

Have your say about how we inspect independent schools

A young person's consultation

If you go to an independent school... we need your help!

We want your views about how we at Ofsted should be inspecting it!

In this document, we are going to tell you about how we plan to do our inspections of independent schools in the future. There are four ideas we would like your views on.

Please let us know what you think by 21 February 2014.

We **will** take notice of your views. We want to get this right for children and young people.

Age group: 5-19

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About Ofsted

Ofsted is the organisation that inspects schools to make sure they are doing their best for children and young people.

When we inspect an independent school like yours, we do three things.

- We check whether the school is keeping to the law about independent schools.
- We write a report telling the school, parents and carers, pupils and other people how the school is doing.
- We try to help the school to do even better in the future.

What this is all about

We are thinking about making changes to the way we inspect independent schools so that:

- our inspections can help schools do even better in the future
- in the future we inspect all schools the same, making it easier to compare how schools are doing.

How you can tell us what you think about our ideas

There are three ways for you to give us your views.

You can complete the questionnaire online: www.surveymonkey.com/s/ofsted-ind2014-chd.

You can download the form from our website: www.ofsted.gov.uk/resources/130248, complete it on your computer and then email it to: enquiries@ofsted.gov.uk.

You can print the form from our website: www.ofsted.gov.uk/resources/130248, fill it in by hand and then post it to:

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Thank you very much for filling in our questionnaire. Your views will help us decide how we should inspect independent schools. So, what you have told us could make a huge difference to how we do things in the future!

The ideas we would like your views on

Judging all schools the same way

In other schools we say how they are doing in each of the areas listed below, which we call 'judgements'. We think we should look at these areas when we inspect independent schools:

- how well the school is doing overall
- how well the pupils are doing
- how good the teaching is
- how well pupils behave and how well the school is keeping them safe
- how well the school is run.

Idea 1.

Independent schools should be judged the same way as all the other schools we inspect.

I agree a lot	I agree	I'm in the middle on this one	I disagree	I disagree a lot	Don't know
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Anything else you'd like to say about this:

Schools that need to do better

When inspectors inspect a school, they look at each of the areas in the list above. They decide how good each area is, and give it a grade. There are four grades:

- grade 1 is 'outstanding'
- grade 2 is 'good'
- grade 3 is 'adequate'
- grade 4 is 'inadequate'

We want all schools in England to at least be good. Schools that are graded 3 are just OK but could do much better for pupils so we are thinking of changing that grade to 'requires improvement' which basically means it needs to do much better.

Idea 2.
Inspectors will say that a school 'requires improvement' instead of saying it is 'adequate'.

I agree a lot	I agree	I'm in the middle on this one	I disagree	I disagree a lot	Don't know
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Anything else you'd like to say about this:

When should inspectors visit?

At the moment, if an inspector thinks a school needs to do better they go back and inspect it again three years later. We think they should go back sooner than that to make sure it is getting better.

We think the next inspection should be two years later, rather than three years.

Idea 3.
Inspectors should go back after two years to inspect independent schools that need to do better.

I agree a lot	I agree	I'm in the middle on this one	I disagree	I disagree a lot	Don't know
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Anything else you'd like to say about this:

Helping schools get better

At the moment, if a school is not doing well enough, inspectors grade it as 'inadequate' and go back to the school after a few months to do what we call a 'monitoring inspection'. This is a short inspection to check up on the things that the inspectors said that the school needed to do much better.

We think we should also do these monitoring inspections for the schools that are doing OK (better than inadequate) but who could do better, those that are graded as 'adequate' by inspectors.

What do you think?

Idea 4.
Inspectors should do 'monitoring' inspections to check on independent schools that are doing OK as well as ones that are not doing well enough.

I agree a lot	I agree	I'm in the middle on this one	I disagree	I disagree a lot	Don't know
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Anything else you'd like to say about this:

What happens after the consultation?

Everyone has until **21 February 2014** to fill in the questionnaire. After that, we will read what everyone has told us and think carefully about how we should do our inspections of independent schools from April 2014 onwards.

We will write a report for adults and one for you, and publish them on our website (www.ofsted.gov.uk).

The report for you will tell you all the main things that children and young people have told us and the main things that adults have said. It will tell you what we have decided about how we will inspect independent schools from April 2014.

You can find out more about Ofsted on our website www.ofsted.gov.uk.

About you

Your answers to the following questions will help us to check how well we are getting views from as many people as possible. You do not have to answer every question if you do not want to. We won't tell anyone what your answers are.

Please tick the appropriate box.

1. My gender

I am a girl	<input type="checkbox"/>	I am a boy	<input type="checkbox"/>
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2. My age is:

Under 7	7–11	12–14	15–17	18 and over
<input type="checkbox"/>				

3. My ethnic background

Please tick one box that best describes you.

Asian		Mixed ethnic origin	
Bangladeshi	<input type="checkbox"/>	Asian and White	<input type="checkbox"/>
Indian	<input type="checkbox"/>	Black African and White	<input type="checkbox"/>
Pakistani	<input type="checkbox"/>	Black Caribbean and White	<input type="checkbox"/>

Any other Asian background (specify if you wish)	<input type="checkbox"/>	Any other mixed ethnic background (specify if you wish)	<input type="checkbox"/>
Black		White	
African	<input type="checkbox"/>	Any White background (specify if you wish)	<input type="checkbox"/>
Caribbean	<input type="checkbox"/>	Any other ethnic background	<input type="checkbox"/>
Any other Black background (specify if you wish)	<input type="checkbox"/>	Any other background (specify if you wish)	<input type="checkbox"/>
Chinese	<input type="checkbox"/>	Don't know	<input type="checkbox"/>
Any Chinese background (specify if you wish)	<input type="checkbox"/>		

4. Disability

Do you think you are disabled?	Yes <input type="checkbox"/>	No <input type="checkbox"/>	I don't know <input type="checkbox"/>
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