

THE NEW OFSTED SCHOOL INSPECTION FRAMEWORK – SEPTEMBER 2019

Education, Participation and Skills



INTRODUCTION:

The new Ofsted inspection framework for settings and schools came into force from September 2019. This paper provides an overview of the new inspection framework in terms of who will be inspected, what will be inspected and how inspections will be carried out. It also provides an estimate of how many schools in the city are likely to be inspected during the academic year 2019-2020.

WHO WILL BE INSPECTED?

- Maintained schools (including nursery schools).
- Academies.
- Pupil Referral Units (PRUs).
- Special Schools.

The new framework is a common inspection framework and therefore covers provision including in the early years settings, independent schools and the further education and skills sector. Each sector has its own inspection handbook.

Schools judged to be outstanding at their last inspection, are exempt from inspection (not including special, nursery schools or PRUs). However, they are subject to a risk assessment process which can, in certain circumstances, result in an outstanding school being inspected.

HOW WILL AN INSPECTION BE CONDUCTED?

- School will be inspected 5 years after their previous inspection. However, Ofsted reserves the right to inspect more frequently and to carry out a no notice inspection of a school. Schools judged to be good at their last inspection will receive an inspection after four years.
- Schools judged to be outstanding at their last inspection are exempt from inspection (the government is in discussions about the possibility of doing away with this exemption.)
- Maintained schools that convert to become an academy receive an inspection after three years.
- Inspections normally last for two days.
- Schools are notified of the inspection the day before it is scheduled to take place (between 10.30am – 2pm).
- Schools are judged to be one of the following at the end of an inspection: Outstanding; Good, Requires Improvement; Serious Weaknesses; Special Measures.
- Schools receive the inspection report 25 working days of the end of the inspection. The school then has five days to distribute a copy of the report to every parent.

WHAT WILL BE INSPECTED?

- Overall effectiveness of the school.
- The quality of education provided. This focuses very much on the curriculum offered by the school in terms of the knowledge and skills taught to the pupils (**'intent'**); the way the curriculum is taught and assessed (**'implementation'**) and what the pupils know, learn and can do as a result of being taught (**'impact'**).
- The behaviour and attitudes of the pupils.

- The personal development of pupils. i.e. spiritual, moral, social and cultural development.
- The leadership and management of the school (including governance).

HOW MANY SCHOOLS WILL BE INSPECTED IN 2019/2020?

This is not by any means an exact science as in part, it depends upon how well our schools perform throughout the year. However, based upon our records of previous inspections we estimate that 24 schools and academies will be inspected during the academic year 2019 – 2020.

COMMENT:

It is very difficult to assess the impact on schools of the new inspection framework as it is in the early stage of implementation. However, it would seem that:

- There is a far greater focus on the quality and impact of the school's curriculum on learning. Ofsted defines learning as 'an alteration to long term memory' i.e. learning that 'sticks'.
- There is a focus on English and maths.
- Inspectors will concentrate on externally published school performance data and pay less attention to internal performance data generated by the school.
- An examination of governance arrangements will include the role of a MAT when an academy is being inspected.
- A review of how well newly qualified teachers and trainee teachers are mentored and supported will take place.
- Keeping pupils safe is of the highest priority.
- The number of pupils studying EBacc subjects is one measure of effectiveness.
- There is no one preferred approach to teaching.
- Inspectors will explore if the school is 'gaming' the system and possibly 'off rolling' pupils.