



1st November 2021

Agenda Item: 11

**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 Summer 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 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, the Chairman and Corporate Director will also write to the Regional Schools Commissioner.
3. For the schools identified in the report judged by Ofsted to remain Good but declining, the report seeks the 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 remaining 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, the Chairman and Corporate Director will also write to the Regional Schools Commissioner.
4. 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

5. 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, 2020-21 academic year.
6. 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 31 August 2021 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.
7. All schools inspected across the Summer term 2021 were inspected under the revised inspection framework. The revised framework has brought some significant changes to the inspection process.
 - Schools are now 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 shorter and clearer. They tell parents what it is 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.

8. 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.

9. **Appendix 1** shows Local Authority inspections over the Summer term 2021. Inspections resumed on site in summer 2021, they were paused during the Autumn and Spring term due to the pandemic:

- there were 5 schools inspected in the Summer term which is less than usual but reflects a gradual return to the inspection cycle.
- all of the inspections in the Summer term were of Good schools. All of these schools retained their previous Good judgement.

10. **Appendix 2** shows the areas for continued development for each school.

11. 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 2% below primary schools nationally. 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 3% above the regional figure.

Management Information for Schools 31 March 2020			
Number of Good or better schools	National	Notts	E Midlands
All Schools	86%	86%	83%
Primary	88%	86%	84%
Secondary	76%	84%	70%

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 Department for Education School Improvement Grant. The School Improvement Grant was £721,832 for 2020 - 21 (academic year) and a similar figure is anticipated for 2021 - 22.

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 but declining, 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.
- 3) 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.

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Constitutional Comments (ELP 21/10/21)

16. The recommendations fall within the delegation to Children and Young People's Committee by virtue of its frame of reference.

Financial Comments (NC 20/10/21)

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 the cost of the additional support for schools is met by the Department for Education School Improvement Grant. The School Improvement Grant in 2020/21 (academic year) was £721,832 (paid in two instalments: October 2020 £431,777 and April 2021 £290,055). As of 20th October 2021 there has been no announcement of the allocation for 2021/22.

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 – Autumn 2019 and Spring 2020: report to Children and Young People's Committee on 2nd November 2020](#)

Electoral Division(s) and Member(s) Affected

All.

C1515