

Governance and inspection

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The inspection process and what it means for governors



Before the inspection, the lead inspector considers:

- the previous inspection report
- any recent Ofsted survey and/or monitoring letters
- responses from Parent View
- issues raised by the investigation of any qualifying complaints
- the local authority's child protection arrangements
- information on the school's website
- data from the inspection dashboard and RAISEonline
- other publicly available information.

Before the inspection, the lead inspector calls the headteacher to:

- confirm what the governance structure of the school or academy is, including with reference, particularly for academies and multi-academy trusts, to the range of functions delegated to local governing bodies or other committees

Before the inspection, the lead inspector calls the headteacher to:

- make arrangements for a meeting with the chair of the governing body or, where appropriate the chair of the board of trustees, and as many governors as possible – they will also invite as many governors as possible to the final feedback meeting

Before the inspection, the lead inspector calls the headteacher to:

- request either a face-to-face meeting or a telephone call with a representative of the local authority, academy chain, multi-academy trust board, sponsor or other relevant responsible body as appropriate

Before the inspection, the lead inspector calls the headteacher to:

- request that a representative from the local authority, academy chain, multi-academy trust board, sponsor or other relevant responsible body is present at the final inspection feedback meeting as appropriate

Before the inspection, the lead inspector calls the headteacher to:

- request that, where appropriate, the chief executive officer (CEO)/their delegate, or equivalent of the multi-academy trust is present at the final team meeting and at the final feedback to the school

During the inspection, the inspectors will:



Inspectors will always seek to meet those responsible for governance during the inspection. This will usually include maintained school governors or academy trustees and sponsors (including sponsor representatives, where they exist). However, in a multi-academy trust, the board of trustees may have established a local governing body to which it may have delegated certain governance functions. In some other cases, there may be a local governing body that is wholly advisory, with no formal governance responsibilities delegated to it. Inspectors should ensure that meetings are with those who are directly responsible for exercising governance of the school and for overseeing its performance.

During the inspection, the inspectors will consider whether governors:

- work effectively with leaders to communicate the vision, ethos and strategic direction of the school and develop a culture of ambition
- provide a balance of challenge and support to leaders, understanding the strengths and areas needing improvement at the school
- provide support for an effective headteacher or are hindering school improvement because of a lack of understanding of the issues facing the school

During the inspection, the inspectors will consider whether governors:

- performance manage the headteacher rigorously
- understand the impact of teaching, learning and assessment on the progress of pupils currently in the school
- ensure that assessment information from leaders provides governors with sufficient and accurate information to ask probing questions about outcomes for pupils

During the inspection, the inspectors will consider whether governors:

- ensure that the school's finances are properly managed and can evaluate how the school is using the pupil premium, Year 7 literacy and numeracy catch-up premium, primary PE and sport premium, and special educational needs funding
- are transparent and accountable, including in recruitment of staff, governance structures, attendance at meetings and contact with parents.

At the end of the inspection:

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.

At the end of the inspection:

The on-site inspection concludes with a final feedback meeting with the school. Those connected with the school who may attend include:

- the headteacher and other senior leaders agreed by the lead inspector and headteacher
- the chair of the school's governing board and as many governors as possible
- for academies, the chair of the board of trustees and as many trustees as possible
- in an academy that is part of a multi-academy trust, the CEO/their delegate or equivalent
- a representative from the local authority (for maintained schools) or academy sponsor and/or the designated responsible body.

Section 5 inspection judgements:

Effectiveness of leadership and management
Quality of teaching, learning and assessment
Personal development, behaviour and welfare
Outcomes for pupils
Early years provision
16 to 19 study programmes
Overall effectiveness

Section 8 short inspection judgements:

1. The school continues to be a good school.
2. The school remains good and there is sufficient evidence of improved performance to suggest that the school may be judged outstanding if it received a section 5 inspection now. The school will be informed that its next inspection will be a section 5 inspection, which will typically take place within one or two years.

Section 8 short inspection judgements:

3. The lead inspector is not satisfied that the school would receive at least its current grade if a section 5 inspection were carried out now. The school will be informed that its next inspection will be a section 5 inspection, which will typically take place within one to two years.
4. The lead inspector has gathered evidence that suggests the school may be inadequate in one or more of the graded judgements under section 5 inspections, there are serious concerns about safeguarding, pupils' behaviour or the quality of education; there are concerns that the performance of a non-exempt outstanding school could be declining to 'requires improvement'. The short inspection will be converted to a section 5 inspection, usually within 48 hours.

Useful references for governors

Compare primary

www.compare-school-performance.service.gov.uk/compare-schools?phase=primary

Compare secondary

www.compare-school-performance.service.gov.uk/compare-schools?phase=secondary

Useful references for governors

The common inspection framework: education, skills and early years

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/common-inspection-framework-education-skills-and-early-years-from-september-2015>

School inspection handbook

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/school-inspection-handbook-from-september-2015>

School inspection handbook: section 8

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/handbook-for-short-monitoring-and-unannounced-behaviour-school-inspections>

Useful references for governors

Improving governance: governance arrangements in complex and challenging circumstances

www.gov.uk/government/publications/improving-governance

School inspection update

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/school-inspection-newsletter-academic-year-2017-to-2018>

Ofsted inspections: myths

www.gov.uk/government/publications/school-inspection-handbook-from-september-2015/ofsted-inspections-mythbusting

Useful references for governors

What governors can expect during an inspection:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=676mZrDrY9o>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=g6vySUUIPhs>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=txehqOy-2TU>

Useful references for governors

What governors can expect during an inspection:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=LgwsB4vkP7Y>

Useful references for governors

Governance handbook

www.gov.uk/government/publications/governance-handbook

A competency framework for governance

www.gov.uk/government/publications/governance-handbook

Clerking competency framework

www.gov.uk/government/publications/governance-handbook

Useful references for governors

National Governors Association

<http://www.nga.org.uk>

National Co-ordinators of Governor Services

<http://www.ncogs.org.uk/>

School Governors' One Stop Shop

www.sgoss.org.uk

Inspiring Governance

<http://inspiringgovernance.org/>

Ofsted on the web and on social media

www.gov.uk/ofsted

<http://reports.ofsted.gov.uk>

 www.linkedin.com/company/ofsted

 www.youtube.com/ofstednews

 www.slideshare.net/ofstednews

 www.twitter.com/ofstednews

