



25th April 2022

Agenda Item: 9

REPORT OF THE SERVICE DIRECTOR, EDUCATION, LEARNING AND SKILLS

OUTCOMES OF OFSTED INSPECTIONS OF SCHOOLS – TERMLY UPDATE

Purpose of the Report

1. To inform the Committee of the outcomes of inspections of state funded schools over the Autumn term 2021 and any actions being taken by the Council to support those schools identified as Requiring Improvement (RI) or Ofsted category of concern.
2. For the schools identified in the report judged by Ofsted to Require Improvement, the report seeks approval for the Chairman of the Children and Young People's Committee and the Corporate Director of Children and Families Services to write to the head teacher and chair of governors to inform them that the Committee will track closely their progress towards becoming a Good school. In relation to academies, the Chairman and Corporate Director will also write to the Regional Schools Commissioner.
3. For schools identified in the report judged by Ofsted to remain or become Good or Outstanding, the report also seeks approval for the Chairman of the Children and Young People's Committee and the Corporate Director of Children and Families Services to write to the head teacher and chair of governors of Local Authority maintained schools to congratulate them on their achievement. Copies of congratulatory letters will also be sent to the Regional Schools Commissioner in relation to academies judged to be Good, remain Good or Outstanding.

Information

4. There is a time lag between inspection outcomes as known within the Council and the published summary data. This report will focus on published Ofsted reports for the Autumn term, 2021-22 academic year.
5. This report draws on two main sources of data:
 - Ofsted's website www.gov.uk/government/organisations/ofsted which publishes individual school inspection reports, usually within two weeks of inspection. However, this can take considerably longer for a school that is judged as Inadequate as Ofsted carries out increased quality assurance exercises. This can take up to two months to complete.

- Ofsted's monthly management information <https://www.gov.uk/government/statistical-data-sets/monthly-management-information-ofsteds-school-inspections-outcomes>. This is up to date as at 28th February 2022 and provides data on the proportion of Good schools at Local Authority level but not the proportion of learners attending Good schools. This provides an overall comparison of the performance of Nottinghamshire schools with those nationally.

6. All schools inspected across the Autumn term 2021 were inspected under the revised inspection framework. The revised framework has brought some significant changes to the inspection process.

- Schools are graded on the areas that Ofsted believe matter most to parents:
 - the quality of education
 - behaviour and attitudes
 - personal development
 - leadership and management.
- Inspectors look at how a school contributes to pupils' broader development, including their character, citizenship and resilience. They also look at how the school manages behaviour, low-level disruption and bullying, so that parents can be assured that the school is one in which pupils are safe and able to learn.
- Inspectors check that school leaders are behaving with integrity by putting children's interests first. This includes checking that schools do not enter pupils for qualifications that are inappropriate for the child but that may have a positive impact on the school's published performance data.
- Inspectors also check that schools are not removing pupils from the school's roll without a formal, permanent exclusion when this is not in the child's best interests. We refer to this as 'off-rolling'.
- The reports are short and clear. They tell parents what it's like to be a child in that school, what the school is doing well and what it could be doing better.
- Ofsted have the current grading system of:
 - outstanding
 - good
 - requires improvement
 - inadequate.

7. There are two types of inspection under the common inspection framework that are used to judge the performance of schools in England and both will be a two day inspection unless the school has less than 150 pupils when a section 8 inspection will be for one day only:

- the Section 5 inspection is a two-day inspection of a school that provides judgements against the four key inspection areas (the quality of education, behaviour and attitudes, personal development, leadership and management) and the overall judgement for the

school. If the school has an Early Years Foundation Stage or a 6th Form, these will receive additional judgements.

- the Section 8 inspection is a two-day inspection of schools previously judged as Good by Ofsted (and for Outstanding special schools and Pupil Referral Units). This inspection evaluates whether the school remains at the same grade as at the previous inspection. If the Ofsted pre-inspection desktop analysis indicates that the inspection is likely to convert to a Section 5 inspection, the school will be informed at the initial contact telephone call that the inspection will be carried out as a section 5 inspection rather than a section 8. If inspectors are concerned that a particular area of provision has declined significantly then the inspection will convert and be deemed a section 5 inspection. This will mean that all the areas within the framework will receive a judgement as outlined above.

8. **Appendix 1** shows Local Authority inspections over the Autumn term 2021. Inspections resumed on site in Summer 2021, they were previously paused due to the pandemic:

- there were 22 schools inspected in the Autumn term which reflects a full return to the inspection cycle.
- nine of the inspections in the Autumn term were of Good schools. All of these schools retained their previous Good judgement. (Kingston Park Academy, Bracken Lane Primary & Nursery, Thrumpton Primary, Greasley Beauvale Primary, Porchester Junior, Westdale Junior, Gunthorpe C of E Primary, Ashfield School and Bracken Hill Special School.
- four of the inspections were of schools previously judged to be Outstanding. Outstanding schools have been included in the inspection regime since September 2021 and these four schools had not been inspected for over a decade. All four schools are now judged to be Good, none were judged to still be Outstanding. This is reflecting the national picture of inspections of Outstanding schools and also reflects the rigour of the current inspection framework. (Bramcote Hills Primary, Kinoulton Primary, West Bridgford Junior and Willoughby Primary.)
- two schools had their first inspection since converting to academy status and both were judged to be Good. (St. Mary Magdalene Primary Academy and Willow Farm Primary.)
- one school previously judged to be Inadequate was inspected and continues to be judged as Inadequate. (Kirkby College). Members are advised that the Regional Schools Commissioner has now re-brokered this stand alone academy to a new trust. Outward Grange Academy Trust has now completed its due diligence and the school will become part of OGAT, with a proposed transfer date of 1 September 2022. However, OGAT is already supporting the school, has met with parents and is developing its partnership with the wider community.
- six of the inspections were of schools previously judged to be Requiring Improvement. One of these schools was judged to now be Inadequate (Brierley Forest Primary & Nursery), two were judged to still be Requiring Improvement (Sir Edmund Hilary Primary & Nursery and The Bramble Academy) and three were judged to be Good (Beardall Fields Primary & Nursery, Healdswood Infant & Nursery and Sherwood Junior), where the support of the Education Improvement team provided high quality challenge and support.

9. **Appendix 2** shows the areas for continued development for each school not yet providing provision that is judged to be good or better.
10. The summary table below shows that, as a result of the inspections over the last term, Nottinghamshire is in line with all schools nationally. Nottinghamshire primary schools are performing 1% below primary schools nationally which is an improvement on the 2% gap previously reported. All schools in Nottinghamshire remain above the East Midlands figure. Nottinghamshire secondary schools continue to perform well above the national and regional figures. Nottinghamshire primary schools are 1% above the regional figure.

Management Information for Schools 28th February 2022			
Number of Good or better schools	National	Notts	E Midlands
All Schools	87%	87%	85%
Primary	88%	87%	86%
Secondary	78%	84%	73%

11. Following the Government’s publication of their education and levelling up White Paper, “Opportunity for all: strong schools with great teacher for your child”, the Government outlines its vision and commitment that every child is able to access an excellent education with a pledge to parents that no child should fall behind and if they do, should access high quality bespoke tuition. Looking to the future, the education White Paper will drive further improvements in the quality of education in all schools for every child, regardless of ability.

Other Options Considered:

12. No other options have been considered.

Reason/s for Recommendation/s

13. To ensure Members of the Committee are aware of the steps being taken to ensure that all children in Nottinghamshire have the opportunity to attend a Good school.

Statutory and Policy Implications

14. This report has been compiled after consideration of implications in respect of crime and disorder, data protection and information governance, finance, human resources, human rights, the NHS Constitution (public health services), the public sector equality duty, safeguarding of children and adults at risk, service users, smarter working, sustainability and the environment and where such implications are material they are described below. Appropriate consultation has been undertaken and advice sought on these issues as required.

Financial Implications

15. It is part of the Local Authority's statutory duty to support maintained schools which have been risk assessed as Requiring Improvement. Due to the Education Improvement Service annual risk assessment process these schools have already been identified as requiring additional support and the cost of this will be met from the DfE School Improvement Grant. The School Improvement Grant was £642,941 for 2021-22 but following the consultation held earlier this year the grant for 2022-23 will be reduced by 50% and removed in 2023-24.

RECOMMENDATION/S

That:

- 1) for any schools identified in the report judged by Ofsted to Require Improvement, the Chairman of the Children and Young People's Committee and the Corporate Director of Children and Families Services write to the head teacher and chair of governors of Local Authority maintained schools to inform them that the Committee will track closely their progress to become a Good school and that the Education Improvement Service will work directly with them to provide a range of support packages aligned to the issues raised during the inspection. This support will continue until the school is judged to be securely Good. In relation to academies, a letter will also be sent to the Regional Schools Commissioner.
- 2) for any schools identified in the report judged by Ofsted to remain Good, or become Good or Outstanding, the Chairman of the Children and Young People's Committee and the Corporate Director of Children and Families Services write to the head teacher and chair of governors of Local Authority maintained schools to congratulate them on their achievement. A copy of this letter will also be sent to the Regional Schools Commissioner in relation to academies.

Marion Clay

Service Director, Education, Learning and Skills

For any enquiries about this report please contact:

Diane Ward

Team Manager, Education Improvement Service

T: 0115 8040646

E: diane.ward2@nottsc.gov.uk

Constitutional Comments (EKH 29/03/22)

16. The recommendations fall within the remit of the Children and Young People's Committee under its terms of reference.

Financial Comments (MDN 28/03/22)

17. It is part of the Local Authority's statutory duty to support maintained schools which have been risk assessed as Requiring Improvement. Due to the Education Improvement Service annual risk assessment process these schools have already been identified as requiring additional support and the cost of this will be met from the DfE School

Improvement Grant. The School Improvement Grant was £642,941 for 2021-22 but following the consultation held earlier this year the grant for 2022-23 will be reduced by 50% and removed in 2023-24.

Background Papers and Published Documents

Except for previously published documents, which will be available elsewhere, the documents listed here will be available for inspection in accordance with Section 100D of the Local Government Act 1972.

[Outcomes of Ofsted Inspections of schools – termly update: report to Children and Young People’s Committee on 1 November 2021](#)

Electoral Division(s) and Member(s) Affected

All.

C1563