

Update on the phased return to inspection

Schools – summer 2021



The next phase of inspections

In the next phase of our phased return to inspection, we will:

- continue to give schools the space to focus on recovery, but will balance that with providing constructive support and challenge through inspection
- focus on schools that are less than good, or have gone a long time without being inspected.

Graded inspections will take place where there are significant issues (such as safeguarding) or where a school is potentially ready to come out of a category of concern.

A full programme of routine inspections will not restart until later in 2021.



Inspection plans: overview

Although routine graded inspections will not begin before September 2021, some graded inspections will take place across summer term.

Monitoring inspections of 'inadequate' schools will continue. They will now convert to a full, graded section 5 inspection if the school is showing significant improvement.

Monitoring inspections of some schools judged 'requires improvement' will also continue but will convert to a full graded inspection if there are serious concerns (for example, about safeguarding) or if the school shows significant improvement.

Section 8 inspection of some 'good' schools. As usual, they will convert if we have serious concerns.

'No formal designation' (NFD) inspections will continue to be carried out if we have significant concerns (for example, about safeguarding).

Inspection on request. Outstanding schools will be able to request a graded inspection.



Selection of providers for inspection

- We will select schools for monitoring inspections in the normal way:
 - schools judged as requires improvement at their last two (or more) consecutive section 5 inspections
 - schools judged as inadequate, including those subject to a live directive academy order.
- We may also carry out some monitoring inspections of other schools judged as requires improvement at regional directors' discretion and based on our risk assessment.
- 'Good' schools not inspected in the last five years will be selected for a section 8 inspection.



Inspections

will follow the section 5 and section 8 inspection handbooks (as amended).



Quality of education

We will continue to use **transitional provisions** related to curriculum 'intent', updating the wording to add a COVID-19 context.

Behaviour and attitudes

We will take account of the COVID-19 context in **attendance** and **extra curricular activity** in personal development.

Leadership and management

We will make amendments to clarify that schools should have maintained an **ambitious vision** during the pandemic.

Process of inspection

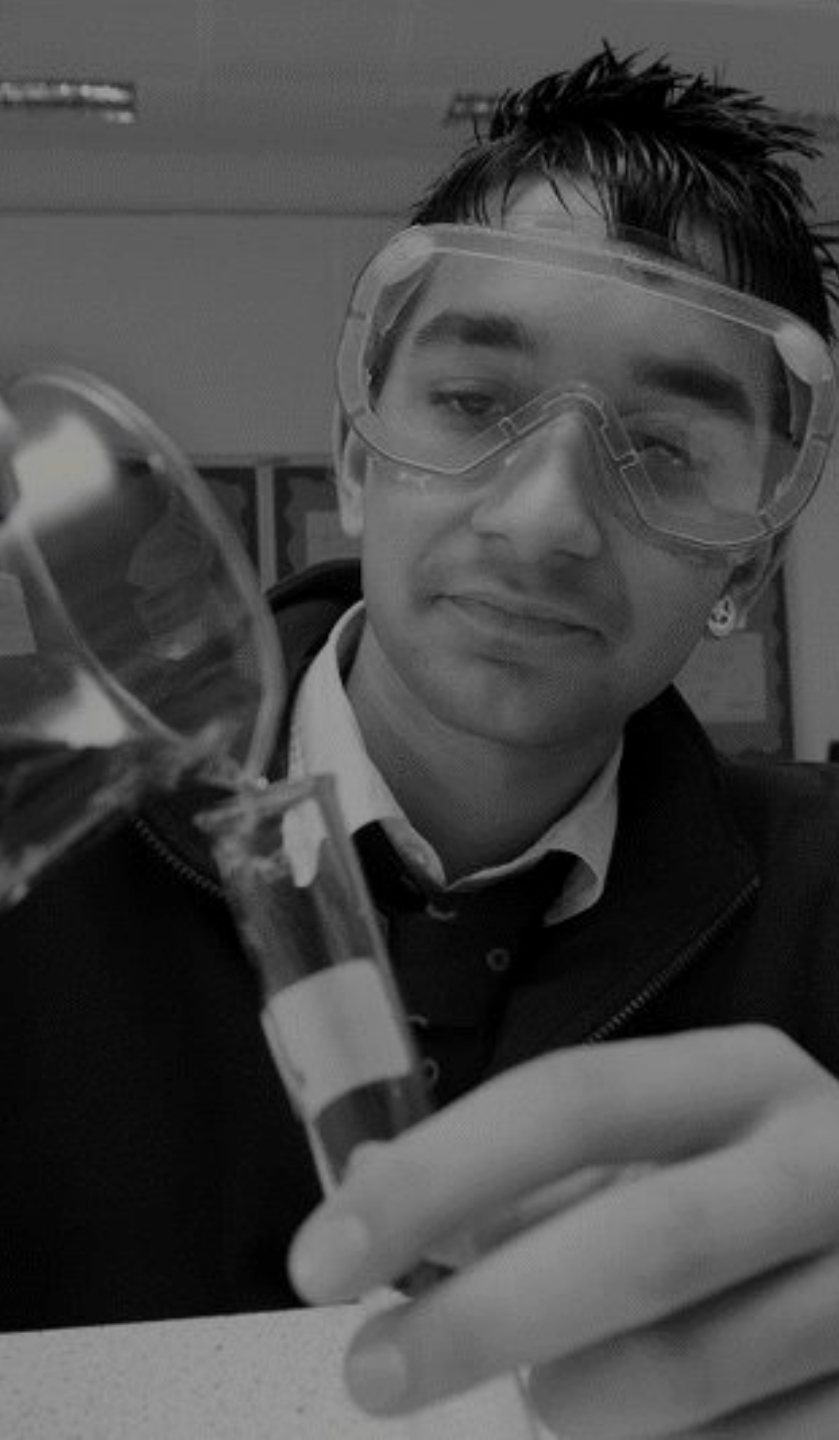
We will discuss the impact of COVID-19 on the school community in the normal notification call. We may make some changes to the process, for example, allowing some aspects of the inspection to take place remotely.

Ensuring inspection safety

Leaders may request a deferral on the day of the notification.

The lead inspector will discuss in their initial call:

- the relevant COVID-19 restrictions
- how inspectors can work effectively within the protective measures in place
- the type of activities needed to gather evidence for the inspection
- what impact the restrictions have had on the school and its improvement work.



After the inspection

Draft report

Share a draft report with the school **within 18 working days** of the end of the inspection.

Comments

Allow **five working days** for the school to comment on the draft report, process and findings.

Publish

Publish the report **within 38 working days** of the end of the visit.

Feedback

Ask for feedback about the process through a **post-inspection survey**.

Quality assure

Quality assure **evidence bases and reports**.

Retention

Retain the inspection evidence base, in line with our **retention and disposal policy**.

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