

Ofsted BIT assessments for the reporting period 5 May 2015 – 8 June 2017

Assessment 2): Introduction of the common inspection framework and revised handbooks in September 2015 for non-association independent school inspections

Brief outline of amended regulatory activity

Introduction of the common inspection framework (CIF) for inspections of non-association independent schools from September 2015

Ofsted inspects non-association independent schools in line with the requirements of the Secretary of State under section 109 of the Education Act 2008. Since the Department for Education (DfE) is the registration authority for independent schools and Ofsted only inspects them (and only at the request of the DfE), Ofsted's regulatory activity is limited to changing the guidance and framework for inspection of independent schools.

Common inspection framework: www.gov.uk/government/publications/common-inspection-framework-education-skills-and-early-years-from-september-2015.

Non-association independent schools inspection handbook: www.gov.uk/government/publications/non-association-independent-school-inspection-handbook-from-september-2015.

We introduced the common inspection framework mainly for transparency and consistency and harmonisation with the inspections of maintained schools and academies (and also early years and further education and skills providers). We believe that it benefits parents, pupils and schools because all schools are inspected and reported on in the same way, whether they are maintained, academies or independent schools. This involved very limited changes to the structure of key judgements – mainly name changes and only very limited realignment between different judgements.

| Judgements in April 2014 framework | Proposed judgements in September 2015 common inspection framework |
|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Overall effectiveness | Overall effectiveness |
| Leadership and management | Leadership and management (including safeguarding judgement) |
| Quality of teaching | Quality of teaching, learning and assessment |
| Personal development | Personal development, behaviour and welfare |
| Achievements of pupils | Outcomes for pupils |
| Compliance with all independent school standards (ISS) embedded under relevant judgement | Compliance with all ISS embedded under relevant judgement |

This involved some changes to guidance on how these judgements would be made, and resulted in the following.

- A new common inspection framework to read and understand (considerably reduced in length from April 2014 framework – 31 to 16 pages). This need only be read and understood by the headteacher and proprietor because the content is covered in detail in the standard inspections handbook. Other staff only need to familiarise themselves with the inspection handbook.
- new standard inspection handbook to read, understand and communicate to staff (reduced in length from January 2015 Handbook from– 108 to 84 pages). This underpins the new common inspection framework. This included:
 - updating some references in part 1 of the handbook (on conducting inspections)
 - change to personal development, behaviour and welfare judgement in part 2 (evaluation schedule), although the content of much of this was previously covered in the old framework and handbook
 - change to criteria and descriptors underpinning the key judgements in part 2 (evaluation schedule)

This does not impact at all on compliance with The Education (Independent School Standards) (England)(Amendment) Regulations 2014 and the Education (Independent School Standards) Regulations 2014.

This covers very limited changes made to the handbook since September 2015.

Which type of business will be affected? How many are estimated to be affected?

The total number of non-association independent schools as at 31 August 2015 was 1,051.

Please set out the impact to business clearly with a breakdown of costs and benefits

The common inspection framework for inspections of non-association independent schools from September 2015

School managers needed to familiarise themselves with a revised framework and revised inspection handbook.

Transitional costs

Familiarisation with new/revised guidance

- New framework to read and understand (reduced in length from April 2014 framework – 31 to 16 pages).
- New standard inspections handbook to read, understand and communicate to staff (reduced in length from January 2015 framework – 108 to 84 pages).

See above 'Brief outline of amended regulatory activity' for details.

This should not entail any material changes. Ofsted has made it clear that schools do not need to prepare any documentation specifically for inspection.

Schools may choose to revise their quality improvement planning to align it with the new framework but this is not a requirement or an expectation so any such adjustments would be voluntary.

We assisted schools in all of this through independent school conferences, to which all non-association independent schools were invited. A set of slides was also published to help understanding.

Please provide any additional information (if required) that may assist the RPC to validate the BIT Score

The costs to independent schools of staff familiarising themselves with the revised CIF are set out below.

The cost incurred by schools has been determined through a questionnaire sent out to a sample of schools. We asked how long it took them to familiarise themselves with the updated CIF guidance.

The responses received show an average cost of £580 per independent school.

Based on this information, we calculated that the cost of introducing the independent schools CIF guidance is £0.6m, as detailed below.

| Provider type | Cost | Calculations |
|---------------------|-----------------|--------------|
| Independent schools | £609,580 | £580 x 1,051 |
| Total costs | £609,580 | |

The average cost to the school per pupil would therefore be £6.50.

| Summary of costs and benefits | | | | | | |
|--------------------------------------|----------------------------|-----------------------------------|--------------------------|-----------------------------------|---------------------------------------|------------------|
| Price base year | Implementation date | Duration of policy (years) | Net present value | Business net present value | Net cost to business (EANDC B) | BIT score |
| 2015 | 01/09/2015 | 10 | -0.6 | -0.6 | 0.1 | 0.5 |