

Factsheet

New OFSTED framework for secondary academies



In November 2025, Ofsted introduced a new education inspection framework for inspecting schools. Prior to this, schools received judgements across four criteria with no overall grade for effectiveness.

The newly introduced framework, however, assesses the quality of education provided across a broader range of evaluation areas. Each Ofsted report also includes a breakdown of the school's context, with statistics about demographics and a comparison between the school and the national average.

EVALUATION AREAS

For secondary academies, the evaluation areas include:

- Safeguarding
- Achievement
- Attendance and behaviour
- Curriculum and teaching
- Inclusion
- Leadership and governance
- Personal development and well-being
- Early years in schools (where applicable)
- Sixth forms in schools (where applicable)

EVALUATION SCALE

The evaluation scale for each evaluation area, other than safeguarding (which is either 'Met' or 'Not met'), is as follows:

- Exceptional ●: *practice is of the highest standard nationally*
- Strong standard ●: *the school is working above the standards expected of them*
- Expected standard ●: *the school is fulfilling the standards expected of them*
- Needs attention ●: *expected standards are not met but it is likely that leaders can make the necessary improvements*
- Urgent improvement ●: *the school needs to take action to provide the expected standard of education and/or care*

As a rule of thumb, if a school meets the 'expected standard' for a provision, this is deemed a good and solid outcome.

As in the past, each school's Ofsted report is available on its website where it can be read in full. If you have any questions about the new inspection framework, please get in touch with your child's school directly.