



Helen Ridding
Diocesan Deputy Director of Education
London Diocesan Board for Schools
www.ldbs.co.uk

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Dear Parents and Carers,

You may already know that there is a renewed Ofsted inspection framework. The framework came into effect in November 2025. Very few schools have been inspected so far, so we thought it might be helpful to share an overview of the changes and to provide you with some useful online links so that you know what to expect next time your child's school is inspected.

Schools will now be evaluated across these areas: Safeguarding; Inclusion; Curriculum and Teaching; Achievement; Attendance and Behaviour; Leadership and Governance; Personal Development and Well-being; Early Years (where relevant); Sixth Form (where relevant).

Ofsted will no longer use the old grades such as Outstanding, Good or Requires Improvement. Instead, schools will receive a report card using a five-point grading scale for each area. The new grades are: Exceptional, Strong Standard, Expected Standard, Needs Attention, Urgent Improvement.

Ofsted still has high expectations for all schools, and the standards for each grade are now tougher. The new grades cannot be directly compared to the old ones because the inspection approach has changed significantly. For example, the previous grade 'Outstanding' is not the same as the new 'Exceptional'.

Most schools are expected to meet the 'Expected Standard.' This means they are providing an effective education and meeting all the required expectations. Some schools may be judged as 'Strong Standard' in some or all areas, and only a very small number across the country will be judged as 'Exceptional.' An advisory of 'Needs Attention' means the school needs to make some improvements in that area so that things don't become bigger concerns later. Ofsted describes this as being like an advisory note on a car MOT.

You might wish to [read about it in more detail](#) or watch the following videos which provide more information on the renewed framework:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=kbl0FvY976g>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Olpo-M6Zbrc>

LDBS Church schools provide an excellent quality of education and, on average, pupils attain higher standards than they would in other schools. LDBS schools were evaluated positively under the last Ofsted framework, and we are confident that this will continue under the new one.

I would like to thank you, on behalf of LDBS, for your ongoing support for the school staff and governors as they strive to provide the very best education for your children.

Yours faithfully,

Helen Ridding
Diocesan Deputy Director of Education