

What Governors need to know about Ofsted

Preparing for an Ofsted inspection

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**achieving
for children**

Aims of the training

- To ensure you have the appropriate information and knowledge about the Ofsted inspection process to support governor discussions.
- To assist your preparation for Ofsted, so that you are able to discuss your governor role and the impact you have had on your school at the inspection meeting.

What is Ofsted?

- The Office for Standards in Education, Children's Services and Skills (Ofsted)
- The Common Inspection Framework: education, skills and early years (the CIF) encompasses
 - all maintained schools and academies
 - non-association independent schools
 - further education and skills providers
 - registered early years settings

Types of Ofsted inspection

Section 5 (2 day) inspection for:

- Schools where the last Ofsted overall judgement was 'Requires Improvement' or below
- Converter academies where the predecessor school was 'Requires Improvement' or below
- All sponsored academies
- New schools
- Any academy where the predecessor school is significantly different (eg additional key stages)

'Good' schools will normally have a **Section 8** inspection;

Types of Ofsted inspection

Section 8 (1 day) inspection for:

- 'Good' schools, and converter academies where the predecessor school was last judged 'Good'
- 'Good' or 'Outstanding' special schools, nursery schools and PRUs/alternative providers. Other types of 'Outstanding' school are exempt from routine inspection)
- Monitoring visits - schools currently judged 'Requires Improvement' or below
- **Any school** - if Ofsted receives information that causes it concern. In this case, the inspection *may* take place with no notice.

Ofsted inspection aim

“Inspection is primarily about evaluating how well individual children and learners benefit from the education provided by the school or provider. Inspection tests the school’s or provider’s response to individual needs by observing **how well it helps all children and learners to make progress and fulfil their potential.** “

(Common Inspection Framework, para 14)

Short Inspections:

- Short inspections provide schools with the opportunity to demonstrate how they are sustaining and continuing to improve the good quality of education for pupils.
- Ofsted will test whether leaders and governors have identified weaknesses or areas needing development at the school.
- In reaching their judgement about whether the school remains good, Ofsted will focus particularly on **the capacity of school leaders and governors/trustees** to identify such areas and tackle them quickly and effectively.

Ofsted grades (Sn 5)

Grading ranges from outstanding (1) to inadequate (4) in

- Overall Effectiveness
(Plus Early Years and 16-19 Provision get separate grades)
- Effectiveness of leadership and management
- Quality of teaching, learning and assessment
- Personal behaviour and welfare
- Outcomes for pupils

Governance is assessed under Leadership & Management.

Notification of inspection

- Ofsted will normally telephone the school the afternoon of the day before, to announce the inspection
- The Inspector will then call the Headteacher to make arrangements for the inspection day(s). This will include setting a time for an interview with **the chair and as many governors as possible** (*Inspection Handbook*)
- They will also invite **as many governors as possible** to attend the feedback meeting at the end of the inspection.

Typical inspection timetable

Shortly after 8am – inspector(s) arrive and meet with HT

KEY FOCUS AREAS / LINE(S) OF ENQUIRY

During the day(s) – spent evidence gathering and recording

TRIANGULATION

observations <-> discussions <-> books/docs/data
includes the meeting with governors

Late afternoon - final feedback meeting

Being prepared...

- Has your governing body identified which governors are likely to be available and best placed to meet Ofsted?
- Ofsted will ask to see **documented evidence of the work of governors and their priorities** (*Inspection Handbook*) – so how will your governing body supply evidence of its work?
- Ofsted will seek the views of parents, staff and pupils. Do you already know what issues may come up... and what the school is doing to address them?

Governors meeting Ofsted

The contribution of governors to the school's performance is evaluated as part of the judgement on the effectiveness of leadership and management. As with the meetings between inspectors and pupils, parents and staff, meetings with those responsible for governance should take place without the headteacher or senior staff.

The meeting is likely to be about 30-45 minutes.

Who should attend?

Suggestions:

- Chair (and/or Vice-Chair)
plus possibly...
- Safeguarding governor
- Governor with data skill-sets (Standards & Finance)
- SEN & Pupil Premium governors
- How about involving new governors?

Note for MATs: Ofsted wants to meet **those who are directly responsible for exercising governance of the school and overseeing its performance**. If a Local Advisory Board has no delegated authority, then Ofsted will want to see Trustees / Directors.

What is the focus?

- How effective is the governance of the school?
- How well do governors hold the leadership to account?
- What **impact** is the governance having on driving school improvement?
- How do the governors ensure they are fit for purpose?

Specific areas which are likely to come up include...

The Ofsted meeting

KEY PRIORITIES – AREAS OF IMPROVEMENT:

- What are school's current key priorities?
- How are the governors monitoring improvement in these areas? What information / evidence is reviewed?
(TRIANGULATION of findings from a range sources)
- How well do the governors hold the Headteacher to account through systematic and appropriate SUPPORT and CHALLENGE?
- *Can you evidence “a culture of high expectations and aspirations... communicated to staff, parents and pupils.”*

The Ofsted meeting

SAFEGUARDING:

- How do the governors know that the school's Health, Safety and Safeguarding arrangements are in line with statutory requirements and up-to-date best practice?
- How are the governors monitoring the effectiveness of the school's safeguarding culture, and how are they checking that this culture is embedded?

The Ofsted meeting

PUPIL OUTCOMES:

- PUPIL PREMIUM – what impact is the PP grant funding having on the progress and attainment of the disadvantaged children? *And how do you know?*
- BEHAVIOUR, EQUALITY & SEN – how are the governors checking whether pupils of **all** backgrounds, abilities and starting points make the best possible progress?

Are you monitoring the progress for groups of children – eg: prior attainment / SEN / disadvantage / EAL /gender?

The Ofsted meeting

TEACHING, LEARNING AND ASSESSMENT:

- How do you know whether the school's leadership is taking effective action to secure and sustain improvements to the quality of teaching, learning and assessment?
- How do you assure yourselves that the performance management of staff is rigorous, fair and aimed at driving the school's improvement in line with its key priorities?

How do you, as a board, monitor the impact of staff appraisal and Continuous Professional Development?

The Ofsted meeting

PRIMARY PE & SPORTS GRANT (KS1 and KS2):

- What impact is the Primary Sports grant funding having on the outcomes of the pupils? **And how do you know?**

Yr 7 CATCH UP PREMIUM (KS3):

- What impact is the Catch Up grant funding having on the progress and attainment of those children who did not reach the expected standard at the end of KS2? **And how do you know?**

The Ofsted meeting

PREPARING CHILDREN FOR LIFE IN MODERN BRITAIN:

- How well are the governors monitoring **how** the school's systems and curriculum supports pupils' spiritual, moral, social and cultural development, and promotes British Values?
- How well are the governors monitoring the impact of careers advice and counselling at the school
(Secondary – from Year 8)

The Ofsted meeting

Don't forget your 'SUPPORT' role

- *Do talk about the strengths of the school and its recent successes!*
- *Do mention strengths of your governing body – for example governors visiting the school (visit reports), and governor self-evaluation and training.*

What happens next

- Governors are invited to the final feedback meeting at the end of the inspection. All those responsible for governance need to know the outcome of inspection as soon as possible – but it **MUST** be kept confidential.
- The Lead Inspector writes the report, which is quality-assured before Ofsted sends a draft copy to the school (still confidential) for factual accuracy check.
- Typically schools receive a copy of the final report about 14 days after inspection (can be longer) – the school then has 5 working days to share with staff and parents before publication on the Ofsted website.

So what can we do to prepare?

- Self Evaluation against the Ofsted criteria (*see handout – this could be whole GB exercise... or split between governors*)

How well do you do, particularly in the areas where governors are mentioned?

What evidence could you provide to support your self assessment?

What are your top priorities for governor development, following this exercise?

Any questions?

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