School inspection toolkit

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Please note that this document is intended for print use and may not be fully accessible when used on screen.

Leadership and governance

Causing concern	Attention needed	Secure	Strong	Exemplary
Leadership and governance are		egic leadership and capacity to imp of improvement or of sustaining hi		Where a school is secure in all evaluation areas,
 likely to be 'causing concern' if one or more of the following applies: Leaders do not identify and/or prioritise the right issues or take suitable or timely action to deal with them. Leaders do not have a track record of improvement or, since being appointed, have not done everything they could reasonably do to secure improvements. Governors/trustees do not carry out their statutory core functions. Their contribution to the school's strategic aims 	Leaders' analysis of the school's strengths or weaknesses lacks precision and/or does not consistently identify the root causes of weakness. Actions to bring about improvement, while focused on the right areas, are imprecise. This makes it difficult for leaders to know how successful their work has been and what further action is needed.	Leaders and those responsible for governance have an accurate understanding of the school's context, strengths and weaknesses. This informs the actions they take. Leaders' actions are well judged and consistently effective. They improve or sustain standards. Leaders' decisions are always in pupils' best interests. Leaders make sure that the school's aims, priorities, vision and values are firmly established. The positive impact of leaders' actions has been sustained over time. Leaders create a culture of continuous improvement. They actively pursue their own professional development, acting as role models for staff.	Leaders' astute understanding of the school's context, strengths and weaknesses informs and underpins their evolving response to priorities. They adjust and adapt actions as part of a responsive and continuous improvement culture. Highly effective leadership leads to consistently high standards, particularly for disadvantaged pupils and those with special educational needs and/or disabilities (SEND). These standards are sustained over time. Improvements in any areas of weakness are rapid and sustained.	 and strong across all the themes in leadership and governance, inspectors may consider a feature of leaders' work to be exemplary. All considerations of exemplary practice will be moderated and confirmed by the national quality and consistency panel. This will include whether the practice is: embedded and sustained over time making a tangible difference to pupils' learning, development and well-being being used and/or adapted internally to
is weak. Any breaches of legal responsibilities	Responsible bodies, includ	ing employers, trustees and gover	nance (strategic oversight)	support and improve other areas of the
are serious and have a detrimental impact on pupils.	The responsible body is inconsistent in its support for leaders' well-being.	The responsible body knows its statutory duties and carries them out effectively.	Governors'/trustees' contribution to the school's work is consistently strong.	school's workbeing (or will be) shared externally to

The responsible body does not undertake its statutory duties diligently. Leaders' decisions are not taken in the best interests of pupils. This might include gaming or off-rolling and/or using ineffective, inappropriate and/or unsafe alternative provision. The responsible body is unclear about its	Governors/trustees carry out their statutory duties effectively. However, their support for, and challenge to, leaders do not have enough impact.	It supports leaders when they face challenges and monitors their well- being. Governors/trustees carry out their statutory core functions effectively to support the school to achieve its strategic aims and establish an inclusive culture and practices. Governors/trustees support and challenge leaders appropriately. They hold leaders to account effectively, including for the school's support and provision for disadvantaged pupils and pupils with SEND.	They are highly effective at holding leaders to account. The responsible body is highly effective at supporting leaders' well-being.	support system improvement. Once the provisional grades are confirmed and the school's report card is published, inspectors will invite leaders to submit a short case study of their work to the Ofsted Academy. We will use a panel of experts to review these case studies nationally. Successful submissions will be published as part
statutory duties in	Parents, carers and the community			of a series of best
relation to leaders' well-being and does not support them appropriately. Staff workload is unsustainable. Bullying and	Leaders' engagement with parents and carers and the local community is ad hoc, limited and/or not targeted appropriately. It makes little difference to pupils' achievement and well-being.	Leaders engage with and work effectively with parents and carers and the local community to support pupils' achievement and well-being.	Leaders build and sustain strong, long-term partnerships with parents and carers and the local community. This has a strong, positive impact on pupils' achievement and well-being.	practice reporting.
harassment go unnoticed or	Staff well-being and workload			
unchallenged.	Leaders' decisions are sometimes burdensome to staff. Although leaders take action to address any bullying and harassment of staff, any learning from such incidents is slow or limited.	Leaders prioritise staff well-being. They make sure that staff's work is sustainable and proportionate. Leaders protect staff from bullying and harassment.	Leaders make sure that all staff feel highly valued, are supported to do their jobs effectively, and are well protected from bullying and harassment. Consequently, staff morale and retention are high.	

Curriculum

Causing concern	Attention needed	Secure	Strong	Exemplary
The curriculum is	Leadership of the curriculum			Where a school is secure in all evaluation
likely to be `causing concern' if one or more of the following applies:	The curriculum is limited in breadth, depth or ambition in some subjects and/or for some groups of pupils.	Leaders make sure that the curriculum is at least as ambitious in breadth and depth as the national curriculum, for all pupils.	The curriculum is expertly designed at each stage to enable pupils to develop secure, deep and fluent	areas, and strong across all the themes in curriculum, inspectors
The curriculum lacks ambition, structure or coherence. Leaders	Some subject/phase leaders do not have the expertise,	Subject/area curriculums are well designed to build pupils' knowledge	knowledge. This paves the way for future learning.	may consider a feature of leaders' work to be exemplary.
have not considered its content and sequencing	support or time they need to design, adapt or adopt an appropriate curriculum.	and skills sequentially and cumulatively.	The curriculum, whether designed, adapted or adopted, has been expertly	All considerations of exemplary practice will be moderated and
sufficiently. The narrow range of subjects does not prepare pupils for the opportunities,	The curriculum in some subjects/areas is not designed effectively to build pupils' knowledge and skills sequentially and	expertise and/or support they need to ensure that the curriculum achieves its aims. Leaders make sure that the	developed over time to ensure its continued quality, effectiveness and, where relevant, subject-specific rigour.	confirmed by the national quality and consistency panel. This will include whether the practice is:
responsibilities and experiences of life in Britain.	cumulatively. Teaching, revisiting or	curriculum allows enough time for teaching, practising and revisiting content, and for addressing any gaps		 embedded and sustained over time
The curriculum lacks ambition for disadvantaged pupils	practising knowledge and skills are not given enough time.	in pupils' knowledge as quickly as possible.		 making a tangible difference to pupils' learning,
and/or pupils with SEND.	Communication	development and well-being		
	The curriculum provides limited opportunity for pupils to develop their reading, language and vocabulary, both in spoken and/or written form, across a range of subjects.	The curriculum extends pupils' language and vocabulary, both in spoken and written form, and increases their reading competency across all subjects. For primary-age pupils and for older pupils where necessary , the curriculum prioritises accurate	The school has an expertly designed curriculum, which develops pupils' reading and writing through high-quality texts and increasingly broad vocabulary across all subjects.	 being used and/or adapted internally to support and improve other areas of the school's work being (or will be) shared externally to

For primary-age pupils and for older pupils where necessary, the curriculum does not place a strong enough emphasis on accurate and fluent word reading, handwriting, spelling and mathematics.	and fluent word reading, spelling, handwriting and mathematics. usive curriculum culture and practi		support system improvement. Once the provisional grades are confirmed and the school's report card is published, inspectors will invite leaders to submit a short case study of
Weaknesses in design and/or poorly considered adaptations limit some pupils' access to a broad and ambitious curriculum.	The curriculum is an entitlement for every pupil. Any adaptations are made carefully to avoid limiting expectations for disadvantaged pupils or pupils with SEND. Leaders take all reasonable steps to make sure that all pupils, including those attending alternative provision and those with SEND, can study an equally ambitious curriculum.	Leaders make sure that all pupils gain the knowledge and skills to prepare them well to access the full curriculum and the next stage of learning.	their work to the Ofsted Academy. We will use a panel of experts to review these case studies nationally. Successful submissions will be published as part of a series of best practice reporting.

Developing teaching

Causing concern	Attention needed	Secure	Strong	Exemplary	
Developing teaching		Leadership of teaching		Where a school is	
is likely to be 'causing concern' if one or more of the following applies: Leaders have an inaccurate understanding of the quality of teaching.	Leaders take action to improve the quality of teaching, although this does not always fix the underlying causes of weaknesses. Leaders' actions are overly generic or superficial.	Leaders have an accurate, informed understanding of the quality of teaching, including for pupils with SEND. This includes the quality of subject or phase teaching and whole-school strengths and areas for development.	Leaders have a nuanced understanding of the quality of teaching across subjects, phases and year groups. Focused actions, with clear milestones and desired outcomes, drive continuous improvements in the quality	secure in all evaluation areas, and strong across all the themes in developing teaching, inspectors may consider a feature of leaders' work to be exemplary.	
Leaders are not doing enough to tackle			of teaching.	All considerations of exemplary practice will	
weaknesses in the		Professional development		be moderated and confirmed by the	
education that pupils receive. Pupils' experiences in lessons do not help them to learn the planned curriculum effectively. Leaders do not do enough to make sure that teachers develop the expertise to teach the curriculum. Teachers' expectations are too low for all pupils or for particular groups of pupils. Adaptations do not meet pupils' needs, or	Leaders take a generic approach to professional development, which undermines the quality of teaching in particular subjects or in a particular phase. There are inconsistencies in the quality of professional development, or it is not targeted well enough to have a sustained positive impact on the quality of teaching.	 Leaders have a professional development programme that draws on training, practice and coaching to build and sustain an effective team of teachers and support staff, including early career teachers, where relevant. This professional development programme enables all staff to effectively implement, where relevant: the school's reading (including systematic, synthetic phonics), writing and mathematics curriculums the demands of each subject curriculum the necessary adaptations for some pupils with SEND and for 	Leaders have developed a highly effective professional learning culture, in which staff take responsibility for their professional learning and are keen to continually improve their expertise, drawing on the practice of others and on high-quality research evidence.	 national quality and consistency panel. This will include whether the practice is: embedded and sustained over time making a tangible difference to pupils' learning, development and well-being being used and/or adapted internally to support and improve other areas of the school's work being (or will be) shared externally to 	

they reflect low expectations for particular pupils or groups of pupils.		 pupils who speak English as an additional language. Where teachers are expected to teach across the full curriculum or outside of their subject specialism, they are supported to build their confidence, expertise and subject knowledge. Leaders engage with initial teacher training, the early career framework and national professional qualifications to provide a coherent development pathway for all staff. 		support system improvement. Once the provisional grades are confirmed and the school's report card is published, inspectors will invite leaders to submit a short case study of their work to the Ofsted Academy. We will use a panel of experts to review these case studies nationally.
		High-quality teaching		Successful submissions
	Weaknesses in teachers' subject knowledge mean that curriculum content is not taught as effectively as it could be. Teachers' explanations and/or	Leaders support teachers to have a secure knowledge and understanding of the curriculum(s) they teach and of how pupils learn, so that they make effective decisions. Teachers explain new content	Teachers are expert at translating curriculum content into explanations and learning activities. These teaching choices are highly sensitive to, and effective in, the context of the subject or	will be published as part of a series of best practice reporting.
	the activities they provide do not build on, consolidate or develop pupils' knowledge effectively enough.	clearly, connecting new information with what pupils already know and/or introducing new content and concepts in a meaningful context.	context of the subject or phase. Teachers are expert at checking pupils'	
	Pupils are not given enough opportunities to revisit important content and concepts.	Teachers revisit important content and concepts regularly so that pupils learn them securely and remember them.	understanding and adapting their teaching, in the moment, to meet pupils' needs.	
	Assessment is not precise, so teachers do not know enough about what pupils understand and can do. They then cannot	Teachers check pupils' understanding systematically, identifying and remedying any gaps or misconceptions. They give effective		

adapt their teaching accordingly.	feedback that supports pupils to improve. Every teacher understands the importance of the language and vocabulary, both spoken and written, specific to the subjects they teach. They explicitly teach these.	
	Inclusive teaching	
Adaptations to teaching are not effective enough in tackling the most significan barriers to learning for pup They fail to support pupils' longer-term achievement a progress.	 knowledge to make well-judged adaptations to overcome barriers to learning for pupils, particularly those with SEND. Any adaptations do not 	Appropriate and well-judged adaptations help pupils to overcome the most significant barriers to learning, particularly for those who are disadvantaged and/or who have SEND. These adaptations effectively enable pupils to learn the curriculum, so that they secure the knowledge and skills they need for future learning.

Achievement in national tests and examinations, where applicable

Well below average	Below average	Average	Above average	Well above average
Pupils' attainment in national tests and examinations over time is well below national averages. Pupils' progress, as shown in national tests and examinations over time, is well below national averages. Over time, the difference between the attainment rate of the school's disadvantaged pupils and those of all non-disadvantaged pupils nationally is far wider than the difference between the attainment rates of all disadvantaged pupils and those of non- disadvantaged pupils nationally.	Pupils' attainment in national tests and examinations over time is below national averages. Pupils' progress, as shown in national tests and examinations over time, is below national averages. Over time, the difference between the attainment rate of the school's disadvantaged pupils and those of all non- disadvantaged pupils nationally is wider than the difference between the attainment rates of all disadvantaged pupils and those of non-disadvantaged pupils nationally.	Pupils' attainment in national tests and examinations over time is broadly in line with national averages. Pupils' progress, as shown in national tests and examinations over time, is broadly in line with national averages. Over time, the difference between the attainment rate of the school's disadvantaged pupils and those of all non-disadvantaged pupils nationally is broadly in line with the difference between the attainment rates of all disadvantaged pupils and those of non-disadvantaged pupils nationally.	Pupils' attainment in national tests and examinations over time is above national averages. Pupils' progress, as shown in national tests and examinations over time, is above national averages. Over time, the difference between the attainment rate of the school's disadvantaged pupils and those of all non- disadvantaged pupils nationally is narrower than the difference between the attainment rates of all disadvantaged pupils and those of non-disadvantaged pupils nationally.	Pupils' attainment in national tests and examinations over time is well above national averages. Pupils' progress, as shown in national tests and examinations over time, is well above national averages. Over time, the difference between the attainment rate of the school's disadvantaged pupils and those of all non-disadvantaged pupils nationally is far narrower than the difference between the attainment rates of all disadvantaged pupils and those of non- disadvantaged pupils nationally.

Achievement across the curriculum

Causing concern	Attention needed	Secure	Strong	Exemplary
Achievement is likely to be `causing	Progress through the curriculum			Where a school is secure in all evaluation
concern' if one or more of the following applies:	Pupils' attainment and progress are patchy or not as good as they need to be over time.	Leaders make sure that pupils are making secure progress across the curriculum. They understand how well pupils are achieving and why.	Pupils develop rich knowledge and understanding across subjects, preparing them well for more advanced study.	areas, and strong across all the themes in achievement, inspectors may
Leaders have a poor understanding of weaknesses in pupils' achievement and the	Leaders are not analysing the underlying causes of underachievement	Pupils develop detailed knowledge and skills across the curriculum. This is evident in the quality of work they	Disadvantaged pupils and those with SEND achieve strongly across the	consider a feature of leaders' work to be exemplary.
reasons for these. They have not tackled	effectively.	produce. Any gaps in knowledge or skills are closed quickly.	curriculum, and their achievement is sustained over	All considerations of exemplary practice will
weaknesses effectively over time or have not acted swiftly to stem a decline in achievement.		Pupils take pride in the quality of work they produce. It is of a consistently high quality and demonstrates progress against the curriculum.	time.	be moderated and confirmed by the national quality and consistency panel. This will include whether the
Pupils lack the foundations of communication,		Disadvantaged pupils achieve at least as well as their peers. Gaps between the achievement of		practice is:embedded and sustained over time
reading, writing or mathematical knowledge. Gaps in		disadvantaged pupils and that of non-disadvantaged pupils are narrowing quickly.		 making a tangible difference to pupils' learning,
knowledge are not tackled quickly or effectively.		Pupils with SEND achieve well from their starting points and, where relevant, against their individual		development and well-being
Pupils have not gained the knowledge and		targets.		 being used and/or adapted internally
skills they need and/or the necessary qualifications (where		nd appropriate knowledge and flue matics, and language and commun		to support and improve other areas of the school's work
applicable) to progress to the next stage of	Pupils' knowledge and skills in reading, writing,	Pupils have age- and phase- appropriate knowledge and skills to	Pupils quickly gain the confidence to read across the	 being (or will be) shared externally to

education, training or employment.	mathematics and language and communication are not as secure as they need to be to support their learning across the curriculum or prepare them for the next steps.	 progress to the next stage of learning. These include: language and communication skills that enable them to access the full curriculum accurate and fluent reading compositional skills accurate and fluent spelling legible and fluent handwriting mathematical knowledge Pupils read with appropriate fluency and comprehension across all subjects. This helps them to develop their vocabulary and knowledge and to express their ideas articulately, both orally and in writing. 	curriculum to develop their vocabulary and knowledge. This allows them to understand and articulate complex and/or new ideas, both in speech and writing, and to use their knowledge across different areas of the curriculum.	support system improvement. Once the provisional grades are confirmed and the school's report card is published, inspectors will invite leaders to submit a short case study of their work to the Ofsted Academy. We will use a panel of experts to review these case studies nationally. Successful submissions will be published as part of a series of best practice reporting.
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Behaviour and attitudes

Causing concern	Attention needed	Secure	Strong	Exemplary
Behaviour and	L	eadership of behaviour and attitude	25	Where a school is
attitudes are likely to be 'causing concern' if one or more of the following applies: Leaders do not take effective action to secure pupils' good behaviour and a consistent approach to discipline. Leaders' support for staff to manage behaviour is weak. Pupils' lack of engagement and persistent low- and/or high-level wilful disruption contribute to reduced learning and/or disorderly classrooms. A significant minority of pupils show a lack of respect for each other and/or staff and a lack of self-discipline. Pupils frequently ignore or refuse teachers'	Aspects of the school's culture, policy or practice do not consistently reflect high expectations for pupils' behaviour. Staff are not confident or consistent in challenging poor behaviour or disruptions to learning. Pupils' behaviour and conduct are inconsistent. This limits staff's ability to create a positive learning environment throughout the school. Bullying, discrimination harassment and/or sexual abuse, while reported and logged, are not dealt with quickly or effectively enough.	Leaders establish high expectations for all pupils' behaviour and attitudes to learning, including through the behaviour policy. Staff and pupils understand these expectations. Leaders engage with and communicate these expectations clearly to parents and carers. They are enforced consistently and fairly to create a calm and safe environment. Leaders and other staff teach pupils the importance of treating others with kindness, courtesy, empathy and respect and do so themselves. Leaders work closely with parents and carers to support positive behaviour. Leaders and staff deal effectively and quickly with any incidents of bullying, discrimination, harassment, sexual abuse and derogatory language and accurately record such incidents. They support those affected so that they feel safe and comfortable at school. Leaders identify patterns and trends in behaviour, including bullying. They are active in identifying problems	Expert leadership creates a strong, shared culture of positive behaviour. The school establishes strong and supportive relationships with pupils and their parents and carers. These result in positive behaviour and, where it is needed, marked improvements. Leaders' consistently high- quality work to support pupils who are bullied or who may be responsible for bullying contributes to a cohesive and positive environment.	 secure in all evaluation areas, and strong across all the themes in behaviour and attitudes, inspectors may consider a feature of leaders' work to be exemplary. All considerations of exemplary practice will be moderated and confirmed by the national quality and consistency panel. This will include whether the practice is: embedded and sustained over time making a tangible difference to pupils' learning, development and well-being being used and/or adapted internally to support and improve other areas of the school's work

requests to moderate their conduct. This results in poor behaviour. Incidents of bullying and/or prejudiced and discriminatory behaviour, both direct and indirect, are frequent. Pupils have little confidence in the school's ability to tackle harassment, bullying, violence and/or discriminatory behaviour successfully, because leaders do not take their concerns seriously and/or are too slow to act.	De Pupils are generally compliant in lessons, but they are not engaged well in their learning. Pupils lack independence and rely on teachers to direct and motivate them.	and act swiftly and effectively to solve them. Leaders train staff to challenge poor behaviour confidently, consistently and fairly, including disruptions to learning. Strategies to help pupils to manage and improve their behaviour are effective. Pupils are taught to recognise unacceptable behaviour and are confident to report concerns to staff. veloping positive attitudes to learn Staff are systematic in teaching pupils how to approach their learning, and pupils respond with positive attitudes. Their behaviour does not normally disrupt teaching, learning or school routines. Staff take effective but proportionate action to ensure that pupils' behaviour is acceptable for learning.	ing Pupils are positive about learning. They show this through their self-motivation, cooperation with staff, and collaborative and supportive work with one another. Pupils consistently try to do their best. They show resilience when they face setbacks.	 being (or will be) shared externally to support system improvement. Once the provisional grades are confirmed and the school's report card is published, inspectors will invite leaders to submit a short case study of their work to the Ofsted Academy. We will use a panel of experts to review these case studies nationally. Successful submissions will be published as part of a series of best practice reporting.
	Inclus	ive behaviour culture, policy and p	ractice	
	Staff do not always have the necessary expertise, confidence or support to adapt behaviour policies and practice fairly and consistently. Adjustments are not always appropriate to pupils' needs.	Leaders and staff understand each pupil's context, needs and challenges when managing behaviour and make reasonable adjustments in the light of these. Any adaptations made maintain high expectations of behaviour.	The school's behaviour policy, culture and practice have a strong and sustained impact on improving pupils' behaviour and attitudes to learning.	

th	<i>,</i> .	Sanctions, including suspension and exclusion, are used proportionately, effectively and as a last resort to tackle behaviour that does not reflect the school's high expectations.	
		Well-chosen, targeted interventions support pupils who need additional help with their behaviour. The impact is carefully evaluated to allow further adaptations, as needed.	

Attendance

Causing concern	Attention needed	Secure	Strong	Exemplary	
Attendance is likely	Strategic leadership to secure the best possible attendance			Where a school is	
 to be 'causing concern' if one or more of the following applies: Strategic leadership of attendance is lacking. Barriers to attendance are not identified or tackled. Attendance is consistently low for all pupils or for groups of pupils and shows little sign of sustained improvement. The school does not properly monitor pupils' attendance at alternative provision or act when they are absent. 	Leaders do not identify and/or tackle barriers to attendance well enough, particularly for disadvantaged pupils and those with SEND. Some aspects of leaders' work do not support pupils to attend well. Leaders have limited insight into why this is the case.	Leaders prioritise improving attendance and punctuality and have an effective strategy in place. Leaders make sure that admission and attendance registers are completed accurately. Day-to-day processes to follow up absences are effective. Leaders analyse attendance information closely, at whole-school level and for different groups, to identify patterns and trends. They use this analysis well to identify the causes of poor attendance, tackle problems and remove barriers. All staff understand the importance of paying close attention to pupils' attendance, taking opportunities to promote good attendance, and acting on absence promptly.	Leaders' steps to identify and tackle barriers result in sustained high attendance or rapid and notable improvement, both overall and for individuals and groups. All staff have a high-profile role in promoting attendance. Training and support underpin their supportive but challenging conversations with pupils and families where attendance needs to improve.	 secure in all evaluation areas, and strong across all the themes in attendance, inspectors may consider a feature of leaders' work to be exemplary. All considerations of exemplary practice will be moderated and confirmed by the national quality and consistency panel. This will include whether the practice is: embedded and sustained over time making a tangible difference to pupils' learning, development and 	
		Working in partnership		 well-being being used and/or adapted internally to support and improve other areas of the school's work being (or will be) shared externally to 	
	Leaders' work with families and external partners is limited. Support to improve attendance is inconsistent.	Leaders clearly communicate their expectations of the importance of attendance and punctuality to families. Leaders and staff work collaboratively with families, other local schools, local authorities and	Leaders and staff build and sustain strong relationships with families, other local schools, local authorities and other partners to secure the best possible attendance.		

	other partners to improve attendance.	Over time, these working partnerships have a strong and positive impact on pupils' attendance, particularly that of pupils who do not attend well or have not attended well in the past.	support system improvement. Once the provisional grades are confirmed and the school's report card is published, inspectors will invite
Incl	usive attendance culture and pract	ices	short case study of
Leaders have not prioritised their actions so that they secure the best possible attendance of pupils who find it difficult to attend. Part-time timetables are used for longer than necessary or treated as a long-term solution, or plans for returning pupils to full-time education are unclear. Leaders are inconsistent in making sure that pupils attend their alternative provision.	Leaders build a culture of community and belonging, promoting positive relationships and attitudes between teachers, parents and pupils so that every pupil feels valued, safe and understood. Leaders and staff pay close attention to the needs of pupils who are absent because of mental or physical ill-health and/or SEND. They provide them with suitable support to attend when they can, to keep up and to catch up, working closely with families to do so.	Leaders pay close attention to every element of the school's work to make sure that the school is a place that pupils want to attend. They make careful adjustments to pupils' provision, when necessary. In the rare instances when part-time timetables are needed, alongside other suitable interventions and support, these have a demonstrable positive impact on improving pupils' attendance. Alternative provision, where used, has a demonstrable positive impact on pupils' attendance and engagement.	leaders to submit a

Personal development and well-being

Causing concern	Attention needed	Secure	Strong	Exemplary
Personal development and	Leaders	nip of personal development and w	vell-being	Where a school is
development and well-being are likely to be 'causing concern' if one or more of the following applies: A significant minority of pupils do not receive a wide, rich set of experiences. Disadvantaged pupils or those with SEND miss out on aspects of the school's wider offer. Pupils do not receive the pastoral support they need. Leaders and/or governors/trustees undermine or fail to promote equality of opportunity. Significant weaknesses in the quality of the school's personal development programme are not identified or addressed.	Leaders' provision for pupils' personal development and well-being lacks coherence and/or focus. While some pupils experience an effective personal development programme, including a range of wider opportunities beyond the taught curriculum, it is not always well matched to the needs, interests and/or ambitions of particular groups of pupils, especially disadvantaged pupils and/or those with SEND. Leaders do not check whether the school's personal development programme has the impact they desire, including whether all pupils are able to benefit from the wider opportunities available. The careers programme does not provide pupils with consistent, high-quality guidance and meaningful encounters with the world of work.	 Leaders have ensured a broad, engaging and inclusive programme of personal development that spans the core curriculum and extra- curricular activities. The programme covers the content of the statutory relationships and sex education/relationships, sex and health education framework. This programme: develops pupils' character, motivation, confidence and resilience incorporates pupils' personal, social and health education, including in relation to their mental and physical health teaches the importance of equality of opportunity and respect for diversity prepares pupils for the opportunities, decisions, responsibilities and experiences of later life broadens pupils' experiences and provides opportunities for them to develop their talents and 	The programme of wider opportunities is expertly designed and balanced. It is well suited to the school's context and pupils' needs, ambitions and aspirations. Leaders carefully track access to make sure that these opportunities are enriching, accessible and targeted. Pupils participate enthusiastically in a wide range of artistic, musical, sporting and cultural activities. They are proud to represent their school and community. Disadvantaged pupils and those with SEND benefit fully. Careers provision is of high quality, structured and sequenced effectively and fully integrated into the curriculum. It is tailored to the needs, ambitions and aspirations of individuals. Leaders work in continuous partnership with parents and carers, local employers and	 secure in all evaluation areas, and strong across all the themes in personal development and well-being, inspectors may consider a feature of leaders' work to be exemplary. All considerations of exemplary practice will be moderated and confirmed by the national quality and consistency panel. This will include whether the practice is: embedded and sustained over time making a tangible difference to pupils' learning, development and well-being being used and/or adapted internally to support and improve other areas of the school's work

Leaders have created a culture and/or environment that places undue pressure on pupils or undermines pupils' emotional health and/or well-being. Leaders have not made sure that the curriculum teaches pupils about healthy relationships. Leaders do not have an effective careers programme. They fail to use the Gatsby benchmarks to develop and improve careers provision.	Some pupils do not receive impartial advice and guidance about their potential next steps. Staff are not trained well to teach the careers programme.	 interests in areas such as the arts, music and sport allows pupils to develop spiritually, morally, socially and culturally Where relevant, there is an appropriate careers programme, which meets the Gatsby Benchmarks. The programme includes: impartial advice and guidance, from well-trained staff opportunities for workplace experiences engagement with employers, colleges, training providers and universities Leaders make sure that staff have the necessary knowledge and skills to teach the personal development programme. 	further and higher education institutions to provide a package of guidance, opportunities and experiences that help pupils decide on their next steps.	 being (or will be) shared externally to support system improvement. Once the provisional grades are confirmed and the school's report card is published, inspectors will invite leaders to submit a short case study of their work to the Ofsted Academy. We will use a panel of experts to review these case studies nationally. Successful submissions will be published as part of a series of best practice reporting.
	Pa	storal support and pupils' well-bei	ng	
	Pastoral support has limited impact because it is imprecisely targeted and/or not fully matched to pupils' needs. Leaders' work with external agencies is inconsistent. Although leaders listen to pupils' views, they are slow to take account of them. Pupils	 Leaders' pastoral support is: informed by evidence provided in partnership with parents and carers integrated well with external agencies, where appropriate well matched to pupils' needs 	All staff are active and highly vigilant in supporting and caring for pupils. Relevant staff have the necessary expertise to provide high- quality support and care. The school draws on strong and sustained relationships with parents and carers, and with external agencies, to	

do not always see staff as trusted adults who they can turn to for support.	 targeted at pupils who may need extra support, guidance or care Leaders and staff are vigilant about identifying pupils, or particular groups of pupils, who may be vulnerable or need additional support. Pupils understand and are confident in accessing pastoral care when they need it. Leaders listen to, and take account of, pupils' views. 	provide pupils with the best possible care, guidance and support, especially disadvantaged pupils and/or those with SEND.
I	nclusive opportunities and practice	S
Leaders' personal development and careers programme, including the wider opportunities afforded to pupils, are not honed to take account of all pupils' needs, ambitions and aspirations, particularly those of disadvantaged pupils and those with SEND. Some opportunities and activities may not be fully accessible and/or have limited take-up.	The personal development programme is an entitlement for every pupil. Any adaptations for individual pupils or groups are made carefully to avoid limiting expectations for disadvantaged pupils and/or pupils with SEND. Leaders take all reasonable steps to make sure that all pupils, including those attending alternative provision, within or external to the school, and/or those with SEND, can access the same personal development and careers programme.	Leaders' personal development and careers programme, including its accessibility and take-up of the wider opportunities afforded to pupils, is expertly designed to meet the needs, ambitions and aspirations of disadvantaged pupils and those with SEND. All pupils feel welcome, valued and respected. They feel that they belong within the school community.

Inclusion

Causing concern	Attention needed	Secure	Strong	Exemplary	
Inclusion is likely to	Inclu	isive practices (across all other too	lkits)	Where a school is	
be `causing concern' if any one or more of the following applies:	Aspects of the school's inclusive practices need attention.	Across the school's work, inclusive practices are secure, so that all pupils feel welcome, valued and a sense of belonging to their school	Across the school's work, inclusive practices are strong.	secure in all evaluation areas, and strong across all the themes in inclusion, inspectors	
Across the school's work, leaders fail to		and community.		may consider a feature of leaders' work to be exemplary.	
meet pupils' needs.	Identifyir	ng and meeting needs, and removir	ng barriers	All considerations of	
Inclusive practices do not ensure an acceptable standard of education and/or care for disadvantaged pupils and/or those with SEND. Support for disadvantaged pupils and/or those with SEND is ineffective. Leaders do not identify pupils who are disadvantaged or have SEND, or pupils who may face barriers to their learning and/or	Leaders' support for pupils who face barriers to their learning and/or well-being is not sufficiently precise, sustained or effective.	Leaders quickly and accurately identify pupils who face barriers to their learning or well-being that might make them vulnerable. Leaders make sure that these pupils receive effective support, drawing on external specialists, as necessary. Leaders make sure that any use of alternative provision is suitable, safe and in the best interests of pupils.	Leaders have established a culture in which all staff are highly vigilant in identifying pupils who may face barriers to their learning and/or well- being. Leaders have a keen understanding of the barriers that individual pupils face and tackle these swiftly and expertly. They systematically review adaptations, adjusting them as needed, so that they make a sustained difference to pupils' learning and/or well-being.	 exemplary practice will be moderated and confirmed by the national quality and consistency panel. This will include whether the practice is: embedded and sustained over time making a tangible difference to pupils' learning, development and well-being being used and/or adapted internally 	
well-being.		Supporting disadvantaged pupils	P	to support and	
Leaders' pupil premium strategy is ineffective. Disadvantaged children underachieve.	Leaders lack a precise understanding of their disadvantaged pupils' needs and/or do not use suitable	Leaders have a secure understanding of their disadvantaged pupils' needs and use appropriate evidence to inform their	Leaders use a rich set of well-analysed quantitative and qualitative data to	 improve other areas of the school's work being (or will be) shared externally to 	

Leaders' use of alternative provision is not in the best interests of pupils, and/or they have not taken all necessary steps to make sure that the provision is safe. Leaders fail to meet the statutory expectations of the SEN code of practice.	evidence to inform their pupil premium strategy. Leaders' pupil premium strategy is not well aligned to wider school development priorities, and staff are not clear about their roles. There are limited systems in place to monitor the progress of the pupil premium strategy or to make adaptations as appropriate. Support for disadvantaged pupils is not sufficiently precise, sustained or effective.	 pupil premium strategy, including when selecting approaches to take. Leaders understand how supporting disadvantaged pupils is central to, rather than separate from, their overarching strategic priorities. Leaders make sure that the delivery of their pupil premium strategy is sustained and monitored effectively, including through ongoing training and support for staff. The pupil premium strategy has a demonstrable positive impact on pupils' achievement and well-being. Supporting pupils with SEND 	understand the needs of their disadvantaged pupils. Leaders continually monitor the progress of their pupil premium strategy and make helpful and proactive adaptations, as appropriate.	support system improvement. Once the provisional grades are confirmed and the school's report card is published, inspectors will invite leaders to submit a short case study of their work to the Ofsted Academy. We will use a panel of experts to review these case studies nationally. Successful submissions will be published as part of a series of best practice reporting.
	Leaders do not assess pupils' needs well enough. Support for pupils with SEND is not sufficiently precise, sustained or effective. Expectations of pupils with SEND are too low.	There is a qualified special educational needs coordinator with sufficient authority within the leadership structure to make a positive difference for pupils with SEND. Leaders quickly and accurately identify pupils' emerging or changing SEND. They make sure that pupils receive effective support, drawing on specialist guidance where necessary. An appropriate, graduated approach meets pupils' SEND effectively. Staff receive suitable training and support to implement the graduated approach well.	Leaders identify and meet the needs of pupils with SEND extremely well, using adaptations that help to ensure that these pupils benefit from high expectations. They have a keen understanding of the barriers that individual pupils face and tackle these expertly. They systematically review adaptations and monitor the progress of pupils with SEND, adjusting as needed.	

Leaders make sure that their work is effective in improving pupils' achievement. They do not lower expectations for pupils with SEND.	
Leaders are committed to their role in the local area partnership's strategy to improve the experiences of, and outcomes for, pupils with SEND.	

Early years

Causing concern	Attention needed	Secure	Strong	Exemplary
Early years is likely to be 'causing concern' if any one or more of the following applies: Leaders have not met the statutory requirements of the early years foundation stage (EYFS) in full. This has a significant impact on the safety and well-being and/or learning and development of children. Leaders have low expectations of what children in the early years can and should achieve. The curriculum is poorly designed. It does not	Leaders have misunderstood or only partially applied the statutory requirements of the EYFS, but this does not have a significant impact on the safety and well-being and/or the learning and development of children. Children's learning, development and/or welfare and well-being are not identified and addressed consistently. Senior leaders recognise the importance of early years, but this is not reflected consistently in the decisions they make about curriculum design and/or ensuring that there are well-trained leaders and/or staff in early years.	Leadership of the early years Leaders make sure that the statutory requirements of the EYFS are met in full. They have the same high expectations of children in the early years as they do across the rest of the school. Senior leaders make sure that the early years are prioritised, so that all children, especially those who are disadvantaged and/or those with SEND, get the best start in life. Leaders and staff work in close partnership with parents and carers, other settings, childminders and/or out-of-school provision to make sure that there is continuity of education and care for all children.	Leaders and staff from across the school understand the importance of the early years in laying the foundations for all future learning. This is reflected in whole-school decision-making and approaches to continuous improvement. Leaders and staff have fully integrated the early years into the life of the school so that there is a seamless transition as children progress through their early years and into key stage 1 and beyond.	 Where a school is secure in all evaluation areas, and strong across all the themes in early years, inspectors may consider a feature of leaders' work to be exemplary. All considerations of exemplary practice will be moderated and confirmed by the national quality and consistency panel. This will include whether the practice is: embedded and sustained over time making a tangible difference to pupils' learning, development and well-being
meet children's needs	Le	arning and development requireme	nts	 being used and/or
or provide the necessary foundations for future learning. Leaders or staff have a weak understanding of the areas of learning	Some aspects of the curriculum are not designed or implemented well enough to meet children's needs. The frequency and/or quality of interactions between staff and children do not support	The curriculum is planned and sequenced effectively to support all children's progression through the EYFS, appropriate to their age and stage of development. This includes frequent opportunities for children to practise and	The curriculum is expertly designed and sets out, for each area of learning, the knowledge and skills that children need to secure in preparation for later learning.	 adapted internally to support and improve other areas of the school's work being (or will be) shared externally to

they teach and the way in which children learn. Relationships between staff and children do not support children's emotional well-being effectively. Children fail to form secure attachments with trusted adults. By the end of Reception, children are unprepared for Year 1. They cannot communicate, read and/or spell enough phonically decodable words to a level that is appropriate for their age. They do not have basic fluency in number and shape, space and measures.	children's development well enough or meet their individual needs. Children are not supported to develop their communication and language and vocabulary consistently well.	consolidate their learning and to develop their attention and sustained focus, so that they are ready for Year 1. The curriculum ensures that children acquire a wide vocabulary, communicate effectively and, in Reception, secure a knowledge of phonics, preparing the foundations for future learning. Staff engage in frequent, high-quality interactions with children to support their development and extend their language and vocabulary across all areas of learning. Staff present information clearly to children, check their understanding, and identify and address misconceptions, to improve children's learning. The school's curriculum for teaching systematic, synthetic phonics, early reading and handwriting is systematic and cumulative. The mathematics curriculum is sequenced well. It ensures that children have sufficient practice to be confident in using and understanding numbers, as well as the vocabulary to talk mathematically.	Staff have an expert knowledge of all areas of learning and the way in which young children learn. They put this knowledge into practice to enable children to achieve highly across all areas of learning. Staff's interactions with children are highly effective in improving children's communication and language and vocabulary. This is the case within and across all areas of learning, especially for disadvantaged children and/or those with SEND.	support system improvement. Once the provisional grades are confirmed and the school's report card is published, inspectors will invite leaders to submit a short case study of their work to the Ofsted Academy. We will use a panel of experts to review these case studies nationally. Successful submissions will be published as part of a series of best practice reporting.
		Well-being and welfare requirement		
	Relationships between staff and children are not consistent in promoting	Care practices meet the needs of the range of children who attend.	Staff develop warm, positive and responsive relationships with children. This enables all	

Children are not prepared well enough for the next stage in their learning. They do not develop knowledge and skills effectively across all seven	and skills across the seven areas of learning, appropriate to their age and stage of development and in line with the school's curriculum.	Children develop a broad range of vocabulary and a detailed understanding within and across the seven areas of learning, in line with their age
areas of learning. The needs of disadvantaged children and/or those with SEND are not identified	Children with lower starting points, disadvantaged children and/or those with SEND achieve well. By the end of Reception, children are well prepared to reach a good level of	and stage of development. Children use their knowledge and skills confidently and with automaticity. They are exceptionally well prepared for the next stage of learning.

Sixth form

Causing concern	Attention needed	Secure	Strong	Exemplary
Sixth form is likely	Strategic	Where a school is		
concern in any oneor more of thefollowing applies:The design, content,sequencing and/or	Leaders have not made sure that the 16 to 19 study programme sufficiently meets students' academic needs, career aspirations and context.	Leaders have made sure that the 16 to 19 study programme is designed to meet the students' academic needs, career aspirations and context. Barriers to learning for students,	Leaders have an accurate understanding of the cohort of post-16 students and have designed a study programme that is inclusive and enables all students to achieve well.	secure in all evaluation areas, and strong across all the themes in sixth form, inspectors may consider a feature of leaders' work to be exemplary.
teaching of the curriculum does not provide adequately for all students. Students' achievement		including those who are disadvantaged or who have SEND, are considered and play an important role in the programme design.	All consid exemplar be moder	All considerations of exemplary practice will be moderated and confirmed by the
is significantly lower than national	Achiev	vement on the 16 to 19 study programmes		national quality and consistency panel. This
 averages. Disadvantaged students and those with SEND do not make enough progress. Students have not attained the qualifications, skills or behaviours that they will need to progress to their next stage of education, training or employment. The curriculum does not prepare students for the opportunities, responsibilities and 	Students do not achieve well when compared with national averages, but there is strong evidence that this is improving. Retention on courses is below national averages, but there is strong evidence of improvement.	Leaders made sure that students attain well and make good progress from their starting points. Students without at least a GCSE grade 4 in English and mathematics, gain the relevant qualification in these subjects. All students receive high-quality, impartial advice and guidance that ensures that they go on to appropriate education, employment or training. Retention on courses is at least in line with national averages.	Students' achievement is significantly higher than national averages, across all qualification types. Retention on courses is significantly above national averages.	 will include whether the practice is: embedded and sustained over time making a tangible difference to pupils' learning, development and well-being being used and/or adapted internally to support and improve other areas of the school's work being (or will be) shared externally to

experiences of life in Britain.	Learners' preparedness for their next steps			support system improvement.
	Leaders have planned opportunities for students to benefit from work-related learning. However, these opportunities are not high quality and/or lack relevance for many students.	Leaders have planned a relevant programme of work-related learning that meets the requirements of the 16 to 19 study programme. This takes account of students' needs and career aspirations. Leaders have established effective partnerships with local employers and higher education institutions to fulfil this.	Leaders have established a comprehensive, purposeful programme of work-related learning. This is closely aligned to each student's individual needs and career aspirations. All students benefit from this.	Once the provisional grades are confirmed and the school's report card is published, inspectors will invite leaders to submit a short case study of their work to the Ofsted Academy. We will use a panel of
		experts to review these case studies nationally.		
	Leaders have designed a suitable range of wider opportunities to prepare students for adult life. However, these opportunities are not closely aligned to students' needs and aspirations.	Leaders have an accurate understanding of the students' needs. They have designed a suitable range of wider opportunities that prepare students for adult life, such as citizenship programmes, volunteering and opportunities outside their taught courses, such as those related to developing leadership qualities.	Leaders have designed a comprehensive, purposeful range of high-quality opportunities that prepare students for adult life. All students benefit from these opportunities.	Successful submissions will be published as part of a series of best practice reporting.

Safeguarding

All schools should have an open and positive safeguarding culture that promotes the welfare of and puts pupils' interests first. Leaders must ensure they follow the Department for Education's latest statutory guidance in 'Working together to safeguard children' and 'Keeping children safe in education'.

This means schools:

- protect pupils from maltreatment and harm, whether it is within or outside the home, including online. They are vigilant, maintaining an attitude of `it could happen here'
- act as a safeguarding partner in line with 'Working together to safeguard children'
- are open and transparent, sharing appropriate information with others and actively seeking expert advice when required, making sure all
 safeguarding decisions are accessible for appropriate scrutiny, accepting of challenge to ensure the right decisions are made, and recognising
 that safeguarding issues might occur in any provision at any time to ensure that all those who work with pupils are trained well in their
 responsibility to pupils to support them to be safer and are empowered to speak out and act upon where there may be concerns
- recognise children missing education can act as a vital warning sign to a range of safeguarding issues including neglect, sexual abuse and child sexual and criminal exploitation
- actively seek and listen to the views and experiences of pupils, staff and parents, taking prompt action to deal with any concerns
- have appropriate safeguarding and child protection arrangements, which:
 - o identify pupils who may need early help and be a partner in multi-agency working
 - identify pupils and who are at risk of harm or who have been harmed. This can include, but is not limited to, neglect, abuse (including by their peers), grooming, exploitation, sexual abuse and online harm
 - o secure the help that pupils need and, if required, refer in a timely way to those who have the expertise to help
 - \circ manage safe recruitment and allegations about adults who may pose a risk to pupils
 - take into account the additional safeguarding challenges that pupils, including disabled pupils, those with SEND and those who are non-verbal, may face.
- are receptive to challenge, and reflect on their own practice, to ensure that the impact of safeguarding policies, systems and processes are kept under continual review
- must maintain, if they are maintained schools, a single central record of pre-appointment checks, in paper or electronic form
- must maintain, if they are academies, a single central record, in paper or electronic form, that details the checks carried out in each academy within the trust. There is no requirement to maintain an individual record for each academy, but the information should be recorded in such a way that the details about individual academies can be provided separately.

Not met	Met			
Culture				
Leaders and/or those responsible for governance have not ensured a culture in which safeguarding is everyone's responsibility and pupils are kept safe and feel safe.	Leaders and/or those responsible for governance have established a culture in which safeguarding is everyone's responsibility and pupils are kept safe and feel safe.			
There is a closed culture. Leaders are not open to challenge and/or do not learn from issues or incidents.	All staff are vigilant and carry out their responsibilities effectively in keeping pupils safe.			
Pupils have little confidence that the school will tackle concerns about safety, including risk of abuse, because leaders have not taken their views seriously and/or dealt with relevant concerns.	Leaders, staff and those responsible for governance are receptive to challenge and are reflective about their own practices. This means that the impact of safeguarding policies, systems and processes is kept under continual review.			
Safeguarding information for all staff to know and act on				
Leaders and/or those responsible for safeguarding do not fulfil their responsibilities in relation to safeguarding information for staff, as set out in 'Working together to safeguard children' and part one of 'Keeping children safe in education'. Leaders, staff and/or those responsible for governance do not know and/or fulfil their roles in safeguarding pupils. Serious failings in safeguarding practice leads pupils, or particular groups of pupils, to be unsafe.	Leaders, staff and those responsible for governance know and fulfil the statutory requirements for safeguarding. Staff understand the indicators of possible safeguarding concerns and follow the school's systems confidently and consistently.			
Management of	safeguarding			
Leaders and those responsible for governance do not fulfil their responsibilities in relation to management of safeguarding, as set out in 'Working together to safeguard children' and part two of 'Keeping children safe in education'.	Leaders and those responsible for governance fulfil their responsibilities in relation to management of safeguarding, as set out in 'Working together to safeguard children' and part two of 'Keeping children safe in education'. Leaders fulfil their responsibilities under the 'Prevent' duty.			
Leaders and those responsible for governance do not fulfil their responsibilities under the 'Prevent' duty.				
Those responsible for governance do not exercise strategic oversight of all aspects of safeguarding and promoting the welfare of pupils.				

Safer recruitment				
Leaders and those responsible for governance do not fulfil their responsibilities in relation to safer recruitment, as set out in 'Working together to safeguard children' and part three of 'Keeping children safe in education'.	Leaders and those responsible for governance fulfil their responsibilities in relation to safer recruitment, as set out in 'Working together to safeguard children' and part three of 'Keeping children safe in education', including alternative provision, host family arrangements and private fostering.			
Statutory requirements are not met. For example, there are breaches of the requirements of the Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS).	Leaders and those responsible for governance have rectified minor safeguarding issues identified during the inspection and/or are taking steps to resolve them. Pupils are kept safe and feel safe.			
Safeguarding concerns or allegations				
Leaders and those responsible for governance are not fulfilling their responsibilities in relation to reporting, referrals and record-keeping, as set out in 'Working together to safeguard children' and part four of 'Keeping children safe in education'.	Leaders and those responsible for governance are fulfilling their responsibilities in relation to reporting, referrals and record-keeping, as set out in 'Working together to safeguard children' and part four of 'Keeping children safe in education'.			
Leaders and those responsible for governance do not handle safeguarding allegations against adults appropriately.				
The school is not aware of its duty in relation to referrals to the DBS.				
Child-on-child sexual violence and sexual harassment				
Leaders and those responsible for governance do not fulfil their responsibilities in relation to child-on-child sexual violence and sexual harassment, as set out in 'Working together to safeguard children' and part five of 'Keeping children safe in education'.	Leaders and those responsible for safeguarding fulfil their responsibilities in relation to child-on-child sexual violence and sexual harassment, as set out in 'Working together to safeguard children' and part five of 'Keeping children safe in education'.			
Leaders do not handle allegations of sexual abuse swiftly and appropriately. This is likely to lead to pupils being put at risk of significant harm.				