

<b>DIRECTORS' REPORT AUTUMN TERM 2018</b>	<b>ITEM NO 9</b>	<b>FOR INFORMATION</b>	<b>ATTENTION OF:</b> All governors
<b>TITLE</b>	<b>Ofsted update</b>		
<b>SUMMARY</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• April 2018 updates to section 8 and section 5 inspection handbooks</li> <li>• Update on the role of governing boards during an inspection</li> <li>• Amanda Spielman speech on future direction of Ofsted</li> <li>• How inspectors use inspection data summary reports</li> <li>• Details of the new interim National Schools Commissioner</li> </ul>		
<b>KEY ACTION POINTS</b>			
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### Updates to section 8 and section 5 inspection handbooks

April 2018 Ofsted finalised a small number of updates to its section 5 inspection and section 8 handbooks which have now been published. For section 5 inspection handbook see <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/school-inspection-handbook-from-september-2015> and section 8 see <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/handbook-for-short-monitoring-and-unannounced-behaviour-school-inspections>

These updates bring some changes to the inspection time frame:

- Extending the usual time frame within which good schools receive a short inspection from three to four years. The maximum period within which Ofsted would return to a school remains the statutory five years from the end of the academic year of the previous inspection; and
- Aligning the re-inspection window for requires improvement, serious weakness and special measures schools to **up to** 30 months (from 30, 18, and 24 months, respectively).

By making these changes, Ofsted will be providing its Regional Directors with greater discretion about the date of re-inspection. This will allow them to take into account the circumstances and progress of the schools in question. Regular monitoring of requires improvement and inadequate schools will continue as it is now with Ofsted's usual risk assessment processes remaining in place. If a school needs to be inspected more urgently or given more time to consolidate improvement, then Ofsted will still retain the flexibility to do so at the discretion of the Regional Director.

### Governing boards' role in inspections

Ofsted has published an update (July 2018) for its inspectors, which includes clarification on governing boards' role during the inspection:

[https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/723268/School\\_inspection\\_update\\_060718.pdf](https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/723268/School_inspection_update_060718.pdf)

"Inspectors should make clear to the headteacher, at the start of the inspection, that all governors/trustees must be informed of the inspection and that arrangements should be made for inspectors to meet the chair of governors/chair of the board of trustees and as many governors/trustees as possible during the inspection, and that as many governors/trustees as possible should also be invited to attend the final feedback meeting."

Ofsted has previously [clarified](#) that all those on the governing board should be informed of the provisional outcome, including those who are unable to attend the final feedback meeting.

The update also highlights some other issues which are relevant to governing boards:

- The new Department for Education (DfE) [guidance](#) on safeguarding recommends (see item 21) that schools hold more than one emergency contact number for each pupil (above the legal minimum)
- Inspectors will ask secondary school leaders about what they are doing in response to the Department for Education's (DfE's) [ambition](#) for the vast majority of pupils to study the EBacc
- Inspectors will consider the DfE's [recent guidance](#) on gender separation in mixed schools
- That caution is required when considering the performance of groups of pupils (for example, by pupil characteristic), particularly small groups
- Ofsted has no expectation about how primary schools should be carrying out assessment or recording pupils' achievements and there is no requirement for numerical data to be used

## Other Ofsted blogs

One of Her Majesty's Inspector's (HMI) takes readers through the process that he would adopt when undertaking a one day, section 8 Inspection. The relevant blog can be accessed at <https://educationinspection.blog.gov.uk/2018/03/14/dan-lambert-her-majestys-inspector-on-a-section-8-inspection/>

## Ofsted chief indicates future direction

In a [speech](#) to the Bryanston Education summit, Her Majesty's Chief Inspector Amanda Spielman set out three principles informing the development of the 2019 Ofsted framework:

1. Giving schools more than a grade: inspection reports should give a clear assessment of strengths and weaknesses, with a focus on capacity, and insight into what is distinctive about a school;
2. Using data appropriately: ensuring that there is more "focus on the key data that really matters", rather than scrutinising every sub-group of pupils at school level;
3. Wider societal issues: avoiding a situation, "Where schools are expected to address every one of society's ills and inspection is supposed to be the tool to ensure they do it."

On improving the process of inspection for school leaders and staff, she said, "I want to make sure as much inspection resource as possible is on site engaging with leaders and teachers, having those professional conversations, not just polishing written reports." She also emphasised the importance of ensuring inspection reports provide parents with useful information about schools, including information that is up to date. She related that Ofsted are currently in discussions with the Department for Education on reviewing 'outstanding' schools' exemption from inspection.

## The Inspection Data Summary Reports (IDSR)

The IDSR is a tool showing historical data for previous cohorts which inspectors will use when preparing for inspections. The IDSR contains data for context, trends over time, progress and attainment, highlighting data for the disadvantaged group. Schools' IDSRs will be updated following each Analyse School Performance (ASP) release. The current IDSR shows 2017 amended data for both primary and secondary schools.

Ofsted guidance in March 2018 on how IDSR for primary and secondary schools could be used, by inspectors.

Guidance highlighted that in order to inform areas to investigate on inspection, inspectors should look at:

- How cohorts have performed across time to see if there has been a consistent trend
- The distribution of scores within a cohort, using the scatterplots in the IDSR. This includes identifying whether all pupils in the cohort were above or below similar pupils nationally.

Whilst data is shown for special schools, due to the varied outcomes of pupils in these settings, percentile rank information has not been calculated. Therefore, special schools do not have a trend page or shading on progress pages.

The guidance is keen to underline that during an Ofsted inspection, inspectors will give most weight to the outcomes, attendance and behaviour of pupils currently in the school, but also taking into account historical data. The IDSR guidance can be accessed [here](#) [www.gov.uk/government/collections/using-ofsteds-inspection-dashboard](http://www.gov.uk/government/collections/using-ofsteds-inspection-dashboard) or see item 10 for more information on the IDSR guidance document.

## Schools Commissioner

Dominic Herrington has been confirmed as the interim National Schools Commissioner (NSC) following the retirement of Sir David Carter announced in April. Since 2014, Mr Herrington has been the regional school's commissioner for the East of England and South London and will continue overseeing this area of work. The NSC leads the team of regional school's commissioners (RSCs) to:

- Support the creation of new academies and free schools and recruiting high quality academy sponsors
- Improve the performance of underperforming academies and free schools.