



Revised Ofsted Framework – November 2025

Parent Information Overview

Dear Parents and Carers,

We want to keep you informed about recent changes to the Ofsted inspection framework, introduced in November 2025. These updates aim to make school evaluations clearer, fairer, and more focused on what matters most for your child's education and well-being.

What's Changed?

- **New Grading System:** Instead of single-word judgements like "Outstanding" or "Requires Improvement," schools will now receive a **five-point scale** for each area:
 - **Exceptional** – Nationally exemplary practice
 - **Strong Standard** – Highly effective and consistent
 - **Expected Standard** – Meets all requirements
 - **Needs Attention** – Some weaknesses to address
 - **Urgent Improvement** – Serious concerns needing immediate action

- All statements must now be met to achieve the above grading statements. It is now a secure fit system and not a best fit system as in the previous framework.

- Grades from the old framework are not comparable with the wording of the new revised framework i.e. good is not equivalent to Strong, outstanding is not equivalent to Exceptional.

- The Expected Standard is not a minimum standard; it is a high bar standard which is seen as the national threshold, based on statutory and non-statutory expectations.

- Inspectors inspect schools looking at the Expected Standard as the starting point.

- Majority of schools are expected to achieve the middle three category of grades.

- 'Needs Attention' is not a failure. It is an area which needs some attention for whatever reason to ensure it meets the expected standard.

- Where a school receives a grade of 'Needs Attention', this area will be reinspected within a specified time frame, rather than a re-inspection of every area.

- **Detailed Reports:** Inspection reports will include clear explanations and contextual information, so you understand the reasons behind each grade – *each section in the report has a limited specified word count though.*
- **Focus on Inclusion:** A new grade specifically looks at how schools support disadvantaged pupils and those with special educational needs.
- **Focus on Attendance and Behaviour:** Inspectors will be evaluating school's response to the following areas:
 - Holidays in Term Time (HITT)
 - Consistent lates (both L and U codes)
 - Poor attendance
 - School's progress towards its improved attendance target imposed on school by the DfE
- **Safeguarding:** Still judged as **Met** or **Not Met**, ensuring pupil safety remains a top priority.
- **More Transparency:** Ofsted will launch an online tool for parents to explore local school performance easily.

Graded Areas:

- Leadership & governance
- Curriculum & teaching
- Attendance & behaviour
- Achievement
- Personal development & well-being
- Inclusion (new, focusing on support for disadvantaged, SEND, looked-after children)
- Safeguarding will retain a simple Met/Not met grading

Supporting Materials:

New Ofsted report cards and grades: a guide for parents – [click here](#)

Ofsted's renewed education inspection framework: main changes - [click here](#)

Should you require more information, then please contact the school office.

Kind Regards



Mr McDermott

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