School inspections

A guide for parents

This document applies to all schools in the Bailiwick of Guernsey.

Age group: 4–19

Published: November 2021

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Why does Ofsted inspect schools?

We inspect schools to provide information to parents, to promote improvement and to hold schools to account. School inspections are carried out under section 35 of the Education Law 1970. We provide an independent assessment of the quality and standards of education in schools, and check whether pupils are achieving as much as they can.

Who inspects schools?

His Majesty's Inspectors carry out the inspections. All inspectors have been trained to, and assess against, Ofsted's standards.

When do inspections happen and how long do they last?

Ofsted is required to inspect, at prescribed intervals, all schools in the Bailiwick of Guernsey. Schools will be inspected within four years from the start of November 2021. After this time, a school will be inspected within a five-year period of time from the end of the school year in which the last inspection took place. A sudden deterioration in standards or major safeguarding concerns would also trigger an inspection.

A standard inspection usually lasts two days and the number of inspectors on the inspection team will vary according to the size and nature of the school.

What judgements do inspectors make?

Inspectors will evaluate the work of the school through the following four indicators:

- the quality of eduction
- behaviour and attitudes
- personal development and welfare
- leadership and management.

Where applicable, inspectors will also evaluate the effectiveness of the early years or sixth-form provision in the school.

Inspectors use the following four-point-scale for all evaluations:

- grade 1 (excellent)
- grade 2 (good)
- grade 3 (requires improvement)
- grade 4 (inadequate).

The school must take all reasonable steps to make sure that parents of pupils at the school receive a copy of the report.

What happens if Ofsted judges an indicator to be requires improvement or inadequate?

If inspectors judge any indicator to be requires improvement or inadequate, the Education Office will coordinate subsequent support and any improvement arrangements, and liaise with Ofsted as required for any future monitoring support.

How much notice do you give to a school before you inspect?

Ofsted will normally contact the school and the States of Guernsey Education Office by telephone to announce the inspection, allowing two school days' notice before the inspection begins.

What happens during an inspection?

Inspectors talk to the headteacher, Education Office, staff and pupils, and consider your views as a parent. They spend most of their time observing a wide range of lessons and looking at the quality of education in the school, and the impact of the curriculum. Inspectors give specific attention to the acquisition of knowledge, understanding and skills in lessons.

They also look at the personal development, behaviour, attitudes and welfare of pupils at the school, the promotion of spiritual, moral, social and cultural development; and how well the school is led and managed.

Inspection and the COVID-19 pandemic

Our approach to inspection will take into account the COVID-19 pandemic and the disruption it has caused to schools. Inspectors will discuss the impact of the pandemic with the school, including how the school leadership responded to the situation, and will take that into account in their assessment of the school.

How can I make my views known?

If you are the registered parent of a child at the school, the school will contact you to notify you of the dates of the inspection. They will provide you with details and options for providing your views via the online Guernsey parent survey questionnaire. Inspectors will use the views expressed via the survey when inspecting your child's school.

Can I speak to the inspectors?

You may have the chance to speak to the inspectors during the inspection, for example at the start of the school day. You can ask the school office to pass on messages to the inspectors and you may be able to arrange telephone conversations if you are unable to speak to them in person. Please remember that inspectors cannot deal with complaints concerning individual pupils or settle disputes between you and the school.

What happens after the inspection?

The lead inspector reports their evaluations to the headteacher and Education Office. The inspectors' findings are published in a report for the school, parents and the wider community. Inspection reports provide information about the effectiveness of the school's work and contain recommendations about what the school should do to improve further. Reports will be normally published on the States of Guernsey website.

Where can further details be found about school inspections?

The school inspection handbook sets out the statutory basis for inspections, what schools can expect at inspections and provide guidance for inspectors on making their judgements.

What happens if I have concerns about the inspection process?

Complaints are rare, but we treat them very seriously. You will need to make contact with the Education Office first. They will liaise with Ofsted. You can contact the Education Office via the detail below:

Telephone: 01481 224 000

Email: educationsportandculture@gov.gg

What happens if I have other concerns about my child's school?

If you are concerned about your child's school, you should always start by talking directly to the teachers or headteacher. More information about how to raise a concern or a complaint about schools in Guernsey and Alderney can be found at: COMPLIMENTS, COMMENTS, COMPLAINTS (gov.gg)

Privacy notice

During the inspection of your child's school, the inspectors will collect information about children at the school by talking to them, looking at the school's documents and responses to the pupil survey, where appropriate, and observing the everyday life of the school. In most cases, we do not record names. However, some of the information may make it possible to identify a particular child. Ofsted uses this information to prepare its report and for the purposes set out in its privacy policy. Ofsted will not publish any information that identifies a child in the report. More information is available in Ofsted's privacy notice.

The Office for Standards in Education, Children's Services and Skills (Ofsted) regulates and inspects to achieve excellence in the care of children and young people, and in education and skills for learners of all ages in England. Ofsted has been commissioned by the States of Guernsey to inspect its schools.

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