

Ofsted School Inspection Handbook – changes August 2016

On 23 August 2016 Ofsted published the updated Section 5 and Section 8 school inspection handbook. The following main changes were made to both documents:

Section 5 school inspection handbook

- In the section on seeking views during inspections, information about how staff and pupils are consulted during inspections to reflect the fact that the surveys are now online have been updated.
- In the 'schools causing concern' section, changes were made to guidance on monitoring inspections of grade 4 schools to take into account the recent legislative changes and the government's new Schools Causing Concern guidance.
- Under 'what happens during the inspection', details about who inspectors need to meet with to inspect governance at the school have been clarified.
- Under 'effectiveness of leadership and management', a reference to inspectors having consideration for governors' development in their role as part of the effectiveness of school leadership have been added.
- In the 'outcomes' section, the grade descriptors to reflect changes to national assessment and accountability measures have been amended.
- Linked to this, in the 'outcomes' section, the guidance about inspecting the performance of disadvantaged pupils to take account of the new -measures relating to pupil progress , including comparing the progress made nationally with other pupils with the same starting points have been revised.

Section 8 handbook for short, monitoring and unannounced behaviour inspections

- The clarification about inspecting governance and who inspectors should meet with updated in the section 5 handbook is also reflected in the updated section 8 handbook.
- A minor change had been made to reflect the fact that Ofsted Inspectors (as distinct from Her Majesty's Inspectors) may now be asked on occasion to lead section 8 'no formal designation' inspections.
- Under 'short inspections', a reference to online surveys to gather staff and pupil views has been made.
- A revision to the section on Requires Improvement monitoring to reflect the government's White Paper proposal on improvement periods for schools with new headteachers have been made.
- There is a detailed update to the guidance on monitoring of schools causing concern in the light of recent legislative changes (Education and Adoption Act 2016) and the revised Schools Causing Concern statutory guidance. This includes requirements relating to statements of action for schools in categories of concern.