



Updates from Ofsted and the DFE December 2024

Since September 2024 inspection outcomes for primary schools published in Essex have been as follows:

21 that were category 2 schools remained as category 2 schools
1 school that was a category 1 school remained as a category 1 school

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

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

This means that of the 29 schools identified 21 remained the same, 4 improved and 3 declined.

Please click on the links below to access documents.

Ofsted publishes inspector training materials - GOV.UK

Published 5 November 2024- Ofsted

These [6 recordings, published in video format](#), are used for training school inspectors through the new [Ofsted Academy](#). Their publication follows on from mental health awareness training for all inspectors, delivered by Mental Health First Aid England, which was made available on Ofsted's YouTube channel earlier this year.

These videos feature sessions from the spring 2024 school inspector conference, including:

- an introduction to the conference from Ofsted's National Director for Education, Lee Owston
- setting off on the right foot (well-being)
- context and impact: getting beneath the surface
- inspecting attendance well

Two more general training recordings from the early autumn term have also been published:

- Inspecting in the best interest of children
- Inspection Data Summary Report (IDSR)

[Watch our inspector training videos](#)

The training is recorded 'as live' and so is designed for inspectors. Ofsted regularly puts on webinars designed for staff working in the sectors they inspect and regulate. These can be found on Ofsted's [YouTube channel](#).

Changes made to the school inspection handbook and monitoring inspection handbook.

Updated 7 October 2024- Ofsted

- [Inspecting schools: guide for maintained and academy schools](#)
- [Selecting new schools and schools that undergo significant change for inspection](#)
- [Inspecting schools: guidance for parents](#)

[Ofsted inspections and visits: deferring, pausing and gathering additional evidence](#)

Updated the reasons Ofsted may defer an inspection to include where a state-funded school with a religious character has already been notified of an inspection under section 48 of the Education Act 2005 (or equivalent inspection in an academy). This is as long as there are no exceptional circumstances that would require the inspection to proceed. Please follow link for further updates.

[Changes to ungraded inspections](#) - Ofsted webinar for schools discussing their new approach to ungraded inspections from September 2024.

Sir Martyn Oliver's speech to the Confederation of

School ...

Published 8 November 2024 - Martyn Oliver, Ofsted's Chief Inspector

What we've changed so far

Schools will know by Monday afternoon if we're coming and that your routine inspection will start on the Tuesday.

We've put new policies and training in place to make sure inspectors deal sensitively and consistently with well-being concerns.

We've made our handbooks clearer, so you know exactly what we're looking for when we review your school's single central record.

We've also provided further clarity on the statutory expectations in the Department for Education's 'Keeping children safe in education' guidance.

If you are a school with a religious character, we've also made changes to make sure that you don't run the risk of concurrent inspections from Ofsted and their section 48 inspectorate.

If we find safeguarding concerns in an otherwise high-performing school, and we think leaders can resolve these issues quickly, then we'll suspend our inspection, let parents know, but won't publish a report until after we've returned in no more than 3 months' time.

As part of our changes next year, we'll be putting forward plans for a new, stand-alone assessment of safeguarding in our reports.

We've changed our practice for ungraded school inspections. We no longer carry out full deep dives when inspecting quality of education, which allows more time for professional dialogue: "done with", not "done to".

Finally, as part of my drive to be 'of the sector', we've introduced the Academy. This is a one-stop-shop that will draw together induction, training, learning, professional development and good practice in one, easy to find place.

We've also set up 6 national hubs to improve consistency across all of our regions.

We have begun to publish the materials that we use for inspection training, something that we have been asked to do for a while, which shows you how our inspectors are trained to inspect your schools. Our consultation in January

So, what will we be proposing in January?

Well, our consultation will seek your views on a number of things, from new report card-style reports to how we inspect inclusion in schools.

[School inspection data summary report \(IDSR\) guide](#)

Updated 10 October 2024- Ofsted

Ofsted have released the 2024 primary IDSR with IDSR developments for all schools. The data updates are;

- IDSR redevelopments for all schools (for full details please read our September newsletter)
- Provisional phonics for 2024
- Final exclusions for 2023
- January 2024 census-based contextual information
- 1-term absence for 2024
- Provisional key stage 2 attainment for 2024
- Latest financial and school workforce data
- New destinations data for disadvantaged pupils
- New alternative provision placements data

[IDSR: news and updates](#) - All school IDSRs have been redeveloped and updated with the latest available data.

Statistics: multiplication tables check attainment

Updated 22 November 2024- DFE

Statistics on the multiplication tables check. It includes statistics for pupils:

- at national level by characteristic breakdowns such as sex, disadvantage, free school meal eligibility, ethnicity, special educational need status, first language, month of birth, school type, school phase and school religious character;
- at regional and local authority level by characteristic breakdowns such as free school meal eligibility, ethnicity, special educational need status and first language.

Primary assessments: future dates

Updated 10 October 2024- DFE

This document summarises future assessment dates in primary schools up to 2026/2027.

Early years foundation stage profile results: 2023 to 2024

Published 28 November 2024- DFE

These annual statistics report on teacher assessments of children's development at the end of the early years foundation stage (EYFS), specifically the end of the academic year in which a child turns 5. This is typically the summer term of reception year.

They cover the following at national and subnational level, including breakdowns by child characteristics of:

- the percentage of children assessed to be at the 'emerging' or 'expected' level in the 17 early learning goals across the 7 areas of learning
- the percentage of children with a good level of development
- the average number of early learning goals for which children are at the expected level

School-Based Nursery Capital Grant

17 October 2024 – DFE- Press release

First round of funding launches for up to 300 school-based nurseries - part of government's opportunity mission to give every child the best start in life.

[Primary schools can now apply for up to £150,000](#) of £15 million capital funding, with the first stage of the plan set to support up to 300 [new or expanded nurseries](#) across England.

The School-Based Nursery Capital Grant is a one-time grant available for eligible state-funded primary-phase schools. Schools can bid for up to £150,000 of funding to use for capital expenditure to:

- convert spare space within school buildings into a new nursery
- expand an existing nursery
- [Who can apply](#)
- [How to apply](#)
- [Registration of interest](#)
- [Webinars](#)

[Strong foundations in the first years of school](#) –

Published 8 October 2024- Ofsted

This report examines how schools secure the foundational knowledge and skills that every child needs by the end of key stage 1. Please see accompanying [press release](#) highlighting that a strong foundation in Reception and key stage 1 sets children up for success. Also see Ofsted's [webinar](#) in which the panellists - Sue Morris-King HMI, Deputy director, Schools and Early Education; Tim Jenner HMI, Senior HMI, Schools and Early Education and Kirsty Godfrey HMI, Senior HMI, Schools and Early Education - share some important messages from the report and give practical suggestions on how to help all children learn what they need to know by the end of key stage 1.

[Best start in life: a research review for early years](#)

Updated 8 October 2024- Ofsted

Added 'Best start in life part 3: the 4 specific areas of learning'. Please see accompanying [press release](#) emphasising that early years education is too important to be left to chance.

[Schools urged to sign up for free breakfast club rollout](#)

Updated 27 November 2024- DFE

Applications open for 750 schools to join 'early adopter' rollout and support local children to start the school day ready to learn.

[What academies and further education colleges must or should publish online](#)

Updated 24 October 2024- DFE

Information that academies – including any educational setting with academy arrangements – and further education (FE) colleges must or should publish on their website.

'We have updated the 'test, exam and assessment results' section. Some of the information which academies and FE colleges should publish has changed in that section. We have updated information for academies in the 'behaviour policy' section. We have also made changes to the 'pupil premium', 'PE and sport premium', 'complaints policy' and 'governance information' sections. Updated 'Governance information' section.'

[What maintained schools must or should publish online](#)

Updated 24 October 2024- DFE

Information that schools maintained by a local authority must or should publish on their website.

'We have updated the 'test, exam and assessment results' section. Some of the information which schools must publish has changed in that section. We have added detail on what schools should publish about governors in the 'governance information' section. We have also made changes to the 'pupil premium', 'PE and sport premium' and 'complaints policy' sections.'

Employing an apprentice

How to employ an apprentice. What's expected of you and what funding you can get.

Ofsted to postpone initial teacher education inspection cycle

Published 27 November 2024- Ofsted

Ofsted has postponed the start to its next initial teacher education (ITE) inspection cycle until the 2025/26 academic year, following a request by the Secretary of State for Education. The Secretary of State has requested the postponement ahead of more substantive changes to the ITE inspection framework, including the introduction of report cards, due in September 2025.