

An ungraded inspection

Outcome 1 – Maintained standards

Outcome 2 – Improving standards

Outcome 3 – Standards may not be as strong

Outcome 4 – The school may now be inadequate (this may well lead to a Section 5 inspection)

Reminders on types of Inspection

Section 5

4 grades (but no overall grade)

Reminders on types of Inspection

If the school was previously graded outstanding or good, then the school can have a section 8 or section 5 inspection

Reminders on types of Inspection

If the school was graded ‘requires improvement’ or ‘inadequate’, prior to Sept. 2024 (Section 5 or a monitoring visit)

Reminders on types of Inspection

Any school can be subject to an inspection under Section 8 at any time if Ofsted have concerns (e.g. qualifying complaint)

QUESTIONS

Agenda

1. Reminders on types of Inspection
2. **Key changes**
3. Feedback from recent inspections
4. Challenge and support
5. DATA
6. OFSTED and the deep dive methodology

Key changes – Section 5

**Removal of the grade for overall effectiveness from
graded inspections**

**(but that doesn't stop anyone from applying the previous
criteria to the new process)**

Key changes – Section 5

Ofsted will, however, continue to grade the four sub-areas:

- **quality of education**
- **behaviour and attitudes**
- **personal development**
- **and leadership and management**

Key changes – Section 5

**I suggest the removal of the overall grading gives
inspectors greater autonomy
(limiting judgements)**

Key changes

The proposed 'Scorecard'

Key changes

The 10 judgment areas will be curriculum, teaching, achievement, leadership, behaviour and values, attendance, preparation for next steps, opportunities to thrive, inclusion and belonging and safeguarding.

Key changes

5 judgements:

- exemplary
 - strong practice,
 - secure
 - attention needed
 - causing concern
-

Key changes

Leaders should have half an eye on these already – SDP?

QUESTIONS

Agenda

1. Reminders on types of Inspection
2. Key changes
3. **Feedback from recent inspections**
4. Challenge and support
5. DATA
6. OFSTED and the deep dive methodology

Feedback from recent inspections

1. Variations
2. Leadership and management

Agenda

1. Reminders on types of Inspection
2. Key changes
3. Feedback from recent inspections
4. **Challenge and support**
5. DATA
6. OFSTED and the deep dive methodology

Self Evaluation Form (SEF)

- **Does your school complete a SEF? If so, how often?**
- **What does the latest one say?**
- **Acronym**

School Development Plan (SDP) or School Improvement Plan (SIP)

- The SDP/SIP should be the driving force for school improvement
- The self-evaluation (SEF) needs to be accurate and give a clear picture of where the school is. For example, which subject area requires the most support? Why?
- The SEF should link seamlessly to the SDP

Governor self evaluation

- When did the last skills audit for your governors take place?
- Have you addressed those areas that need improving in your governing body?

Local and National issues

The continuing fall out from COVID

Reading

Disadvantaged/FSM (particular issue in borough)

BME – best performers – positive changes

Black Caribbean – not improving

EAL

Asylum and refugees

Challenge & Support

- **How do governors balance appropriate challenge and support?**
- **How do you walk this fine line?**
- **Where does trust come into this?**

Challenge & Support

- **Begins with knowledge of the school. How do governors obtain their information SEF?**
- **Pupil voice? Teacher voice?**
- **Are governors 'allowed' to do exit interviews?
Or ask staff their opinions?**

Challenge and support

Does this mean asking difficult questions?

Recently a school told me that they are going to share some staffing issues with governors - as this was affecting the development of a particular subject.

Why so late, not so that the governors should necessarily get involved but why did they not know?

Challenge & Support

- **Has the school addressed the areas identified for improvement at you most recent OFSTED inspection?**

Challenge & Support

- **What questions have you asked recently?**
- **What documents have you scrutinised?**
- **What discussions have you had with senior leaders on improving areas identified for development?**

QUESTIONS

Agenda

1. Reminders on types of Inspection
2. Key changes
3. Feedback from recent inspections
4. Challenge and support
5. **DATA**
6. **OFSTED** and the deep dive methodology

Data

Governance Handbook

- It is a clear expectation of the Governance Competency Framework that all Governors, and not just the nominated Data Governor, are able to navigate and understand the data the school presents.

Data

Governance Handbook

- Despite the shift in focus of the Education Inspection Framework, in order to both understand their school's strengths and areas of development, particularly at this point in time, and ask those constructively challenging questions that are expected of them, Governors still need to understand and interrogate their school's data

Data

How are leaders sure of the accuracy of internal data?

What moderation has taken place/planned?

Data

How are leaders sure of the accuracy of internal data? **Moderation**

What moderation has taken place/planned?
Exam board, working with other schools, national bodies, internal moderation, local authority

Data

**When talking about data schools need to consider and discuss the year groups coming through from
KS1 and KS2 with no external data
Current year 6 (no KS1 data)
and Current year 10 and 11 (no KS2 data)**

OFSTED

“We want to see the assessment information you use as a school to identify how well your pupils are progressing in your curriculum and, crucially, how you use that information to improve pupils’ achievement.” Sean Harford HMI

Attendance

Possible questions:

- How do attendance figures compare to schools nationally?
- What about punctuality, do Governors receive this information?
- Are attendance figures improving?
- Who are the weakest attenders? Which groups?

QUESTIONS

Agenda

1. Reminders on types of Inspection
2. Key changes
3. Feedback from recent inspections
4. Challenge and support
5. DATA
6. **OFSTED and the deep dive methodology**

OFSTED

- **High profile Inspections**
- **My experience:**
 - 1) **SDP - perfect**
 - 2) **Phone call – Australia**
 - 3) **Change of CoG**

OFSTED

Following this session you will receive some possible OFSTED questions and a prompt sheet, that will help you think about your own school and what you need to know.

Possible questions

- OFSTED will ask what Governors know about what is happening in the school and how they ensure the reliability of that information.

Possible questions

- For example, have the subject areas that underperform been identified prior to the underperformance, and how well do governors know their school? What does internal data tell you? How have you, as a governing body, reacted to internal data? How can you trust internal data?

OFSTED

Suggestions for preparing for an OFSTED visit and discussion.

- 1) Choose which governors will meet inspectors**
- 2) Meet soon, go through the questions and prompts – get some support from school leaders in answering the questions**

OFSTED

Suggestions for when you are being inspected:

The governing body are only available on DAY TWO, but why?

- **Because you want to have another rehearsal**
- **Because you want to know what inspectors have found so that you can both further prepare yourselves but also mitigate against them**

OFSTED

Deep Dives (section 5 only)

- **The methodology around how inspectors review the Quality of Education**
- **Is broader and allows inspectors to see the bigger picture and identify systemic issues**

OFSTED

Deep Dives

INTENT

IMPLEMENTATION

IMPACT

Deep Dives

- 1) Discussions with the Curriculum Leader
 - 2) Discussions with the Subject Leader
 - 3) Lesson Visits
 - 4) Book Looks
 - 5) Discussions with Pupils
 - 6) Discussions with teachers
-

OFSTED

Deep Dives

Do governors understand the school at such a level?

Do school leaders understand your school this deeply?

Further Training

Further training includes:

- a session on **Achievement for all** which will be delivered on Tuesday 21 January 2025

Any Questions?