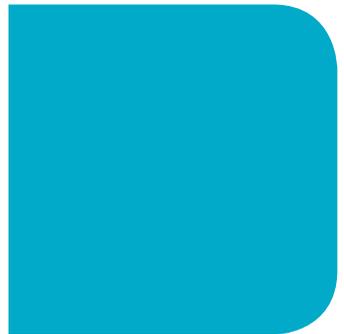


Ofsted inspects

A summary of the framework for
all Ofsted inspection and regulation



Ofsted is responsible for over 30 different types of provision.



Introduction

When the new Ofsted was created in April 2007 it brought together four inspectorates. Ofsted became responsible for over 30 different types of provision, including the inspection of childminders, fostering services, children’s homes, nurseries, schools and colleges, adult education provision, and education and care in secure establishments. These inspections were carried out in different ways, made different judgements and reported their findings differently.

Over the past year Ofsted has looked at the best practice from each of these different inspection types and has devised a framework on which all new inspections from September 2009 will be based. The framework sets out the principles and common practices which will form the basis of all Ofsted inspection and regulation. The framework will provide consistency across inspections.

The services inspected by Ofsted are wide ranging. The detailed inspection guidance and methodology for each service, while based on the framework, will be tailored to the needs of the service’s users. For example, the school and college inspections, due to start in September 2009, will have a common core but will be adapted to meet the needs of the different learners.

This document is a brief summary of the framework. It sets out the principles and common practices for inspection and regulation and it outlines what and how Ofsted will be inspecting. More detail on the content of this summary can be found in the main document.

For access to the full framework, please go to: www.ofsted.gov.uk

Principles of inspection and regulation

The principles of inspection and regulation reflect Ofsted's corporate values and ensure that Ofsted's statutory duties are carried out efficiently and effectively. They focus on the interests of service users (children, young people, parents, adult learners and employers) and promote improvement in the services inspected or regulated. Each principle is set out in more detail in the full framework.

Integrated inspections

Where more than one type of regulated and/or inspected service is offered by a single provider and where the provider has previously received more than one type of inspection Ofsted will, wherever possible, carry out a single inspection which covers all provision. An example of such an inspection might be a residential school, or a college, or a maintained school with nursery provision.

Ofsted inspections will:

- 1) support and promote improvement
- 2) be proportionate
- 3) focus on the needs of users
- 4) focus on the needs of providers
- 5) be transparent and consistent
- 6) be accountable
- 7) demonstrate value for money.

All inspectors will use the common evaluation schedule.



Main judgements

All inspectors will use the common evaluation schedule as a basis for the judgements which they make. Minimum standards and regulations will be incorporated into the schedule. The grading will continue as a four-point scale: **outstanding**; **good**; **satisfactory**; and **inadequate**.

There will be one grade for overall effectiveness based on all the other judgements, including a judgement on the capacity of the provider to either maintain outstanding provision or continue to improve.

Key judgements on the outcomes for the users will be based on being healthy, staying safe, enjoying and achieving, making a positive contribution, and achieving economic well-being.

The leaders and managers will be judged on their effectiveness, and judgements will be made on value for money, equality and diversity, safeguarding, self-evaluation, partnerships, engagement with users, and ambition and prioritisation.

For many remits the quality of provision will be judged, including the quality of teaching and the impact on learning, the curriculum, assessment and care, guidance and support.

Recommendations and actions required for improvement will be set out in the inspection report.

Basic information about the inspection and emerging key issues will be shared with the provider.

How Ofsted inspects

Before inspection

Basic information about the inspection and emerging key issues will be shared with the provider before or at the start of an inspection. This communication with providers is an important opportunity for dialogue about the inspection.

Providers will be given the shortest possible notice of an inspection. The minimum period of notice will be no notice. For all providers, the maximum period of notice will be 20 working days.

All providers will be asked to evaluate their effectiveness and the outcomes of these evaluations will form a key feature in all inspection activities.

During inspection

Evidence gathered and judgements made will be discussed with the provider during and at the end of the inspection.

For all remits there are well-established and important judgements to be made and these will remain. For example, academic achievement where education is provided will continue to be an important judgement. For some remits there will be new judgements; these include grades on equality and diversity, safeguarding, engaging with users and value for money.

In all remits the equality and diversity judgement will be made on evidence gathered when inspecting the five key outcomes. Equality and diversity include social and educational inclusion and take equality of opportunity further than equal access to participation. The equality and diversity grade will contribute to and may limit the grade for overall effectiveness.

All Ofsted inspection reports will have a consistent format.



Two judgements on safeguarding will be made. Leaders and managers will be judged on how well they ensure that users are safe. In addition, the outcomes for users will include the inspectors' judgement on how safe users feel. The safeguarding grades will contribute to and may limit the grade for overall effectiveness.

In all remits there will be a reported judgement on how well the users of the provision are engaged in its development.

In all remits there will be a single judgement on value for money, reflecting how well the leaders and managers use the resources available to them.

Inspections will be quality assured to ensure high quality and consistency.

After inspection

All Ofsted inspection reports will have a consistent format and a similar structure; they will follow Ofsted's house style. They will be of appropriate length for the remit and will state the name of the lead inspector.

Reports will include recommendations which are clear and precise and give the provider a good basis for subsequent action to lead to improvement.

Reports will be seen by the provider before publication and checked for accuracy and factual detail.

Reports will be published within a maximum timescale, from the end of inspection to publication, of 20 working days (irrespective of appeals or complaints).

**Reports will
be seen by the
provider before
publication.**



Conducting inspection and regulation

Code of conduct for inspectors

Inspectors will uphold the highest professional standards in their work, and ensure that everyone they encounter during inspections is treated fairly and with respect.

Expectations of providers

In order that inspection and regulation are productive and beneficial, it is important that inspectors and providers establish and maintain a professional working environment based on courtesy and professional behaviour.

**For more detail and access to the full framework, please go to:
www.ofsted.gov.uk**



The Office for Standards in Education, Children's Services and Skills (Ofsted) regulates and inspects registered childcare and children's social care, including adoption and fostering agencies, residential schools, family centres and homes for children. It also inspects all state maintained schools, non-association independent schools, pupil referral units, further education, initial teacher education, and publicly funded adult skills and employment-based training, the Children and Family Court Advisory Support Service (Cafcass), and the overall level of services for children in local authority areas.

If you would like a copy of this report in a different format, such as large print or Braille, or in a different language, please telephone 08456 404040, or email enquiries@ofsted.gov.uk.

This document may be reproduced in whole or in part for non-commercial purposes, provided that the information is reproduced without adaptation and the source and date of publication are stated.

Alexandra House
33 Kingsway
London WC2B 6SE
T 08456 404040
www.ofsted.gov.uk

No. 080122
© Crown copyright 2009

