

"Many of you will have read in the press that I am determined to use my position as Her Majesty's Chief Inspector to raise expectations and to do all I can to ensure that this country provides the best possible education for the nation's children, young people and adults. That requires significant changes in the way Ofsted inspects across its remits and not just schools. In this consultation I have focused on some key areas of inspection that I firmly believe will help those who provide education to improve children's chances of success."

Sir Michael Wilshaw

Note: This document is made up of extracts from the full 20 page consultation document but deals only with the proposals for schools. It does not cover the proposals for further education or initial teacher training. This document uses the language of the source document. The consultation ends on 3rd May 2012

Part 1: Summary of the main proposals for school inspections

From September 2012, we propose that:

1. schools cannot be judged 'outstanding' unless their teaching is 'outstanding'
2. schools will only be deemed to be providing an acceptable standard of education where they are judged to be 'good' or 'outstanding'
3. a single judgement of 'requires improvement' will replace the current 'satisfactory' judgement and 'notice to improve' category
4. schools judged as 'requires improvement' will be subject to a full re-inspection earlier than is currently the case
5. a school can only be judged as 'requires improvement' on two consecutive inspections before it is deemed to require 'special measures'
6. inspections will be undertaken without notice being provided to the school
7. inspectors should undertake an analysis of anonymised information, provided by the school, of the outcomes of the most recent performance management of all teachers within the school, as part of the evidence for a judgement on Leadership and Management.

Proposals to amend the inspection framework for maintained schools and academies

Proposal 1: To require 'outstanding' schools to have 'outstanding' teaching

The current school inspection framework makes clear that inspectors are likely to judge a school as outstanding if the quality of teaching is outstanding. Teaching is the area that has the greatest impact on the progress pupils make. We propose that to be judged an outstanding school (the core function of the school) 'teaching' must be outstanding.

Proposal 2: Defining an acceptable standard of education as being 'good'

This proposal will mean that any school not providing a 'good' or better education will be deemed to be a school causing concern. Our reports will be clear about what those schools that are not yet good have to do to improve. They will also make a distinction between schools that are showing strong signs of improvement and those that are not.

Currently, we define an acceptable standard of education as one that is satisfactory. Our proposal is to raise the acceptable standard for the quality of education to good, as defined in "The evaluation schedule for maintained schools and academies."

Proposal 3: Introduce a single judgement of 'requires improvement' to replace the current 'satisfactory' judgement and 'notice to improve' category

Ofsted is proposing to remove the 'satisfactory' judgement and 'notice to improve' category and replace them with a single Grade 3 of 'requires improvement'. This will give a new four point scale:

- Grade 1: outstanding
- Grade 2: good
- Grade 3: requires improvement
- Grade 4: special measures

A school graded 3 or 4 will be deemed to require significant improvement as defined in section 5 of the Education Act 2005 (as amended). A school judged to be "inadequate" will be deemed to be a school causing concern and will therefore 'require improvement' or 'special measures'. This change will raise

expectations of the weaker schools and will support the proposal that the expected grade for all schools should be 'good'

'Good' will continue to set high expectations. We believe, however, that the proposed change will encourage schools judged to be less than 'good' to bring about rapid improvement. Inspection reports will show clearly whether or not a school is improving.

Proposal 4: Introduce earlier full re-inspection of schools judged as 'requires improvement'

Ofsted is proposing to re-inspect all schools judged as 'requires improvement' usually within 12–18 months of their last inspection. The inspection will be a full inspection under section 5 of the Education Act 2005 (as amended) and will consider the overall quality of teaching, the achievement of pupils, their behaviour and safety and the effectiveness of leadership and management at the school. These schools will not receive a monitoring inspection. Leaving a gap of about 12–18 months between inspections will ensure that further examination and test data are available for consideration by inspectors.

Proposal 5: Introduce a protocol that limits the number of times a school can be deemed as 'requires improvement' to two consecutive inspections before it is deemed to be 'inadequate' and requires 'special measures' to improve

That means that satisfactory schools not showing the expected improvement, or good schools where the quality of education has declined, will follow the pattern set out in the table below.

Inspected before August 2012	Inspected after 1 September 2012	Next inspection within 12–18 months	Next Inspection within 12–18 months
Satisfactory	Requires improvement	Special measures	
Good	Requires improvement	Requires improvement	Special measures

Proposal 6: Undertake inspections without notice being provided to the school

Ofsted intends to implement this approach for all schools from September 2012. This will allow inspectors to see what schools are really like and will provide reassurance to parents and pupils that inspections are as robust as they can be.

Proposal 7: Request the school provide anonymised information of the outcomes of the most recent performance management of all teachers

Ofsted is proposing to ask schools to provide anonymised information of performance management outcomes, in whatever form it is available, to inspectors. These will not be reported in the inspection report but will be used, together with other evidence, as a line of enquiry when determining whether senior managers and governing bodies are showing strong leadership and management skills.

rEDUCED pOLICY cOMPANY

The Reduced Policy Company has been established to make policy documents more accessible to the professional and lay reader. More information is available at www.reducedpolicycompany.com

