



**27 November 2023**

## **REPORT OF THE SERVICE DIRECTOR, EDUCATION, LEARNING AND INCLUSION**

### **OUTCOMES OF OFSTED INSPECTIONS OF SCHOOLS – TERMLY UPDATE: SUMMER 2023**

#### **Purpose of the Report**

1. To provide information on the outcomes of inspections of state funded schools over the Summer term 2023 and any actions being taken by the Council to support those schools identified as Requiring Improvement (RI) or Ofsted category of concern.
2. The report seeks approval for the Cabinet Member for Children and Families and the Corporate Director, Children and Families Services, to write to the head teacher and chair of governors of schools identified in the report as follows:
  - for schools judged by Ofsted to Require Improvement or judged to be Inadequate - to acknowledge the Ofsted grade and to give the Council's continued support and challenge as they progress towards becoming a Good school.
  - for schools judged by Ofsted to remain or become Good or Outstanding - to congratulate them on their achievement.

#### **Information**

3. 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 Summer term, 2022-23 academic year. This report draws on two main sources of data:
  - Ofsted's website [www.gov.uk/government/organisations/ofsted](http://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 of 1 September 2023 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.

4. All schools inspected across the Summer term 2023 were inspected under the current inspection framework. This 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. This is referred to 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.
5. 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 an inspection will be for one day only:
  - the Section 5 inspection is now called a graded inspection and 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 6<sup>th</sup> Form, these will receive additional judgements.

- the Section 8 inspection is now called an ungraded inspection and is a two-day inspection of schools previously judged as Good or Outstanding by Ofsted. 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(graded), the school will be informed at the initial contact telephone call that the inspection will be carried out as a graded inspection rather than a section 8. If inspectors are concerned that a particular area of provision has declined significantly then the next inspection will take place earlier than expected and will be a graded inspection.
- All inspections of schools previously judged to be outstanding over a decade ago are currently undertaken as graded inspections.
- Schools judged to be requiring improvement or inadequate may receive a monitoring visit to assess progress under Section 8 of the Education Act 2005.

6. **Appendix 1** shows Local Authority inspections over the Summer term 2023:

- there were 52 schools inspected in the Summer term which reflects a full return to the inspection cycle.
- 37 of the inspections in the Summer term were of Good schools. 35 of these schools retained their previous Good judgement. 1 school had their judgement changed to Requires Improvement (Walesby Primary School). 1 school had their judgement changed from Good to Inadequate (Derrymount Special School).
- 1 of the inspections was of a school previously judged to be Outstanding. Outstanding schools have been included in the inspection regime since September 2021 and this school had not been inspected for over a decade. The school (Lowdham C of E Primary) retained Outstanding.
- 3 schools had their first inspection since converting to academy status and all 3 were judged to be Good (Oak Tree Primary Academy, Rosecliffe Spencer Academy and National C of E Primary Academy).
- 9 schools previously judged to be Requires Improvement were inspected and 7 were judged to now be Good (Abbey Hill Primary School, Leen Mills Primary School, Holgate Primary School, King Edward Primary & Nursery, Wainwright Primary Academy, Sir Edmund Campion Catholic Voluntary Academy and Queen Elizabeth Academy). 2 were judged to be still Requiring Improvement (Bramble Academy and Lovers Lane Primary School).
- 2 schools were inspected as a monitoring visit as both are currently judged to be inadequate (Carlton Le Willows Academy and The Holgate Academy), and Ofsted found that at both schools, leaders have made progress to improve the school, but more work is necessary for the category of concern to be removed.

7. **Appendix 2** shows the areas for continued development for each school not yet providing provision that is judged to be Good or better.

8. The summary table below shows that, as a result of the inspections over the last term, Nottinghamshire is in line with all schools nationally for those graded Good or better. Nottinghamshire primary schools are performing 3 percentage points above schools nationally which is further improvement for the County. Nottinghamshire secondary schools and Special schools are performing below national. The summary table shows inspection outcomes by school status and phase, both nationally and locally.

**Most recent overall effectiveness outcome in schools and academies as of 30 September 2023 (includes former judgement of new schools)**

	Nottinghamshire (Good+)	National (Good+)
All schools	90%	89%
Primary	93%	90%
Secondary	80%	82%
Special	83%	89%

*Source: Ofsted management information (30 September 2023)*

**Other Options Considered**

9. Not contacting the schools that received an adverse judgement was considered but ensuring that school leaders are aware of the support and challenge provided by the Education Improvement Service and other school improvement partners is an important part of the partnership working that is in place to secure a good school for all children in Nottinghamshire.

**Reason/s for Recommendation/s**

10. To ensure that steps are being taken for all children in Nottinghamshire to have the opportunity to attend a good school.

**Statutory and Policy Implications**

11. 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**

12. 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’s termly risk assessment process these schools have already been identified as requiring additional support and the cost of this will be met from the reserves of the Department for Education (DfE) School Improvement Grant and de delegated funding received from schools. Following the consultation held by the DfE, the grant has been

removed from April 2023 and the reserves will be available to support schools until the end of the financial year 2023/24.

## **RECOMMENDATION/S**

- 1) That approval be given for the Cabinet Member for Children and Families and the Corporate Director, Children and Families Services, to write to the head teacher and chair of governors of schools identified in the report as follows:
  - for schools judged by Ofsted to be less than Good - to acknowledge the Ofsted grade and to give the Council's continued support and challenge as they progress towards becoming a Good school.
  - for schools judged by Ofsted to remain or become Good or Outstanding - to congratulate them on their achievement.

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### **Constitutional Comments (CD 07/11/23)**

13. The recommendations proposed fall within the remit of Cabinet Member for Children and Families by virtue of the Cabinet Member's Terms of Reference set out in the Constitution.

### **Financial Comments (SS 02/11/23)**

14. Due to the Education Improvement Service's termly risk assessment process these schools have already been identified as requiring additional support and the cost of this will be met from the reserves of the Department for Education (DfE) School Improvement Grant and de-delegated funding received from schools.

### **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.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/statistical-data-sets/monthly-management-information-ofsted-school-inspections-outcomes>

### **Electoral Division(s) and Member(s) Affected**

All.

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