

## OFSTED INSPECTION: AN OVERVIEW (2021/22)

### Types of inspection

Schools are inspected under [section 5](#) or [section 8](#) of the Education Act 2005 (as amended).

**Section 5** (para 186-188): Individual judgements are made so the overall effectiveness grade can be changed.

Judgements will be made about: Overall effectiveness; Quality of education; Behaviour and attitudes; Personal development; and Leadership and management.

If the school offers early years provision and sixth-form provision, inspectors will also make judgements on these areas.

**Section 8:** Typically, this does not result in individual graded judgements so the overall grade does not change.

However, in some circumstances (para 91) 'The section 8 inspection will be deemed to be a section 5 inspection, usually within 48 hours, if there are serious concerns about the quality of education, behaviour, potential gaming (including off-rolling) or safeguarding.'

### The frequency of inspection (refer to the tables on page 2)

'Inspections can take place at any point from 5 school days after the first day pupils attend in the autumn term' (section 5, para 71).

The frequency of inspection is set out in **section 5, para 41-44:**

'The regulations set the usual interval for section 5 inspections as within 5 school years from the end of the school year in which the last section 5 (or relevant section 8) inspection took place. However, for the first routine inspection of schools after 4 May 2021 the maximum interval will, instead be 7 years' (para 41).

'In November 2021, Ofsted committed to inspecting all schools between May 2021-July 2025 ... This means in practice that:

- we will inspect outstanding schools in line with the [section below on outstanding schools](#); and
- we are likely to inspect good schools last inspected in the 2016/17 academic year in the 2021/22 academic year, which is an extension of about 5 terms. From the 2022/23 academic year, we will work to gradually reduce this extension. In time, this will mean that we are likely to inspect good schools only 3-4 terms later than usual (so around 5 years after their last inspection). For subsequent inspections, we will return to inspecting good schools around every 4 years' (para 42).

'Before the pandemic, requires improvement and inadequate schools could expect an inspection approximately 30 months after their last inspection. For their first inspection since inspections were paused in 2020, this will be extended by 5 to 6 terms (so will be around 4 years from their last inspection). They will continue to receive monitoring inspections as outlined in the section 8 inspection handbook' (para 43).

**Section 8** handbook (para 43) states 'good and outstanding schools will normally receive a section 8 inspection approximately every 4 years. However, for the first routine inspection after 4 May 2021 this period may be extended by up to 6 terms' (ie two academic years).

**Section 5** handbook (para 151) states schools judged as requires improvement will be inspected 'again under section 5, usually within 30 months of the publication of the previous section 5 report. For the first inspection after the pandemic, this period will be extended by up to 6 terms.'

### Length of inspection

Section 5 inspections are likely to be two days. For section 8 inspections Ofsted indicates for schools of more than 150 pupils, the inspection is likely to be two days in length, with one inspector. However, where there are fewer than 150 pupils, the inspection is likely to be one day in length with two inspectors.

### Feedback and post-inspection

For details regarding to whom feedback will be provided, and to enable you to plan/prepare colleagues, please refer to the inspection handbooks: Section 5 handbook (para 148-150); and Section 8 handbook (para 25-27).

### Useful links

[Inspecting schools: guide for maintained and academy schools](#)

[Section 5 School inspection handbook](#)

[Section 8 School inspection handbook](#)

[Ofsted: Summary of changes \(section 5\)](#)

[Ofsted: Summary of changes \(section 8\)](#)

[Inspection timetable: what will the additional funding mean for your school](#) (Ofsted blog)

Current judgement	Date of previous inspection	Type of next inspection	Timescale of next inspection	Outcomes (next inspection)
Outstanding	Before September 2015	Section 5	By summer 2025 (starting with the oldest inspection judgements)	All four judgements are possible: Outstanding; Good; Requires Improvement; or Inadequate.
	After September 2015	Section 8		There are three possible outcomes (see section 8 para 81): <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The school continues to be Outstanding;</li> <li>Returning section 5 (within 1-2 years); or</li> <li>Deemed section 5 (usually within 48 hours).</li> </ul>

Current judgement	Date of previous inspection	Type of next inspection	Timescale of next inspection	Outcomes (next inspection)
Good	Before 4 May 2021	Section 8 [though some schools will receive a section 5 inspection (see section 8 para 44 for details)]	Up to 6 years (section 8, para 43) (‘we are likely to inspect good schools last inspected in the 2016/17 academic year in the 2021/22 academic year’ section 5, para 42)	<u>Section 8</u> There are four possible outcomes (see section 8, para 81): <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The school continues to be Good;</li> <li>Returning section 5 within 1-2 years (possible outstanding);</li> <li>Returning section 5 within 1-2 years (possible declining) or</li> <li>Deemed section 5 (usually within 48 hours).</li> </ul> <u>Section 5</u> All four judgements are possible: Outstanding; Good; Requires Improvement; or Inadequate.
	After 4 May 2021		Usually 4 years, but no more than 5 years as determined by the academic year of previous section 8 inspection (section 5, para 41)	
Good (returning section 5)	Before 4 May 2021	Section 5	Up to 7 years (determined by the academic year of the previous section 5 inspection)	All four judgements are possible: Outstanding; Good; Requires Improvement; or Inadequate.
	After 4 May 2021	Section 5	Up to 5 years (determined by the academic year of the previous section 5 inspection)	

Current judgement	Date of previous inspection	Nature of previous inspection	Type of next inspection	Timescale of next inspection	Outcomes (next inspection)
Requires Improvement	Before 4 May 2021	First RI judgement	Section 5	Usually within 30 months of the publication of the previous section 5, extended by up to 6 terms	All four judgements are possible: Outstanding; Good; Requires Improvement; or Inadequate.
		Subsequent RI judgement	Section 8 (monitoring visit)		‘Leaders and those responsible for governance are/are not taking effective action in order for the school to become a good school.’ Please refer to section 8 paras 127-132 for possible scenarios.
	After 4 May 2021	First RI judgement	Section 5	Usually within 30 months of the publication of the previous section 5	All four judgements are possible: Outstanding; Good; Requires Improvement; or Inadequate.
		Subsequent RI judgement	Section 8 (monitoring visit)		‘Leaders and those responsible for governance are/are not taking effective action in order for the school to become a good school.’ Please refer to section 8 paras 127-132.

#### **Schools causing concern**

Section 5 (para 154): ‘Schools whose overall effectiveness is judged to be inadequate (grade 4) will be deemed to be in a formal category of concern.’ Please refer to section 5 handbook, paras 155-173.