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## **INTRODUCTION**

This official statistics release reports on the inspections of non-association independent schools that occurred between 1 September 2013 and 31 August 2014. All inspections are carried out under section 162A of the Education Act 2002, as inserted by schedule 8 of the Education Act 2005, apart from pre-registration inspections of proposed new schools, which are conducted under section 99 of the Education and Skills Act 2008. The current framework for inspecting non-association independent schools in England came into effect in April 2014. The inspection framework can be found at:

[www.ofsted.gov.uk/resources/framework-for-inspecting-non-association-independent-schools](http://www.ofsted.gov.uk/resources/framework-for-inspecting-non-association-independent-schools)

Under the current framework, the overall effectiveness judgement takes account of the four key judgements (achievement of pupils, quality of teaching, behaviour and safety of pupils and leadership and management). This brings the inspections into line with those for maintained schools and academies, replacing the 'adequate' judgement with 'requires improvement'. Under the previous framework, a summative judgement on the overall effectiveness of a school was introduced. This took into account the other six judgements made in a standard inspection (pupils' achievement, pupils' behaviour and personal development, quality of teaching, quality of curriculum, pupils' welfare, health and safety, and leadership and management). Under all previous frameworks, a summative judgement about the overall quality of education was made, which was informed by the judgements on the curriculum, teaching and assessment, and pupils' progress. Therefore, the overall quality of education judgement was used to represent the latest inspection outcome for independent schools.

Schools will be judged as outstanding, good, requires improvement or inadequate for each of the five judgements under the new framework. New judgements on early years and sixth form provision were introduced in September 2014. Where schools have such provision, it will also be judged as outstanding, good, requires improvement or inadequate.

These inspections have two purposes: first, they report on the school's compliance with the regulatory standards for independent schools; second, they provide an evaluative assessment of the school's performance.

The Department for Education introduced revised independent school standards in January 2013.<sup>1</sup> Most revisions were made to the standards in part 2 (spiritual, moral, social and cultural development of pupils) and part 5 (premises of and accommodation at schools). As part of the Government's reform programme for the regulation of the independent schools sector, new standards in part 2 (spiritual, moral, social and cultural development of pupils)

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<sup>1</sup> The Education (Independent School Standards) (England) Regulations 2010, as amended by The Education (Independent School Standards) (England) (Amendment) Regulations 2012; [www.legislation.gov.uk/uksi/2010/1997/contents/made](http://www.legislation.gov.uk/uksi/2010/1997/contents/made) and [www.legislation.gov.uk/uksi/2012/2962/contents/made](http://www.legislation.gov.uk/uksi/2012/2962/contents/made).

were introduced in September 2014.<sup>2</sup> The DfE has consulted on revisions to other standards as well, including a new standard on leadership and management, with a view to these coming into force in due course (subject to the will of Parliament).

Under the inspection cycle which started on 1 September 2011, the frequency of inspection is proportionate to risk. The education provision of mainstream independent schools which were judged good or outstanding at their last inspection, and which meet specific criteria, is inspected at an interval of up to six years rather than every three years. As a result, the schools inspected in any one year are not representative of the whole population of schools.

The frequency of inspection of inadequate non-association independent schools was included in a spring term 2014 consultation conducted by Ofsted, where we proposed that schools judged as requires improvement or inadequate should be re-inspected within two years of their previous inspection. Most respondents to the consultation supported this proposal and so we are in discussion with the DfE, whose decision it is whether to implement a change to the frequency of inspecting independent schools.<sup>3</sup> Ofsted's current consultation, *Better inspections for all*,<sup>4</sup> reinforces our intention for increased frequency of re-inspecting non-association independent schools judged as requires improvement or inadequate.

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<sup>2</sup> The Education (Independent School Standards) (England) Regulations 2010, as amended by The Education (Independent School Standards) (England) (Amendment) Regulations 2014; [www.legislation.gov.uk/uksi/2010/1997/contents/made](http://www.legislation.gov.uk/uksi/2010/1997/contents/made) and [www.legislation.gov.uk/2014?title=independent%20school%20standards](http://www.legislation.gov.uk/2014?title=independent%20school%20standards).

<sup>3</sup> Our report on the responses to the consultation is available on the Ofsted website here: [www.ofsted.gov.uk/resources/inspection-of-non-association-independent-schools-report-responses-consultation](http://www.ofsted.gov.uk/resources/inspection-of-non-association-independent-schools-report-responses-consultation).

<sup>4</sup> [www.ofsted.gov.uk/resources/better-inspection-for-all-consultation-proposals-for-new-framework-for-inspection-of-schools-further](http://www.ofsted.gov.uk/resources/better-inspection-for-all-consultation-proposals-for-new-framework-for-inspection-of-schools-further).

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## Key Findings

- In the period between 1 September 2013 and 31 August 2014, 296 standard inspections have been carried out, of which 89 were carried out under the new framework which came into effect in April 2014.
- Of the 89 standard inspections carried out under the new framework, 72% (64) of schools were judged good or better for their overall effectiveness whilst 28% (25) of schools were judged less than good, with 13% (12) being judged inadequate. Between 1 September 2013 and 31 March 2014, 71% (148) were judged good or better for overall effectiveness and 29% (59) were judged less than good. This compares favourably with 64% (103) of schools being judged good or better in the period between 1 January 2013 to 31 August 2013.
- Under the new framework, behaviour and safety of pupils was judged most positively with 34% (30) of the schools being judged outstanding and 48% (42) judged as good. Between 1 September 2013 and 31 March 2014, pupils' behaviour and personal development were also the strongest features, with 29% (61) of schools judged outstanding.
- Under the new framework, leadership and management was judged least positively with 29% (26) being judged less than good. Leadership and management was also the weakest feature in the period between 1 September 2013 and 31 March 2014, when 32% (65) of schools were judged adequate or worse.
- Ofsted also reports on the extent to which the school meets the independent school standards. Although some changes have been made to the paragraphs in the standards, the matters to which the seven parts of the standards relate remain the same. The standards must underpin any Ofsted framework for inspecting independent schools, and so compliance with the standards under both frameworks has been aggregated in this dataset.
- Under the new framework, the percentage of schools meeting all standards has increased to 79% (235), the highest since data were first reported on compliance with standards.<sup>5</sup> Compliance with the standards continues to be weakest in relation to the quality of teaching and assessment: 4% (13) of schools inspected between 1 September 2013 and 31 August 2014 failed to meet at least 50 per cent of these standards.

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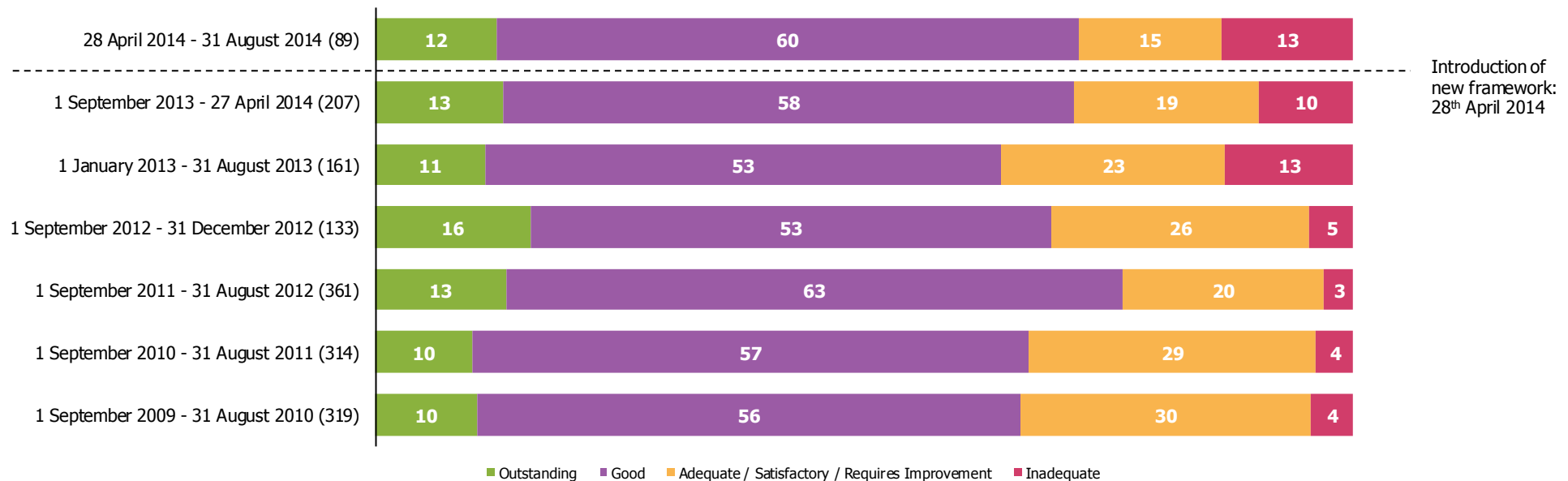
<sup>5</sup> In the published standards, each independent school standard is set out in one or more paragraphs. Not all paragraphs of the standards are applicable to all independent schools.

- This is the first time Ofsted is providing data on progress monitoring inspections<sup>6</sup> in Official Statistics. Seventy progress monitoring inspections of independent schools took place between 1 September 2013 to 31 August 2014, of which 16% (11) were integrated inspections of education and boarding/residential provision. Sixty three per cent (44%) schools inspected were judged to meet the independent school standards that they had not met at their last inspection while 37% (26) were judged to meet some, but not all, standards.

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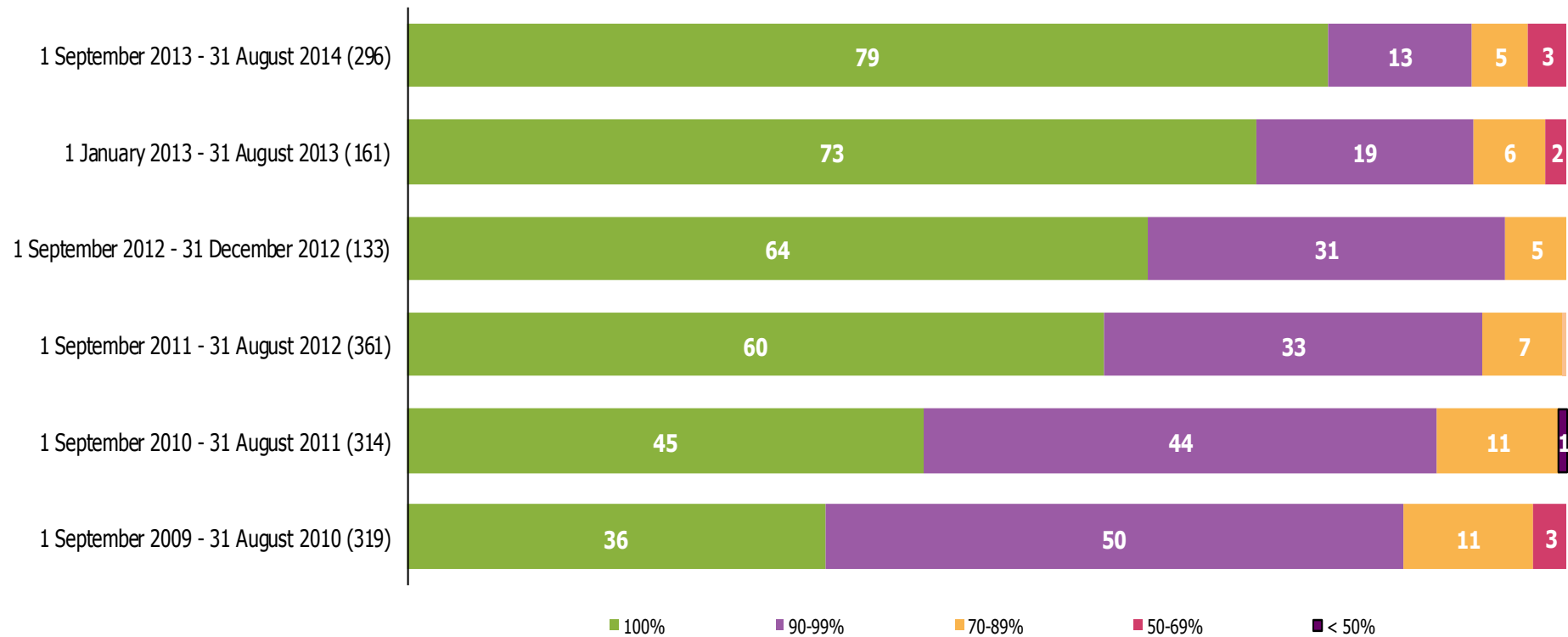
<sup>6</sup> Please see page 18 for a complete definition of progress monitoring inspections.

**Chart 1: Overall effectiveness for non-association independent schools inspected between 1 September 2009 and 31 August 2014** <sup>1 2 3 4 5</sup>



1. From 28 April 2014, the grade 'adequate' has been replaced with 'requires improvement'.
2. From 1 January 2013 Overall effectiveness has replaced the previous Overall quality of education judgement.
3. Figures represent percentages.
4. Percentages are rounded and do not always add exactly to 100.
5. There was one school which did not receive a judgement due to no children on roll.

**Chart 2: Overall performance on compliance with standards by non-association independent schools inspected between 1 September 2009 and 31 August 2014<sup>1 2</sup>**



1. Figures represent percentages.

2. Percentages are rounded and do not always add exactly to 100.



**Table 1: Number of inspections carried out in non-association independent schools between 1 September 2013 and 31 August 2014, by inspection type<sup>1 2</sup>**

<b>Inspection activity</b>	<b>Number</b>
Pre-registration inspection (Independent school)	96
Standard inspections	296
Progress monitoring inspection	70
Emergency inspection	87
Material change inspection	78
<b>Total</b>	<b>627</b>

*Source: Ofsted inspections*

1. The total number of standard inspections includes integrated inspections.
2. Figures represent the number of independent schools.

**Table 2-i: Standard inspection outcomes for non-association independent schools inspected between 1 April 2014 and 31 August 2014** <sup>1 2 3</sup>

	Total number inspected	Number of inspections				Percentage of inspections			
		Outstanding	Good	Requires Improvement	Inadequate	Outstanding	Good	Requires Improvement	Inadequate
Overall effectiveness	89	11	53	13	12	12	60	15	13
Achievement of pupils	87	11	57	11	8	13	66	13	9
Quality of teaching	86	11	56	12	7	13	65	14	8
Behaviour and safety of pupils	88	30	42	5	11	34	48	6	13
Leadership and management	89	12	51	14	12	13	57	16	13

*Source: Ofsted inspections*

1. Figures represent the number of independent schools.
2. Where the number of inspections is small, percentages should be treated with caution.
3. The data include inspections where there were no pupils on roll at the time of the inspection. As there were no pupils on roll at the school, the inspector was unable to check compliance with all of the paragraphs in part 1 of the independent school standards and was unable to gather sufficient evidence to make a judgement on achievement of pupils and quality of teaching.

**Table 2-ii: Standard inspection outcomes for non-association independent schools inspected between 1 September 2013 and 31 March 2014** <sup>1 2 3</sup>

	Total number inspected	Number of inspections				Percentage of inspections			
		Outstanding	Good	Adequate	Inadequate	Outstanding	Good	Adequate	Inadequate
Overall effectiveness	207	27	121	39	20	13	58	19	10
Pupils' achievement	203	29	130	32	12	14	64	16	6
Pupils' behaviour and personal development	207	61	109	24	13	29	53	12	6
Quality of teaching	204	29	129	33	13	14	63	16	6
Quality of curriculum	207	31	124	37	15	15	60	18	7
Pupils' welfare, health and safety	207	52	97	38	20	25	47	18	10
Leadership and management	207	28	114	45	20	14	55	22	10

*Source: Ofsted inspections*

1. Figures represent the number of independent schools.
2. Where the number of inspections is small, percentages should be treated with caution.
3. The data include inspections where there were no pupils on roll at the time of the inspection. As there were no pupils on roll at the school, the inspector was unable to check compliance with all of the paragraphs in part 1 of the independent school standards and was unable to gather sufficient evidence to make a judgement on achievement of pupils and quality of teaching.

**Table 3a: Standard inspection overall performance on compliance with regulatory requirements for non-association independent schools inspected between 1 September 2013 and 31 August 2014<sup>1 2 3</sup>**

	<b>Total number inspected</b>	<b>100% Number</b>	<b>90-99% Number</b>	<b>70-89% Number</b>	<b>50-69% Number</b>	<b>&lt;50% Number</b>
<b>All Standards</b>	296	235	37	14	10	0
Quality of education provided	296	272	2	5	8	9
Quality of teaching and assessment	296	277	0	3	3	13
Spiritual, moral, social and cultural education of pupils	296	280	0	5	1	10
Welfare, health and safety of pupils	296	260	3	19	6	8
Suitability of the proprietor, staff and supply staff	296	284	2	8	2	0
Premises and accommodation of schools	296	250	15	24	5	2
Provision of information for parents, carers and others	296	263	0	23	8	2
Manner in which complaints are to be handled	296	282	6	5	2	1

*Source: Ofsted inspections*

1. Figures represent the number of independent schools.
2. Where the number of inspections is small, percentages should be treated with caution.
3. In the published regulations, each independent school standard is set out in one or more paragraphs. Not all paragraphs of the standards are applicable to all independent schools.

**Table 4: Progress monitoring inspection outcomes for non-association independent schools inspected 1 September 2013 to 31 August 2014 <sup>1 2</sup>**

	Total number inspected	Number of inspections		Percentage of inspections	
		Standards met	Standards not met	Standards met	Standards not met
Independent integrated progress monitoring inspection	11	6	5	55	45
Independent progress monitoring inspection	59	38	21	64	36
<b>TOTAL</b>	70	44	26	63	37

*Source: Ofsted inspections*

1. Figures represent the number of progress monitoring inspection of independent schools.
2. Where the number of inspections is small, percentages should be treated with caution.

## BACKGROUND INFORMATION

1. There are approximately 1,100 independent schools, which are not members of school associations and are thus inspected by Ofsted. They are diverse in size and character. Roughly half of the schools are located in London and the south of England, and most are smaller than average. The smallest are children's homes which provide education for just one pupil. Over 40% of non-association independent schools cater wholly or mainly for children with a statement of special educational need or provide education for looked after children.
2. Section 157 of the Education Act 2002 specifies that regulations setting out the standards that independent schools must meet should be made on the following matters:
  - quality of education
  - spiritual, moral, social and cultural development of pupils
  - welfare, health and safety of pupils
  - suitability staff and proprietors
  - premises of and accommodation at the school
  - provision of information
  - manner in which complaints are to be handled.

Such standards are set out in The Education (Independent School Standards) (England) Regulations 2010, as amended.<sup>7</sup>

3. The inspection of an independent school is carried out by Ofsted under section 162A of the Education Act 2002, as amended, the purpose of which is to advise the Secretary of State for Education about the school's suitability for continued registration as an independent school. The school inspection covers the school's provision for all registered pupils from the term in which their third birthday occurs to the age of 18.
4. From 1 July 2011, Ofsted will include all types of inspection activity carried out in table 1. Inspections which result in a published inspection report and outcome will be included in subsequent tables, charts and data.
5. Revisions are published in line with Ofsted's revisions policy for official statistics. For more information about the policy please visit the Ofsted website:  
[www.ofsted.gov.uk/resources/statistical-notice-ofsted-revisions-policy-for-official-statistics](http://www.ofsted.gov.uk/resources/statistical-notice-ofsted-revisions-policy-for-official-statistics)
6. Under the inspection cycle which started on 1 September 2011, the frequency of inspection is proportionate to risk. The education provision of mainstream independent schools which were judged good or outstanding at their last inspection, and which meet specific criteria, are inspected at an interval of up to six years rather than every three years. There are, therefore, good and outstanding schools that will not be inspected for another six years,

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<sup>7</sup> [www.legislation.gov.uk/uksi/2010/1997/contents/made](http://www.legislation.gov.uk/uksi/2010/1997/contents/made).

unless an issue arises and the Secretary of State asks Ofsted to inspect sooner. Independent special schools continue to be inspected every three years in recognition of the vulnerability of the pupils that they cater for.<sup>8</sup> Ofsted has proposed changes to the frequency of inspecting non-association independent schools judged as requires improvement or inadequate to the Department for Education, as set out in the introduction.

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<sup>8</sup> [www.ofsted.gov.uk/resources/090036](http://www.ofsted.gov.uk/resources/090036)

## **GLOSSARY**

### **Emergency inspections**

Emergency inspections of independent schools are conducted under section 162A of the Education Act 2002, as inserted by schedule 8 of the Education Act 2005. They are carried out at the request of the Secretary of State for a variety of reasons, including investigating a complaint, concern, or the presence of an unregistered school or unregistered boarding/residential provision at an existing school and will only look into the issues raised by the DfE request. Emergency inspections may be unannounced and reports of these inspections are only published at the request of the Secretary of State.

### **Standard inspections**

Standard inspections of independent schools are conducted under section 162A of the Education Act 2002, as inserted by schedule 8 of the Education Act 2005, at the request of the Secretary of State. The purpose of inspection is to advise the Secretary of State for Education about schools' suitability for continued registration as independent schools. In standard inspections, schools receive two days' notice of inspection and inspectors observe schools' compliance with all of the standards set out in The Education (Independent School Standards) (England) Regulations 2010, as amended, and also provide an evaluative assessment of the school's performance.<sup>9</sup>

### **Independent schools**

Independent schools are defined by section 463 of the Education Act 1996, as amended. They provide full-time education for:

- five or more pupils of compulsory school age, or
- at least one pupil of that age for whom a statement is maintained under section 324, or who is looked after by a local authority (within the meaning of section 22 of the Children Act 1989).

It is immaterial if full-time education is also provided at the school for pupils under or over compulsory school age.

There are around 2,400 independent schools in England. Ofsted inspects the educational provision only in independent schools which are not members of independent schools associations (referred to as non-association independent schools). Schools which are members of independent schools associations are inspected by independent inspectorates approved by the Secretary of State for this purpose: the Independent Schools Inspectorate, the School Inspection Service, and the Bridge Schools Inspectorate. All inspections are carried out at the request of the Secretary of State, which is the registering authority for all independent schools.

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<sup>9</sup> [www.legislation.gov.uk/ukxi/2010/1997/contents/made](http://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukxi/2010/1997/contents/made)



## **Integrated inspections**

When the inspection of educational provision in non-association independent boarding or residential special schools is due at the same time as the welfare inspection, they are combined into an integrated inspection of the whole school. Inspections of welfare provision are carried out under the Care Standards Act 2000 having regard to the national minimum standards for boarding schools or residential special schools, as appropriate.

Ofsted also inspects the welfare provision of association independent boarding and residential special schools, whose educational provision is inspected by the Independent Schools Inspectorate, the School Inspection Service, or the Bridge Schools Inspectorate (see 'Independent schools' above). It aims where appropriate to carry out the inspection of welfare at the same time as the education inspection, although separate inspection reports are published.

## **Material change inspections**

Ofsted carries out material change inspections of registered independent schools at the request of the Secretary of State out of the normal inspection cycle when the school wishes to make a material change to their premises, intake or age range, or to the provision they make for pupils with special educational needs and / or disabilities.

Inspectors will consider the implications of the material change and recommend to the Secretary of State whether the material change proposed can be approved or not and, if not, what the school must do to improve. The provider cannot implement the proposed change until the Secretary of State grants permission.

## **Pre-registration inspection**

The Secretary of State is the registration authority for independent schools in England, and maintains a register of independent schools. When a proprietor has made an application for registration of an independent school the registration authority will notify HMCI and HMCI will inspect the school and report to the registration authority on the extent to which the independent school standards are likely to be met if the school were to be registered. Such inspections are conducted under section 99 of the Education and Skills Act 2008.

When a proprietor makes an application for a new boarding or residential special school, an integrated pre-registration inspection is made by both an education and a social care inspector.

### **Progress monitoring inspections**

Ofsted conducts monitoring inspections at the request of the Secretary of State to check the progress made by schools to address weaknesses identified at their last inspection.

The Secretary of State issues schools identified as having weaknesses with a notice. Schools must submit an action plan to the Secretary of State setting out the steps they will take to address their weaknesses and meet the relevant independent school standards regulations or national minimum standards. Action plans must specify the timescale within which the steps will be taken.

In progress monitoring inspections, inspectors assess and report on the amount of progress schools have made with implementing their action plan. They will check whether the previously unmet independent school standards or national minimum standards are now met.

### **Independent school standards regulations**

Section 157 of the Education Act 2002 specifies that regulations setting out the standards that independent schools must meet should be made on the following matters: quality of education; spiritual, moral, social and cultural development of pupils; welfare, health and safety of pupils; suitability staff and proprietors; premises of and accommodation at the school; provision of information; and manner in which complaints are to be handled. Such standards are set out in The Education (Independent School Standards) Regulations 2010, as amended, which specify the provision a school should make. Schools must meet these standards in order to register, and continue registration as independent schools.

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