

OFSTED Information for Parents

understanding ofsted report cards and grades

As you have probably heard, Ofsted has changed how they report the findings of their education inspections. We appreciate these changes can be confusing to parents and carers so hope this one page guide helps you to better understand the report your child's school has just received.

New Ofsted grading system

The main change is that Ofsted no longer gives one overall judgement, such as 'good', 'outstanding' or 'requires improvement'.

Instead, the report cards show colour-coded grades for different areas, like 'attendance and behaviour', 'achievement', 'personal development and well-being', and 'inclusion' (meaning how well the school or other provider meets the needs of all children).

The New Grades

They grade these areas on a new scale:

Exceptional - they will only award this grade when they see practice that is among the very best nationally, which should be shared with other schools or providers to help them improve.

Strong standard - this marks out excellent, consistent work that's making a real difference for children.

Expected standard - this is just that – it means the school is doing everything that it should be doing, so you'll see the green colour coding on the report card. It's a high standard, to make sure your children are receiving everything they need and deserve.

Needs attention - an indication that there is work to be done to reach the 'expected standard'. It's not a 'fail' but it highlights where issues can be addressed before they become bigger problems that need 'urgent improvement'. Think of it like an advisory note following a car's MOT.

Urgent improvement - this grade means there are big problems that need to be dealt with quickly.

Safeguarding - the new report tells you whether safeguarding responsibilities are met or not met.



IMPORTANT TO NOTE

- It's important to understand that the new grades can't be compared to the old ones: this is a different approach to inspection and a new way of reporting to you.
- You may see a mix of grades across a report card: it's perfectly possible to achieve highly in some areas, and require a little more focus in others.
- Alongside the grades, you'll see detailed descriptions of what inspectors found.
- You'll see a new and hugely important section, the report tells you what it's like to be a child in this school.

Of course, you are always welcome to speak with school leaders if you would like to find out more about what the inspector said about your child's school.

Finally, we have created a QR code that will take you straight to a three minute video from Ofsted on their new report cards and grades. Simply scan the code below



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