

## Non-association independent schools inspection outcomes as at 31 August 2016

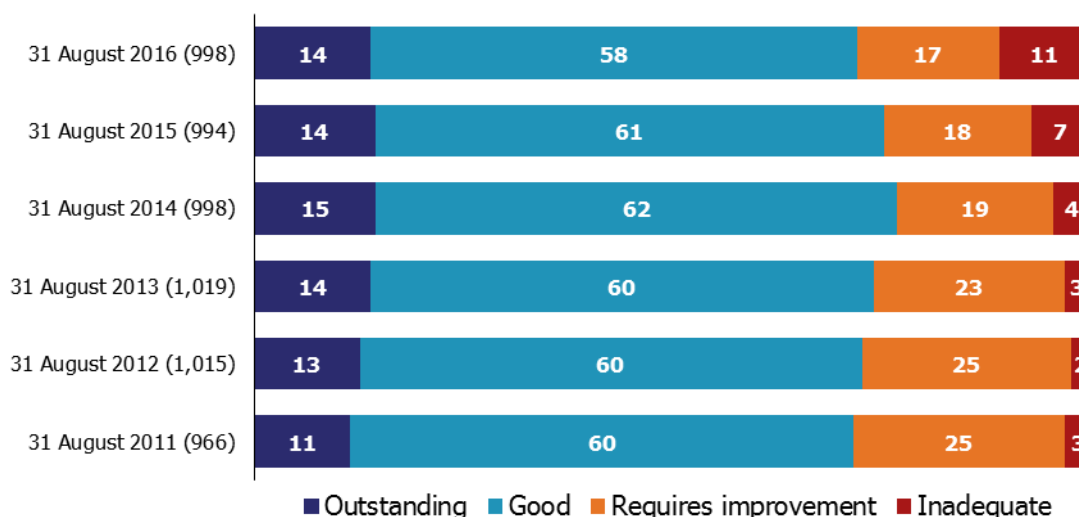
This release contains:

- provisional data for inspections completed between 1 September 2015 and 31 August 2016
- most recent inspection outcomes as at 31 August 2016
- revised data for inspections completed between 1 September 2014 and 31 August 2015

Non-association independent schools' inspection outcomes have declined

At the end of August 2016, 72% of schools inspected by Ofsted were judged good or outstanding at their most recent inspection. This is three percentage points lower than the proportion judged good or outstanding as at 31 August 2015.

**Chart 1: Most recent overall effectiveness of non-association independent schools**



1. Percentages are rounded and may not add to 100.

The number of schools judged inadequate has continued to increase

At the end of August 2016, 108 schools (11%) were judged inadequate at their most recent inspection. This is four percentage points higher than the number reported in the previous year. Over one in five schools inspected this year were judged inadequate.

North East, Yorkshire and the Humber has the highest proportion of good and outstanding schools. West Midlands has the lowest

North East, Yorkshire and the Humber has 79% of schools judged good or outstanding at their most recent inspection. The West Midlands has the lowest proportion of schools judged good or outstanding at 63%.

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## Acknowledgements

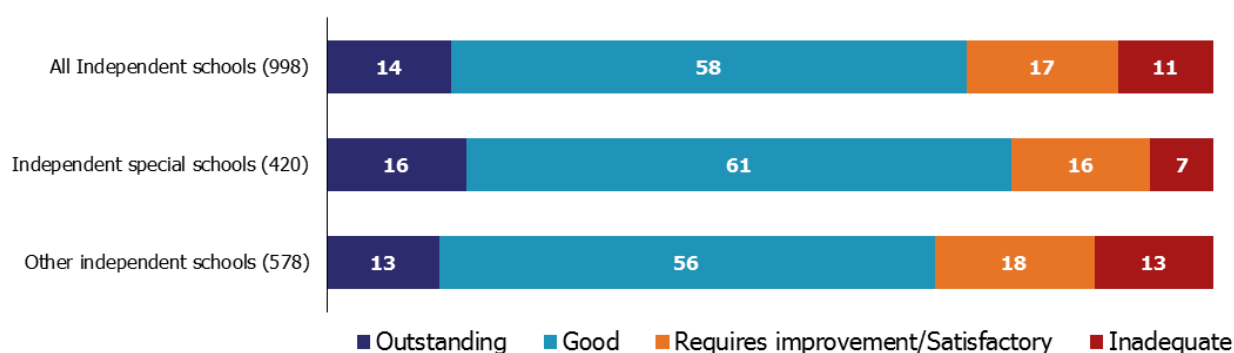
Thanks to the following for their contribution to this statistical release: James Jordan, Austen Norris, Thomas Newcombe and Michael Taylor

## Key findings

### Schools at their most recent inspection

As at 31 August 2016 there were 1,070 open non-association independent schools, 998 of which had been inspected.<sup>1</sup> Of these, 72% were judged good or outstanding, 17% required improvement and 11% were inadequate at their most recent inspection. The proportion judged good or outstanding is four percentage points lower than as at 31 August 2015.

**Chart 2: Most recent overall effectiveness of non-association independent schools as at 31 August 2016, by type**



1. Percentages are rounded and may not add to 100.

At the end of August 2016, 108 schools (11%) were judged to be inadequate at their most recent inspection. This continues the decline in inspection outcomes since 2014, where 43 schools (4%) were inadequate. This reflects higher expectations of the new independent school standards, introduced by the Department for Education in September 2014 and supplemented in January 2015.

Independent special schools are performing more strongly than their other independent school counterparts, with 77% judged good or outstanding. Other independent schools have a higher proportion found inadequate (13%) compared to independent special schools (7%).

### Regional outcomes from inspection

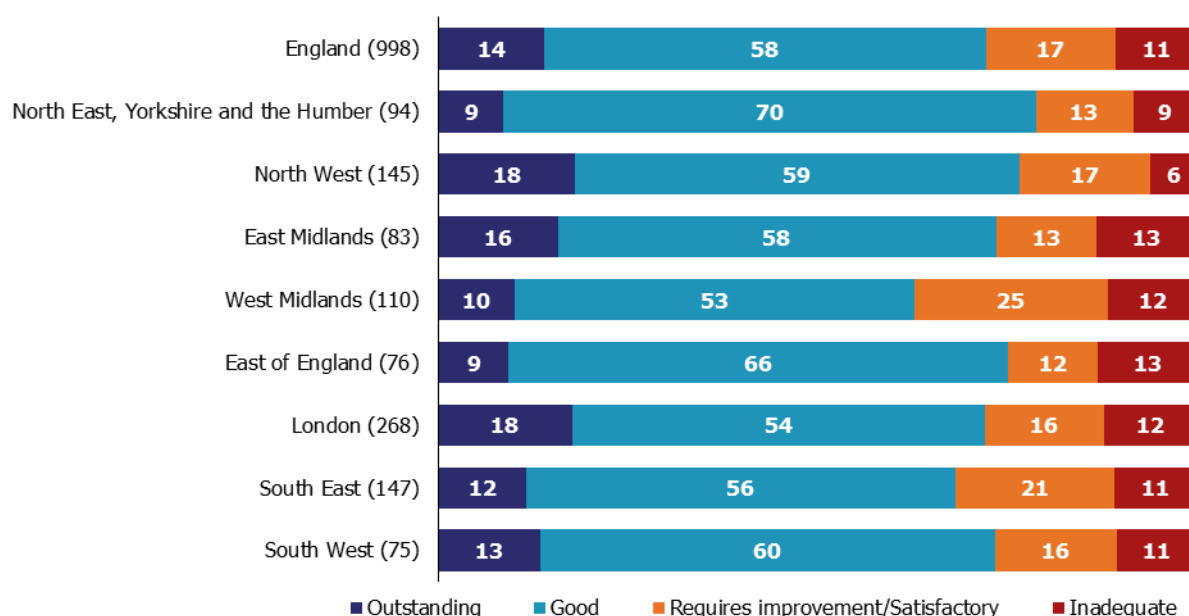
The number of independent schools varies considerably between regions, from London (286), which has the highest number, to the South West (76) which has the lowest. A large proportion are in London and the South East (41%).

<sup>1</sup> Not all open schools have received a standard inspection. Once registered, new schools receive their first standard inspection in their first year of operation, at the request of the Department for Education (DfE).

Chart 3 shows that, of those inspected, the North East, Yorkshire and the Humber has the highest proportion of schools judged good or outstanding (79%). London and the North West have the highest proportion of schools with an outstanding overall effectiveness judgement (18%).

The West Midlands had the lowest proportion of schools judged good or outstanding (63%).

**Chart 3: Most recent overall effectiveness of non-association independent schools as at 31 August 2016, by region**



1. Percentages are rounded and may not add to 100.

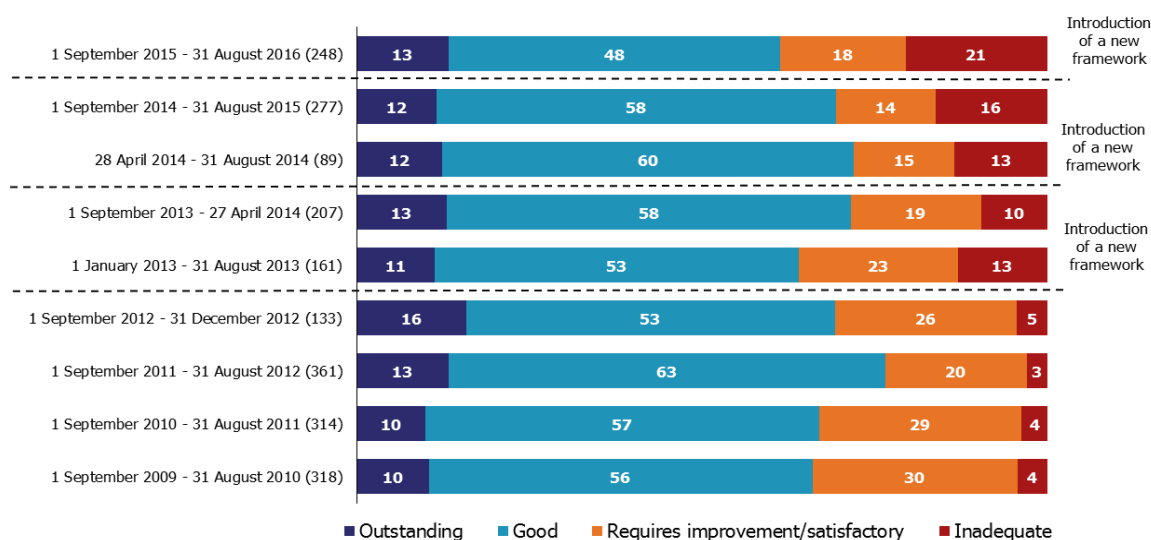
## Inspections between 1 September 2015 and 31 August 2016

From September 2015, independent schools are now inspected under the common inspection framework, which holds them to account in similar ways to maintained schools and academies for the quality of their work.

Between 1 September 2015 and 31 August 2016, Ofsted carried out 248 standard inspections. Twenty-one per cent of these were judged to be inadequate (see chart 4).

During 2015/16, 107 progress monitoring inspections were conducted of schools previously judged not to have met all of the independent school standards. Of these, only half have now improved to meet the standards checked on these inspections.

**Chart 4: Overall effectiveness of non-association independent schools inspected in each year since 1 September 2009**



1. Percentages are rounded and may not add to 100.

## Compliance with independent school standards

Compliance with regulatory standards is not reported in this release.

In 2015 Ofsted introduced a new administrative system to manage and store inspection data. There were issues with the quality of data recorded on this new system, meaning data for compliance with regulatory standards is not always consistent with the published inspection report. Therefore, compliance outcomes data for this period are not included in this release.

However, compliance with regulatory standards recorded in published inspection reports remains accurate. Users can consult inspection reports should they wish to obtain these outcomes.

## Revisions to previous release

Provisional data indicated that there were 280 inspections between 1 September 2014 and 31 August 2015, published by 30 September 2015. Revised data shows that an additional inspection took place in this period, which resulted in a good judgement.

The addition of this inspection outcome has not changed the overall grade profile for overall effectiveness in 2014/15. Further details can be found in the revised tables in the charts and tables file.

## Notes

Data in this release is from inspections undertaken between 1 September 2015 and 31 August 2016 and most recent inspections of open schools at 31 August 2016, where the inspection report was published by 30 September 2016. If an inspection report is not published by 30 September 2016 then the previous inspection, where available, will be reported as a school's most recent inspection.

From September 2015, data in this official statistics release reflects judgements made on inspection conducted under sections 99, and 109(1) and (2) of the Education and Skills Act 2008.<sup>2</sup> The regulations set out the standards on which inspectors report. This includes the extent to which the school meets the requirements of the Education (Independent School Standards) Regulations 2014 (referred to as the independent school standards). An explanation of the key uses of this data and further contextual information and the arrangements for quality assurance is provided in the accompanying methodology and quality report.

The methodology and quality report for these official statistics can be found at the following webpage: <https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/independent-schools-inspections-and-outcomes> under the heading 'documents'. This report also provides information about strengths and limitations of the statistics.

In 2016, the National Statistician published new guidance covering management information and official statistics. This guidance can be accessed here:

[www.statisticsauthority.gov.uk/wp-content/uploads/2016/06/National-Statisticians-Guidance-Management-Information-and-Official-Statistics.pdf](http://www.statisticsauthority.gov.uk/wp-content/uploads/2016/06/National-Statisticians-Guidance-Management-Information-and-Official-Statistics.pdf)

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<sup>2</sup> Education and Skills Act 2008; [www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/2008/25/contents](http://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/2008/25/contents).

## Glossary

### 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.<sup>3</sup>

The DfE's policy position with respect to full time education is contained within Part A of the departmental advice 'Registration of independent schools'.<sup>4</sup>

### Inspection types

Ofsted only inspects the quality of educational provision and compliance with independent school standards in independent schools which are not members of independent schools associations (referred to as non-association schools). Schools which are members of independent schools associations are inspected by inspectorates approved by the Secretary of State for this purpose: the Independent Schools Inspectorate and the School Inspection Service. All inspections are carried out at the request of the Secretary of State, which is the registration authority for all independent schools. Inspection types include:

### Pre-registration inspections

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 Secretary of State must notify HMCI, who must then inspect the school. The purpose of the inspection is to 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.

<sup>3</sup> This definition of 'independent school' forms part of the definition of 'an independent educational institution' for the purpose of the 2008 Act.

<sup>4</sup> [www.gov.uk/government/publications/independent-school-registration](http://www.gov.uk/government/publications/independent-school-registration).



## Standard inspections

Standard inspections of independent schools are conducted under sections 109(1) and (2) of the Education and Skills Act 2008. Ofsted will report to the DfE on the extent to which the school complies with the independent school standards, and will also make evaluative judgements about the quality of education provided by the school under Ofsted's common inspection framework.<sup>5</sup> Ofsted will normally contact the school by telephone to announce the inspection around lunchtime on the day before the inspection is due to start.

## Progress monitoring inspections

Ofsted conducts progress monitoring inspections at the request of the Secretary of State to check the progress made by independent schools to address weaknesses identified at their last inspection. These inspections are conducted under sections 109(1) and (2) of the Education and Skills Act 2008.

Schools identified as having weaknesses are normally required to 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 and/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.

## Emergency inspections

Emergency inspections of independent schools are conducted under sections 109(1) and (2) of the Education and Skills Act 2008. They are carried out at the request of the Secretary of State for a variety of reasons, for example as a result of a complaint or concern made known to the DfE. The issue that triggered the inspection will be used as the main line of enquiry for the inspection<sup>6</sup>, and Ofsted will report to the DfE whether the school meets the independent school standards relevant to the issue. Emergency inspections are conducted without notice and reports of these inspections are only published at the request of the Secretary of State.

## Material change inspections

Outside normal inspection cycles, Ofsted carries out material change inspections of registered independent schools at the request of the Secretary of State, when the school

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<sup>5</sup> *The common inspection framework: education, skills and early years*, Ofsted, 2015; [www.gov.uk/government/publications/common-inspection-framework-education-skills-and-early-years-from-september-2015](http://www.gov.uk/government/publications/common-inspection-framework-education-skills-and-early-years-from-september-2015).

<sup>6</sup> Ofsted does not investigate individual complaints. Rather, the focus of inspection are any issues that impact the whole school that the complaint may give rise to.

wishes to make a material change to their premises, intake or age range, or to the provision they make for disabled pupils and those with special educational needs, or there is a change to the proprietor. These inspections are conducted under section 162 of the Education Act 2002.

Inspectors will consider the implications of the material change and report to the Secretary of State whether the school is likely to meet the relevant independent school standards, if the material change is implemented. The school cannot implement the proposed change unless the Secretary of State grants permission.

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