

HOW INSPECTIONS WILL WORK FROM SEPTEMBER

Amanda Spielman, the chief inspector, has launched Ofsted's draft new inspection framework, which she claims will focus on the "substance and integrity" of education in England. The consultation runs until April 5. Here are the main proposed changes, due to start in September.

1 Inspections of 'good' schools will take two days



Short inspections of "good" schools are meant to confirm that it should keep its rating. That principle will not change, Ofsted says, but the timetable will.

The watchdog claims the two-day inspections will ensure there is opportunity for inspectors "to gather sufficient evidence while on inspection to confirm that a school remains good under the new criteria".

As they do at present, inspectors will still be able to upgrade to a full inspection if they feel a "good" school has got better or worse.

2 'On-site prep' plan means Ofsted could arrive within 150 minutes



Ofsted intends to send its lead inspectors into schools the day BEFORE they're due to be inspected, to prepare for the visit in "collaboration" with school leaders.

In practice, this will mean that schools will receive a call from Ofsted no later than 10am, informing them of the inspection, and the lead inspector will arrive on site no earlier than 12.30pm the same day.

This time with senior leaders will then be used "to gain an overview of the school's recent performance and any changes since the last inspection". The lead inspector will leave no later than 5pm.

3 Behaviour and pupil development will be considered separately

The current personal development, behaviour and welfare judgment will be scrapped, and replaced with two separate judgments: behaviour and attitudes, and personal development.

It means that a school's efforts to maintain good behaviour and discipline and its efforts to support the development of its pupils will be considered separately.

The watchdog hopes this will "enhance the inspection focus on each [area] and enable clearer reporting on both".

Ofsted believes the behaviour and attitudes that learners of all ages bring to learning "is best evaluated and judged separately from the provision made to promote learners' wider personal development, character and resilience".



4 New 'quality of education' judgment



Ofsted wants the existing quality of teaching, learning and assessment judgment (which the watchdog has admitted is too focused on outcomes) to be replaced with an overall quality of education judgment.

This, Ofsted says, will "de-intensify the inspection focus on performance data and place more emphasis on the substance of education and what matters most to learners and practitioners".

The quality of teaching, learning and assessment will still be judged, but will be "viewed in the context of the provider's curriculum".

The new quality judgment will be built around a "working definition of the curriculum", which is set out in the draft framework.

5 Ofsted won't use internal performance data, but will ask about workload



Inspectors will no longer use internal pupil performance data because of its "limitations" and because it does not present an "accurate and valid representation of pupils' learning across the curriculum".

Instead, they will gather "direct evidence" on the quality of education, and hold "meaningful discussions" with leaders about the impact of their curriculum.

However, inspectors WILL ask schools to explain why they collect the data they do, what they draw from it and how it informs their curriculum and teaching.

Spielman believes this will reduce unnecessary workload for teachers and will dispel the myth that schools must "collect data for Ofsted".

6 Emergency private school inspections will lead to quicker follow-ups

Ofsted's "additional inspections" of private schools will be more likely to lead to a standard inspection.

On the back of such inspections, Ofsted has pledged to "recognise and acknowledge sooner" where schools have improved or declined, meaning the watchdog will be more likely to bring forward the date for a standard inspection.

The specialist curriculum of a private school – for example any faith-based teaching – will be taken into account during routine inspections, but only if a "substantial" number of required areas are delivered through that curriculum, or if there isn't enough evidence that they are being delivered at all.



