What’s changing in the new Ofsted framework?

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New ‘quality of education’ judgement

This judgement will have the curriculum at its heart. It replaces the ‘quality of teaching, learning and assessment’ and ‘outcomes’ judgements from the current framework.

What will inspectors look at?

› The extent to which your curriculum sets out the knowledge and skills pupils will gain at each stage (intent)
› The way you teach and assess your selected curriculum, to support pupils to build their knowledge and to apply that knowledge as skills (implementation)
› The outcomes pupils achieve as a result of the education they’ve received (impact)

See paragraph 155 of the draft inspection handbook for maintained schools and academies.

Ofsted says this judgement will “place more emphasis on the substance of education” and less on performance data.

Separate judgements for ‘personal development’ and ‘behaviour and attitudes’

Behaviour and attitudes

Ofsted’s proposing a separate behaviour judgement to give parents reassurance about how well behaviour is managed in your school.

It’ll assess:

› Whether you’re creating a calm, well-managed environment free from bullying
› The impact this has on the behaviour and attitudes of your pupils

See paragraphs 185 to 186 of the draft handbook.

Personal development

The ‘personal development’ judgement will recognise the work you do to build pupils’ resilience and confidence in later life. It’ll evaluate:

› Your school’s intent to provide for the personal development of pupils
› The quality with which you implement this work

See paragraph 200.

Ofsted says separating these judgements will help enhance the inspection focus on each area and enable clearer reporting on both areas.
Section 8 inspections of ‘good’ schools to happen over 2 days

By extending on-site time for section 8 inspections of ‘good’ schools (formerly ‘short inspections’) to 2 days, Ofsted hopes to make sure inspectors have sufficient opportunity to gather evidence that a school remains ‘good’ under the new criteria.

A section 8 inspection of a ‘good’ school will focus on particular aspects of the school’s provision, as a subset of the full framework criteria (see paragraphs 270 to 282 of the draft handbook).

Introduction of ‘on-site preparation’ the afternoon before the inspection

For all section 5 and section 8 inspections, the plan is for:

› The lead inspector to arrive at your school no later than 12.30pm on the day before the inspection is scheduled to start
› Ofsted to call your school no later than 10am to formally notify you about the inspection

Ofsted says this’ll allow inspectors and school leaders to carry out preparation collaboratively wherever possible. >

Members can also install The Key app for in-the-moment updates on all things Ofsted and the latest resources from The Key. As soon as we know, our members will know.
What will the ‘on-site preparation’ involve?

Inspectors will use the afternoon to:

› Gain an overview of your school’s recent performance and any changes since the last inspection
› Check documentation
› Talk to your school leaders about:
   - How your school has built on its strengths
   - Weaknesses leaders have identified
   - What action leaders have planned or have in progress to address those weaknesses
   - Practical arrangements for the inspection
   - Documentation or other evidence that inspectors will need to see in the course of the inspection

The on-site preparation will be completed no later than 5pm on the day before the inspection starts. See paragraphs 51 to 56 of the draft schools handbook for more information.

Internal performance data no longer used as inspection evidence

Inspectors won’t look at non-statutory internal progress and attainment data. This is to help make sure inspection doesn’t create unnecessary work for any school staff.

Inspectors will:

› Gather direct evidence of quality of education in your school
› Have meaningful discussions with you about how you know the curriculum is having an impact
› Ask you to explain:
   - Why you’ve decided to collect the assessment information you collect
   - What you’re drawing from this information
   - How that informs your curriculum and teaching

What’s staying the same?

Speculation over the past year hinted at the possibility of some other changes. However, the consultation documentation shows:

› The existing ‘overall effectiveness’ and ‘leadership and management’ judgements will remain
› The ‘outstanding’ grade has been kept and the current 4-point grading scale will continue
› ‘Outstanding’ schools (other than special schools, pupil referral units and maintained nursery schools) continue to be exempt from routine inspections under section 5
› There’s no suggestion that full inspections of multi-academy trusts (MATs) will be carried out by Ofsted and no separate framework for inspections of MATs