

1. INTRODUCTION

Following the white paper *The Importance of Teaching* [DfE, 2010] and the *Education Bill 2011*¹ Ofsted has published for consultation ***Inspection 2012: Proposals for inspection arrangements for maintained schools and academies from January 2012***. The Bill makes changes to the statutory reporting areas for inspection and specifies that inspections in future will report on ‘the quality of education provided in the school’, giving priority to:

- the achievement of pupils at the school
- the quality of teaching in the school
- the quality of the leadership in and management of the school
- the behaviour and safety of pupils at the school.

Ofsted is planning to try out the new inspection arrangements in the summer of 2011, and to evaluate and refine the arrangements in the light of the views of schools and inspectors involved.

The consultation runs until Friday **20 May 2011**.

2. THE MAIN INSPECTION HEADINGS

[Paragraph references are to paragraphs in the consultation document]

From 2012 it is proposed that school inspections will:

- i. Report on the quality of the education provided by the school, giving priority to the achievement of its pupils and their behaviour and safety, the quality of teaching and the quality of leadership and management of the school *[paragraphs 1–4]*.
- ii. Take account of the **spiritual, moral, social and cultural development of pupils** and the extent to which the education provided enables every pupil to achieve her or his potential, particularly **disabled pupils** and **pupils who have special educational needs** *[5]*.
- iii. Be more streamlined, giving greater priority to **detailed observation of teaching and learning** *[6–7]*.
- iv. Take particular account of **pupils’ attainment** and **rates of progress** when evaluating achievement *[9–13]*.
- v. Focus strongly on standards of **reading and numeracy in primary** schools and **literacy in secondary** schools *(11)*.
- vi. Use **measures of relative progress** other than contextual value-added indicators *[14–17]*.
- vii. Give more emphasis to reporting on **pupils’ behaviour**, with particular attention to conduct in **lessons and around the school**, and each pupil’s safety from **bullying and harassment** *[18–22]*.
- viii. Focus more of the available inspection time on **evaluating the quality of teaching and the use of assessment** to support effective learning *[23–25]*.
- ix. Evaluate **how well reading is taught** in **primary** schools and **literacy** is taught in **secondary** schools *[25]*.
- x. Judge the effectiveness of **leadership and management**, especially the **leadership of teaching and learning** *[26–34]*.
- xi. Judge the **overall effectiveness of the school** by giving more weight to the quality of teaching and pupils’ achievement, their behaviour and the impact of leadership and management, including how well the school promotes the spiritual, moral, social and cultural development of pupils *[35–36]*.
- xii. Report on the effectiveness of **sixth form** and **early years** provision **within the other reporting areas** rather than as separate sections *[37]*.

Ofsted also proposes to:

- xiii. **Continue to take account of self-evaluation evidence** in the form adopted by the school *[38]*.

¹ See, respectively, DSS Summaries DSS 10/11 18 (December 2010) and DSS 10/11 25 (February 2011).

- xiv. Undertake **annual risk assessment of good and outstanding schools** beginning three years after their latest inspection [39-42].
- xv. **Stop** the routine inspection of **most schools judged outstanding** at their last inspection 43-44].
- xvi. Inspect schools previously judged as good **within five years** of their last inspection [45-46].
- xvii. Take **greater account of the views of parents and carers** in deciding when a school should be inspected [42].
- xviii. Strengthen the **monitoring of satisfactory schools** [47-50].
- xix. Target inspection to bring about **more rapid improvement in schools judged to be inadequate** [51-55].
- xx. Respond more flexibly to **requests made by schools for an inspection** [56-60].

The complete consultation document can be viewed/downloaded at:
<http://www.ofsted.gov.uk/publications/110025>