



## Updates from Ofsted and the DFE March 2025

Please click on the links below to access documents.

### Ofsted sets out proposals for fairer education inspections ...

Published - 3 February 2025- Ofsted

From autumn 2025, it's proposed that Ofsted will no longer carry out ungraded inspections of state-funded schools. This means every school will know that its next routine Ofsted inspection will be a full, graded one. Ofsted is also proposing that all schools with an identified need for improvement will receive monitoring calls and visits, to check that timely action is being taken to raise standards. This includes schools with any evaluation area graded 'attention needed'.

**Proposals** for a new inspection model include:

- Introducing the Ofsted report card, giving parents detailed information about standards across more areas of practice in their child's school, early years, or further education provider.
- Replacing the 'single word judgement' with a new 5-point grading scale for each evaluation area, including a new top 'exemplary' grade to help raise standards.
- Returning to schools with identified weaknesses, to check timely action is being taken to raise standards.
- Increasing focus on support for disadvantaged and vulnerable children and learners, including those with SEND.
- More emphasis on providers' circumstances and local context.
- New toolkits to tailor inspections to the phase and type of provider.

The proposed scale ranges from 'causing concern' at the lowest end, through 'attention needed', 'secure' and 'strong', to 'exemplary' – where a provider's practice is of such exceptional quality that it should be shared with others across the country so they can learn from it.

[New report cards - Ofsted's Chief Inspector explains our proposals](#)

February 2025- Ofsted

This short video explains what the proposed report cards might include and look like.

### Ofsted Academy

Updated 17 December 2024- Ofsted

Ofsted have added 3 further videos from their autumn 2024 conference for school inspectors. You can find the complete video directory for schools in the 'Recordings of inspector training materials' section.

[School inspection data summary report guide](#) - Updated the inspection data summary report (IDSR) for all schools with revised 2024 key stage 2 and 16 to 18 performance data. The IDSR guidance has been updated to reflect this change.

Updated 6 February 2025- Ofsted

[School inspection data summary report \(IDSR\) guide](#) This guide provides an overview of the inspection data summary report (IDSR) for primary and secondary schools, including schools with a sixth form and gives guidance on interpreting the data.

Updated 6 February 2025

### Reading and writing boost to drive high and rising standards

Published 5 February 2025- DFE Press Release

The DfE has outlined details of a £2 million investment to drive high and rising standards in reading and writing.

Building on the success of phonics, teachers will receive additional training to help children progress from the early stages of phonics in reception and year 1 through to reading fluently by the time they leave primary school. This will be delivered through the [English Hubs programme](#), a school-to-school improvement programme to drive up standards

## [Funding for national professional qualifications \(NPQs\)](#)

Updated 10 February 2025- DFE

You may be able to get your NPQ course fees paid for by the Department for Education. This is called scholarship funding. You do not need to apply for it.

1. [Scholarship funding for spring 2025](#)
2. [Settings that are eligible for scholarship funding](#)
3. [Funding restrictions](#)
4. [Suitability](#)
5. [Legacy NPQs](#)

## [Early headship coaching offer](#)

Updated: 16 December 2024- DFE

This targeted one-year support package has been tailored to the needs of new headteachers. [Funding](#) to cover the course fees is available to many state funded settings in England, subject to eligibility criteria and if you are:

- in your first 5 years of headship in England
- in a state-funded school
- doing or have done the [headship NPQ](#)

## [Experience-based route for early years staff](#)

Published 28 January 2025, Updated 3 March 2025- DFE

How early years providers can implement the experience-based route for staff who do not hold full and relevant qualifications.

This guidance outlines the recommended approach for early years providers who are interested in carrying out the experience-based route for staff in their setting.

This route allows for suitable and experienced staff, who do not hold full and relevant qualifications, to be included in the staff:child ratios at level 3 following a period of supervised practice.

## [Early years qualification requirements and standards](#)

Published February 2025, Updated 3 March 2025- 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).

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## **Initial teacher training (ITT): accreditation for the academic year 2026 to 2027**

Published 26 February 2025- DFE

This guidance is for organisations who wish to apply to become an accredited ITT provider and deliver from the academic year 2026 to 2027.

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## **Find, join or create a network for school business professionals**

Updated 27 February 2025- DFE

How business professionals working in schools can find, join or create a network of local school business professionals.

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## **Engaging students in justice**

June 2024- DFE

The [‘You be the Judge’ campaign](#). This was set up last year by the Lady Chief Justice, Lord Justice William Davis (Chair of the Sentencing Council), and Her Honour Judge Sapnara.

The new initiative from the Sentencing Council gives users the opportunity to watch six dramatised cases, listen to the facts, consider aggravating and mitigating factors, and determine an appropriate sentence.

The interactive platform aims to increase understanding among young people of how sentencing and sentencing guidelines work. It also aims to raise awareness of the role that judges and magistrates play in sentencing.







