

Independent school inspections from January 2019

Note for inspectors

Ahead of the launch of the education inspection framework (EIF) in September 2019, we will not be making changes to the [Non-association independent school inspection handbook](#) or the [Handbook for additional inspections of independent schools](#).

This note informs schools and inspectors of changes coming into effect before the EIF.

Further information on the launch of the EIF and how we will carry out inspections from September 2019 is in [Her Majesty's Chief Inspector's commentary](#).

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Point-of-inspection questionnaires for pupils and staff

In line with maintained schools and academies, we will introduce point-of-inspection questionnaires for pupils and staff in standard inspections from January 2019. These will replace the current point-in-time surveys and staff questionnaire.

Online links for the point-of-inspection questionnaire will be sent to the school with the formal notification of inspection. Pupils and staff will have an opportunity to share their views by completing the questionnaire, but should do so by midday on the final on-site day of the inspection.

It should be noted that the point-of-inspection questionnaires are not applicable to boarders and boarding staff. We will continue to collect their views using the existing point-in-time surveys for boarders and boarding staff.

Clarification for inspectors: admissions and attendance registers

Part 2 of the handbook currently states that paragraph 32(1)(g) of the the Independent School Standards (ISS) does not apply to pre-registration or material change inspections. While this is correct, we wish to clarify that independent schools are required to keep admission and attendance registers and make them available to inspectors during any type of inspection. This is a requirement of The Education (Pupil Registration) (England) Regulations 2006.¹ For standard, progress monitoring and emergency inspections, it is also a requirement of paragraph **32(1)(g)** of the ISS.

Inspecting schools that have pupils aged 19 years and older

An independent school can have pupils aged 19 years and older in attendance. In these cases, Ofsted will only inspect this type of provision if the pupils who are 19 and older started their current course before they turned 18. If this is not the case, the provision for these learners will not form part of the inspection. However, Ofsted will still check on any safeguarding concerns within the setting, particularly given that these learners are effectively adults studying alongside children.

New requirement in Part 4 of the Independent School Standards

On 1 September 2018, the Department for Education introduced a new requirement in Part 4 of the ISS,² about the suitability of all members of supply staff.

¹ [The Education \(Pupil Registration\) \(England\) Regulations 2006](#), section 4(a) and (b).

² The new paragraph in part 4 was introduced to the independent school standards by: The Independent Educational Provision in England (Provision of Information) and Non-Maintained Special Schools (England) and Independent School Standards (Amendment) Regulations 2018; www.legislation.gov.uk/ukxi/2018/901/contents/made.

The new paragraph, **19(2)(a)(i)(dd)**, requires that if staff supplied by employment businesses to independent schools have lived outside the UK, the employment business must have made additional checks for the appropriate countries, and the school must have got written confirmation to that effect from the employment business.



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