



Updates from Ofsted and the DFE January 2024

Since September 2023, inspection outcomes published for primary schools in Essex have been as follows:

44 schools that were category 2 schools remained as category 2 schools
2 schools that were category 3 schools remained as category 3 schools
4 schools that were a category 1 schools remained as category 1 schools

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

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

This means that of the 62 schools identified 47 remained the same, 8 improved and 7 declined.

Please click on the links below to access documents.

Sir Martyn Oliver begins term at Ofsted with mental ... - GOV.UK

2 January 2024 — Ofsted Press release

Recently announced changes to school inspections include:

- scheduling inspectors to return more quickly to schools graded inadequate because of ineffective safeguarding but which are otherwise performing well
- changes to Ofsted's complaints process following a consultation held last year
- the introduction of a duty helpline to take calls directly from providers during and after an inspection
- changes to school handbooks, to make clear that school leaders can be joined by colleagues in meetings with inspectors, and can share inspection outcomes with colleagues, family, medical advisers and their wider support group, before sharing with parents
- delivering seminars across all Ofsted's regions to support leaders of previously exempt outstanding schools ahead of their next inspection

Further changes will be announced soon – as Ofsted continues to respond to the coroner's findings and her regulation 28 report.

[Education update for headteachers: academic year 2023 to 2024](#)

Published 24 November 2023- Ofsted

A new newsletter from Ofsted providing headteachers and school leaders with developments taking place in inspection policy.

On 24 November, Ofsted announced that they will implement all 4 changes proposed in their recent consultation on post-inspection arrangements and complaints. The changes are

- enhanced on-site professional dialogue during inspection to help address any issues
- a new opportunity for providers to contact Ofsted the day after an inspection if they have unresolved concerns

- new arrangements for finalising reports and considering formal challenges to inspection outcomes
- direct escalation to the Independent Complaints Adjudication Service for Ofsted (ICASO) and a periodic review of closed complaints using external representatives

The changes will come into effect in January 2024 and April 2024.

[How we inspect safeguarding in schools](#) –

Published 9 November 2023- Lee Owston, Deputy Director, Schools and Education, A useful blog which identifies safeguarding questions and requests through the course of an inspection. It explains some of the main activities Ofsted undertake and why.

Ofstednews Youtube has a webinar called ‘How Ofsted inspects safeguarding in schools’.

In this webinar, Ofsted explore: what makes up an effective safeguarding culture; reasons why safeguarding may be ineffective; what might constitute a need for minor improvements; the checks inspectors might make on the single central record; how they report on safeguarding.

[Primary school performance tables: 2023](#)

Published 14 December 2023- DFE

Information on the achievements of pupils in each state-funded primary school in England.

[Pupil premium](#)

Updated: 19 December 2023- DFE

Updated- 'Pupil premium: overview' to include pupil premium funding rates and payment schedule for the financial year 2024 to 2025.

Update-the 'Pupil premium strategy statement template', 'Example pupil premium strategy statement (primary)', to update the content in the Outcomes sections and reflect the information schools can publish about pupil outcomes in the 2022 to 2023 academic year.

[Improving school attendance - Ofsted blog](#)

Published 16 Nov 2023 — Lee Owston- Ofsted

Our [report on securing good attendance and tackling persistent absence](#) includes examples of good practice for schools.

We have also published [a webinar on attendance](#).

The Department for Education also provides support for schools to improve attendance, including through their:

- [toolkit for schools on communicating with families to support attendance](#)
- [new data visualisation tool](#) which makes it easier for teachers to analyse attendance
- [Attendance Action Alliance](#) of national education and care leaders (including Ofsted) who are working together to target the reasons behind poor attendance
- [Attendance Hubs](#), which are networks of schools that share best practice and practical resources with each other

The NHS has also provided a guide for parents

- [NHS Guidance: Is my child too ill for school?](#)
- [Chief Medical Officer's letter to schools](#)

Major national drive to improve school attendance

Published 8 January- DFE

A national communications campaign on the importance of attendance is also launching today (8 January) targeting parents and carers. Under the strapline '[Moments Matter, Attendance Counts](#)' it outlines the importance of attendance for attainment, wellbeing, and development as well as signposting to advice for further support.

Key advice includes a recent letter [from the Chief Medical Officer](#) that outlines best practice when it comes to attendance and illness. The intention is to ensure that parents have the guidance they need when it comes to making decisions when deciding to send their child to school or when to keep them home.

The government has also committed to further legislation in the coming months that will mean all schools will be required to [share their daily school registers](#). This, together with reforming pupil registration practice, will modernise how schools record and share data on attendance and support them to understand what is driving absence in their school and provide early support and intervention where pupils are displaying worrying trends of absence.

Monitor your school attendance data: If your school is sharing daily attendance data with the Department for Education, you can get access to the free Monitor Your School Attendance tool. There are many benefits, such as:

- Track pupil attendance
- Identify pupils needing support
- Save time building attendance reports
- Get trend insights for different pupil cohorts
- Compare your school's attendance within your local authority

Ofstednews Youtube

A webinar giving an update on attendance from Ofsted and the DFE.

- [IDSR: news and updates](#)

Updated: 13 December 2023- Ofsted

This release contains

- absence data for 2022/23 (autumn and spring terms)
- final key stage 1 data
- final multiplication tables checks

This release also contains IDSR developments in the following areas:

- absence
- suspensions and permanent exclusions
- SEND characteristics

Education staff wellbeing charter

Updated 15 January 2024- DFE

Added a link in the "Monitoring and evaluation section" to the DFE's progress update on its commitments in the education staff wellbeing charter.

Co-created with the sector, the [Education Staff Wellbeing Charter](#) sets out shared commitments to promote, protect and enhance the wellbeing of staff. The charter can be used to create a wellbeing strategy and schools are invited to [sign up](#).

There are a range of wellbeing support options currently available, including:

- Access to free one-to-one professional supervision for school leaders through a [funded scheme delivered by the Education Support charity](#). Over 1,400 leaders have benefitted from the support so far.
- [A grant](#) to fund school or college mental health lead training to embed an effective [whole school or college approach to mental health and wellbeing](#).

The DFE are expanding the mental health and wellbeing support for school and college leaders, and from April 2024 will begin funding a three-year mental health and wellbeing support package. The package will provide professional supervision and counselling, ensuring more school and college leaders are able to access support.

Ofstednews Youtube has a webinar called 'All-inspector mental health awareness training' Ofsted inspectors undertook this training on 8 January 2024.

Early years foundation stage (EYFS) statutory framework

The following updates have been made

9 January 2024- Updated the 2 statutory framework documents to clarify providers' responsibilities on paediatric first aid training. In the framework for childminders we have also edited paragraph 3.24, in the section on training, support and skills.

4 January 2024- Removed 'Statutory framework for the early years foundation stage (applies until 3 January 2024)' and amended the text to reflect this.

19 December 2023- Added summaries of changes from the September 2023 guidance to the January 2024 guidance.

8 December 2023- Added the 'EYFS statutory framework for childminders' and the 'EYFS statutory framework for group and school-based providers'. You should use these documents from 4 January 2024.

Early years qualification requirements and standards

Published 8 December 2023- DFE

The qualifications that staff must hold to be included in the specified staff:child ratios at levels 2, 3 and 6 of the early years foundation stage (EYFS)

How Ofsted Inspects Behaviour- Ofstednews Youtube

During this webinar Ofsted share their latest research findings on behaviour in maintained schools and academies. They considered the potential barriers to securing good behaviour and the key actions that effective schools are prioritising. They focussed on how schools establish high expectations, what pupils are explicitly taught and why, as well as the importance of training for staff and getting things right from the start.

Meeting digital and technology standards in schools and ...

Updated 16 January 2024- DFE- 2 new sections added

[Digital leadership and governance standards](#)

[Laptop, desktop and tablet standards](#)

