

Overview of Ofsted's Judgements

Inspectors evaluate schools against the following key judgements:

- quality of education
- behaviour and attitudes
- personal development
- leadership and management

Ofsted Judgements

Inspectors use the following 4-point scale to make all judgements:

- outstanding
- good
- requires improvement
- inadequate

Outstanding is a challenging and exacting judgement. In order to reach this standard, inspectors will determine whether the school meets all the criteria for good under that judgement, and does so securely and consistently.

In other words, it is not enough that the school is strong against some aspects of the judgement and not against others, but it must meet each and every good criterion. In addition, there are further criteria set out under the outstanding judgement, which the school will also need to meet.

Grade descriptors for quality of education

In order for the quality of education judgement to be outstanding, the school must meet all of the good criteria securely and consistently and it must also meet the additional outstanding criteria.

Outstanding

- The school meets *all the criteria for a good quality of education securely and consistently*.
- The quality of education provided is exceptional.

In addition, the following apply.

- The school's curriculum intent and implementation are embedded securely and consistently across the school. It is evident from what teachers do that they have a firm and common understanding of the school's curriculum intent and what it means for their practice. Across all parts of the school, series of lessons contribute well to delivering the curriculum intent.
- The work given enables pupils, over time and across the school, to consistently achieve the aims of the curriculum, which is coherently

planned and sequenced towards cumulatively sufficient knowledge and skills for future learning and employment.

- Pupils' work across the curriculum is consistently of a high quality.
- Pupils consistently achieve highly, particularly the most disadvantaged. Pupils with SEND achieve exceptionally well.

Grade descriptors for overall effectiveness

In making their judgements about a school's overall effectiveness, inspectors will consider whether the standard of education is good or whether it exceeds good and is outstanding.

In judging the school's overall effectiveness, inspectors will take account of the 4 key judgements.

Inspectors will always make a written judgement about the effectiveness of the arrangements for safeguarding pupils.

Outstanding

- The quality of education is outstanding.
- All other key judgements are likely to be outstanding.
- Safeguarding is effective.

Good

- The quality of education is at least good.
- All other key judgements are likely to be good or outstanding. In exceptional circumstances, one of the other key judgement areas may require improvement, as long as there is convincing evidence that the school is improving this area sustainably and securely towards good.
- Safeguarding is effective.

For full details see:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/school-inspection-handbook>