



## Updates from Ofsted and the DFE February 2023

Since 1 September 2022 inspection outcomes published in Essex for primary Schools and academies have been as follows:

49 schools that were category 2 schools remained as category 2 schools  
2 schools that were category 4 schools remained as category 4 schools  
4 schools that were category 1 schools remained as category 1 schools

4 schools that were category 3 schools are now category 2 schools  
1 school that was a category 4 school is now a category 2 school  
2 schools that were category 3 schools are now category 2 schools

3 schools that were category 1 schools are now category 2 schools  
2 schools that were category 3 schools are now category 4 schools  
2 schools that were category 2 schools are now category 3 schools

This means that of the 69 schools identified 55 remained the same, 7 improved and 7 declined.

*Please click on the links below to access documents.*

### **[School inspections and industrial action - GOV.UK](https://www.gov.uk/government/news/school-insp...)**

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/school-insp...>

24 January 2023- Ofsted

Ofsted want to maintain school inspection activity as far as possible in February and March, while responding sensitively to local circumstances. So, they will schedule school inspection notifications and on-site inspections to avoid strike days.

For example, to avoid the strike action taking place on 1 February, they will notify schools of their inspection on Tuesday 31 January. On-site inspection activity will then take place on Thursday 2 February and Friday 3 February.

### **[Data on school inspections carried out up to the end of December 2022](https://www.gov.uk/government/news/schools-co...)**

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/schools-co...>

17 January 2023- Ofsted Press Release

Ofsted has published data on school inspections carried out up to the end of December 2022.

It shows that around 89% of all 22,000 schools were good or outstanding at their most recent inspection. This is an increase from 86% in August 2019 and 88% in August 2022. The data also shows that schools previously judged requires improvement (RI) have done particularly well last term, as 78% of those inspected improved to good, compared with 70% in 2021/22.

The vast majority of formerly outstanding schools visited this year had been exempt from routine inspection between 2012 and 2020. Since the government lifted the exemption, most of these schools have lost the top grade on reinspection. However, a slightly higher proportion of the previously exempt schools have remained outstanding this year compared with 2021/22 (21% v 17%), and a lower proportion were found to require improvement or to be inadequate (13% v 21%).

## [What do I need to do to prepare for my early years inspection?](https://earlyyears.blog.gov.uk/2023/01/25/what-do-...)

[https://earlyyears.blog.gov.uk › 2023/01/25 › what-do-...](https://earlyyears.blog.gov.uk/2023/01/25/what-do-...)

25 January 2023- Wendy Ratcliff HMI – Ofsted

The following is an excerpt from Wendy Ratcliff's blog:

Plans do not need to be written down just for inspectors' benefit. You can explain to inspectors what you want children to learn and why. That said, if you choose to make written plans because it works better for you, that is absolutely fine as well. Just don't do it because you think we want to see them.

This leads me onto one of the other commonly asked questions about preparing for inspection:

'Should I have a folder of paperwork marked 'Ofsted'?'

Despite what you may have heard, inspectors do not want to see a particular amount or type of paperwork. The early years foundation stage (EYFS) sets out what you must record. You should use whatever approach to paperwork suits you and you are free to file it however you like. But please do not be offended if our inspectors would rather understand your plans, policies and procedures by talking about them rather than reading them. We've told inspectors not to ask to see paperwork unnecessarily.

If you want to find out about what will happen on an inspection, have a look online. We've refreshed our education inspection framework ([EIF](#) and [EYFS page](#), where we address individual aspects of inspection. And if parents of the children you look after have questions, you can point them to the [inspection guides that we've recently published specifically for them](#).

## [Amanda Spielman's speech to the University of Oxford's ...](https://www.gov.uk/government/speeches/amanda-s-...)

[https://www.gov.uk › government › speeches › amanda-s...](https://www.gov.uk/government/speeches/amanda-s-...)

18 January 2023- Amanda Spielman- Ofsted

Ofsted's Chief Inspector spoke at the annual lecture about how Ofsted uses research and its wider use in the education sector. To read the transcript click on the link above. Over the last 2 years, Ofsted have drawn up and published a series of [curriculum reviews](#). These offer a researched conception of what they consider to be a high-quality education, by subject and by phase. They help translate Ofsted's researched framework into subjects and phases. And they provide a platform for inspector training in judging curriculum quality.

## [Ofsted Annual Report 2021/22 - GOV.UK](https://www.gov.uk/corporate-information)

[https://www.gov.uk › Corporate information](https://www.gov.uk/corporate-information)

13 December 2022 — Ofsted's Annual Report

- Recovery from the pandemic remains a 'work in progress'
- Staff shortages compounding difficulties in education and social care
- Children have lacked stability and security in recent years – staffing problems continue to affect their experience

<https://ofstedtalks.podbean.com>

This Ofsted talk is a summary of the key points of Ofsted's annual report, from Amanda Spielman, Alex Jones, Lee Owston, Yvette Stanley and Chris Jones. Listen to what Ofsted inspections found from all the remits they inspect; early years, schools, further education and skills and social care.

### [Choosing a phonics teaching programme - GOV.UK](#)

<https://www.gov.uk> > ... > Phonics

Updated 30 January 2023- DFE

Choosing a phonics teaching programme. Sets out what the government is doing to help schools choose a phonics teaching programme.

Updates

1. 30 January 2023  
Updated 'Choosing a phonics teaching programme' to reflect updates to SSP programmes and funding information.
2. 16 January 2023  
Updated the contact details for Sounds-Write in 'Contact details for the validated systematic synthetic phonics (SSP) programmes'.

### **Ofsted and the Curriculum Podcast**

Out now: listen to the latest episode of our podcast, 'Ofsted Talks' as we discuss the curriculum, deep dives and more: [ofstedtalks.podbean.com/e/ofsted-and-t](https://ofstedtalks.podbean.com/e/ofsted-and-t)

1 December 2022- Ofsted

This 45 minute podcast talks to Ofsted's curriculum unit, teachers who've been involved in curriculum planning and a head and subject lead who've recently been inspected about the deep dives they've experienced.

You can find all of Ofsted's podcast on Ofstednews

### [Providing remote education: guidance for schools](#)

Updated: 23 January 2023- DFE

How schools can maintain their capability to provide remote education when it is not possible for some or all of their pupils to attend in person. This is non-statutory guidance.

#### **Scenarios where remote education should be considered**

Circumstances where it might not be possible for pupils to receive in person education fit into two broad categories:

- School closures or restrictions on attendance, where school access for pupils is restricted
- Individual cases where a pupil is unable to attend school but is able to learn

### [Teaching online safety in schools - GOV.UK](#)

<https://www.gov.uk> > government > publications > teac...

Updated 12 January 2023 - DFE

This non-statutory guidance outlines how schools can ensure their pupils understand how to stay safe and behave online as part of the existing curriculum. The 'Teaching online safety in school' guidance has been updated.

### [Exploring school collaboration and workload reduction](#)

Updated: 26 January 2023- DFE

Research into how schools collaborate with one another to promote efficiencies in teachers' and leaders' time.

## **[SIAMS Inspections - The Church of England](https://www.churchofengland.org/about/siams-inspe...)**

[https://www.churchofengland.org › about › siams-inspe...](https://www.churchofengland.org/about/siams-inspe...)

The following SIAMS Documents can be found in the links. They give extremely useful information about the new framework that will begin from September 2023.

- [SIAMS 2023 National update](#)
- [SIAMS Framework September 2023](#)
- [SIAMS 2023 Transitional Guidance for Schools](#)
- [SIAMS 2023 Ongoing Self Evaluation Template](#)
- [SIAMS 2023 Summary Self Evaluation Template](#)

Listen to the recent interview with Margaret James, National Director of SIAMS:

**Called, Connected, Committed: Flourishing for All: SIAMS - Understanding the changes for September 2023**

[Listen to our recent podcast](#)

Watch the national update on the 2023 new SIAMS Framework:

**SIAMS 2023 Webinar - 3 November 2022**

[Watch the webinar](#)







