



## Updates from Ofsted and the DFE January 2026

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

### **School inspections: frequently asked questions**

Published 11 December 2025 — Ofsted Blog- Lee Owston- Ofsted National Director, Education  
Ofsted have published 14 of the most frequently asked questions about the new school inspection.

They will regularly update this as they continue to inspect with their renewed approach.

If you want to watch any of the recent Ofsted webinars about the new inspection process, you can find them on Ofsted's [YouTube playlist](#).

### **Understanding Ofsted report cards and grades**

Published 1 December 2025 — Ofsted

A useful and clear explanation from Ofsted for parents and carers about the new-look report cards ... [Read more](#) It includes a 3 minute video.

[New Ofsted report cards and grades: a guide for parents](#)

[YouTube · Ofstednews](#)

[1 month ago](#)

### **[Ofsted Academy](#)**

[GOV.UK](#)

<https://www.gov.uk> > Corporate information

Updated 19 December 2025 — The Ofsted Academy

The new inspector training videos below have recently been added to the Ofsted Academy. You can find them in the link above in schools.

- Case sampling in schools
- Flexi-schooling and different approaches to education
- Different types of schools Key reminders

### **[Support for children with SEND who are not in school is inconsistent, inspectorates warn](#)**

Published 11 December 2025- Ofsted Press Release

A report by Ofsted and the Care Quality Commission (CQC) finds that support for children with special educational needs and/or disabilities (SEND) who do not attend school full-time is too inconsistent.

### **[IDSR: news and updates](#)**

Updated 12 December 2025- Ofsted- IDSR

Ofsted have updated the IDSR for all schools with the latest available data and for all applicable schools and schools with 2 corrections

## **School inspections: staff and pupil questionnaire text**

Updated 27 November 2025- Ofsted

The questions have been updated to align with the renewed education inspection framework. The page in the link above provides the questions for reference only.

## **Ofsted Parent View: guidance for schools**

Updated 27 November 2025- Ofsted

This guidance has been revised to align with the renewed education inspection framework.

## **Reception quality webinar series: autumn 2025 - Case study**

Published 7 January 2026- DFE

During the 2025 autumn term, the Department for Education (DfE) delivered a series of 6 regional improvement for standards and excellence (RISE) webinars on reception quality led by sector experts, including the Education Endowment Foundation (EEF), Ofsted and English Hubs.

These free webinars are available in the link above. The aim of these free webinars is to support schools, trusts and local authority leaders to increase the number of children who achieve a good level of development (GLD) at the end of their first year in school.

## **Teaching internships programme: summer 2026, 2027 and ...**

Updated 5 January 2026- DFE

This guidance has been updated with the details of the 2026-2028 programme. It explains funding for schools to offer paid internships to potential teachers in chemistry, computing, design and technology, maths, modern foreign languages and physics.

## **Use of reasonable force in schools**

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/use-of-reasonable-force-in-schools>

Updated 18 December 2025

Added 'Restrictive interventions, including use of reasonable force, in schools'. This will replace the 'Use of reasonable force in schools' guidance from 1 April 2026.

[Restrictive interventions, including the use of reasonable force, in schools \(effective from 1 April 2026\)](#)

## **Achieving better value when buying**

Published 4 December 2025 — DFE

This page brings together tools and guidance from the Department for Education (DfE) to support schools and trusts to get better value for money in line with procurement regulations.

[Ofsted to pause national professional qualification inspections](#) - Press release announcing that the Secretary of State for Education has requested that we pause our routine inspections of national professional qualifications (NPQ) for the remainder of the academic year 2025/26.

## **Government modernises exam records with new app - GOV.UK**

Published 8 January 2026- DFE Press Release

Year 11 students across England will be able to view their GCSE results on their phones for the first time from this summer.

It will make it easier for young people to enrol in their post-16 destination and will give them access to their results at their fingertips for life, providing employers with clear, accurate information on a job candidate's education history without relying on paper certificates which can be easily lost.

## **Strengthening literacy: key updates from the Curriculum and Assessment review**

Updated 10 November 2025- DFE

Earlier this month, we saw the [publication the Curriculum and Assessment Review final report](#).

The government has responded to the report, welcoming the review's recommendations and confirming how it intends to take the reforms forward.

Our next steps include:

- Publishing a revised national curriculum in 2027 for first teaching in 2028. We will also update our GCSEs, for first teaching from 2029 onwards.
- Ensuring there is greater clarity and specificity throughout the English curriculum, particularly for speaking, listening and drama.
- Creating a new oracy framework so that pupils become confident, fluent speakers and listeners by the end of primary. This will complement the existing [reading framework](#) and [writing framework](#).
- Improving the assessment of writing at key stage 2 so that it has a greater focus on fluent writing.
- Publishing a new combined secondary oracy, reading and writing framework.
- Supporting schools to draw on a range of high-quality products to assess pupil progress in writing in Year 8.
- Introducing a new statutory reading test in Year 8, designed to check both fluency and comprehension.
- Making significant changes to the Key Stage 4 English Programme of Study and the GCSE English Language subject content, to focus more clearly on the nature and expression of language, and to support critical analysis of a wider variety of text types and genres.
- Reviewing the genres specified in the English Key Stage 4 Programme of Study and GCSE English Literature subject content to ensure more diverse and representative texts, while continuing to study texts from the recognised body of English Literature.

## English Hubs and the writing framework

Updated 19 November 2025- DFE

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This academic year, the English Hubs are hosting a series of free webinars to support schools to implement the DFE's [writing framework](#), which was published in the summer. It provides guidance for primary school teachers and leaders on planning and teaching writing effectively.

The webinars cover:

- Webinar 1: The writing framework - key messages
- Webinar 2: Leadership and management of writing - creating a multi-year plan
- Webinar 3: The importance of reception
- Webinar 4: Transcription
- Webinar 5: Composition
- Webinar 6: Pupils who need the most support
- For details or to register for upcoming sessions, contact your local English Hub.

[Find your nearest English Hub here](#)

[Read how a school benefitted from the writing framework here](#)

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## Free CPD for secondary reading

Updated 19 December 2025- DFE

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The DFE have partnered with [FFT](#) to create a new CPD programme, Unlocking Reading.

This free opportunity is designed to help state-funded secondary schools build their knowledge, confidence and skills in supporting struggling readers, as well as embedding a whole-school approach to improving reading and attainment.

The programme launches in January 2026 with the opportunity for two staff members from each state funded secondary school to attend and network at a local in-person training session. This will be followed by access to a range of supporting online training modules tailored for school leaders, teachers and teaching assistants which all staff can access.

WThe DFE encourage applications from staff across a wide range of disciplines, not just English teachers, as this CPD has been developed to support whole-school approaches to reading.

**[Register your interest here](#)**