



# **Making our inspections better**



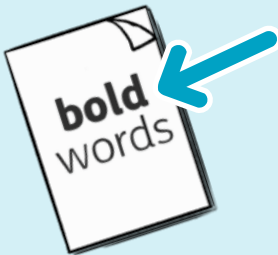
# Easy Read



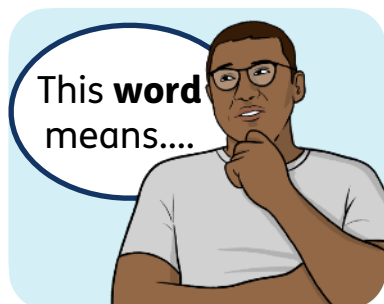
This is an Easy Read version of some information. It may not include all of the information but it will tell you about the important parts.



This Easy Read booklet uses easier words and pictures. Some people may still want help to read it.



Some words are in **bold** - this means the writing is thicker and darker. These are important words in the booklet.



Sometimes if a bold word is hard to understand, we will explain what it means.



[Blue and underlined](#) words show links to websites and email addresses. You can click on these links on a computer.

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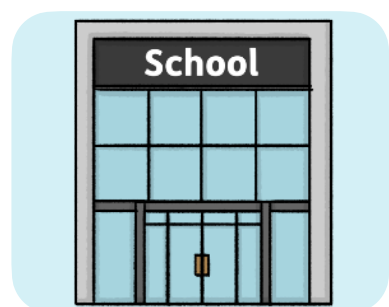


You can fill in a quick survey to say what you think about this Easy Read booklet:  
[info.easy-read-online.co.uk/easy-read-feedback-survey](http://info.easy-read-online.co.uk/easy-read-feedback-survey)

# About this booklet



This booklet is from the Office for Standards in Education, Children's Services and Skills, or Ofsted for short.



We check the quality of education services in England, like schools and nurseries. We also look at children's social care.



We work with the Care Quality Commission, or CQC for short, who check the quality of health and social care services in England, like hospitals and care homes.



In January 2023, we changed how we check services for children and young people with special educational needs and disabilities, or SEND for short.



Children and young people with SEND aged 0 to 25 need some extra support to learn and grow.



We used to check that SEND services in local areas were doing what the law said they had to do.



Now we also check how well SEND services work together to improve the lives of children and young people with SEND.



We looked into how well the new checks have been working for the first 2 years. This is called a **review**.



This booklet will tell you what we learned from the review and how we are going to make our checks better.



When we talk about children and young people in this booklet, we mean children and young people with SEND.

# About our checks



When we check services that support children and young people with SEND in a local area, we call it an area SEND inspection.



Area SEND inspections also include looking at services for children and young people who live in the local area, but go to school or get care in other local areas.



We check all the SEND services in each local area, like schools and health services.



Now we also check to make sure that services do what we ask them to do.



We also get organisations together for meetings about how to make lives better for children and young people. We call some of these meetings **engagement meetings**.

# What we did



When we did our review, we worked with other organisations like CQC, teams from the NHS, and the **Department for Education**.

The **Department for Education** is the part of the government that looks after schools and colleges.



We know that the government are thinking about making changes to how SEND services work.



So when we did our review, we only looked at how we could make inspections better.

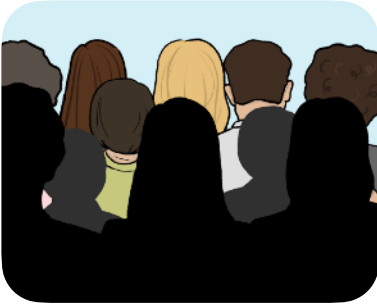


We will keep talking to the government about the changes they want to make to SEND services.

To do our review we:



- spoke to a lot of different people



- had 26 events to talk to children and young people, their parents and carers, groups who speak for families, people who work in SEND services and people who work for Ofsted and CQC



- asked our inspectors what they thought



- spoke to people from other organisations we work with.



# What we wanted to find out

We wanted to find out how we can:



- make inspections better for children and young people, families, and the organisations that work with them



- make our inspection reports better and easier to understand



- train our staff to get better at doing inspections.

# Making inspections better

## What people told us



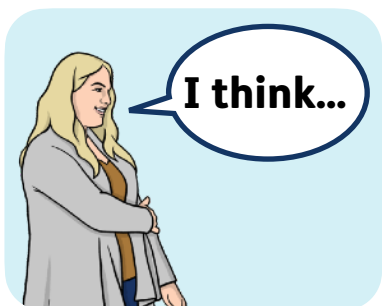
People said that they like the new inspections.

Children and young people said:



- they would like to know what questions we were going to ask in our meetings, to help them get ready for the meetings.

Children, young people, families and groups who speak for families said:

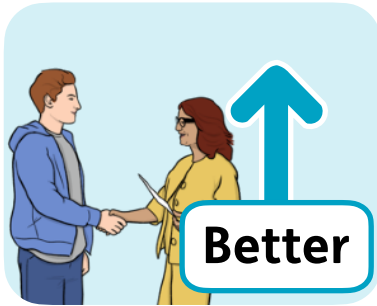


- they would like more chances to tell inspectors what they think



- we should make it easier for more people to tell inspectors what they think.

Leaders and groups who speak for families said:



- having meetings with different organisations helped them work together better



- the reasons for having the meetings could be clearer.



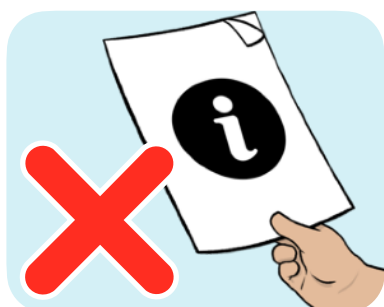
Leaders in local areas said inspections take too much time and stop SEND services from doing their work.

# What we will do

To make our inspections better, we will:



- tell people more about what happens when we do inspections, and how they can tell us what they think



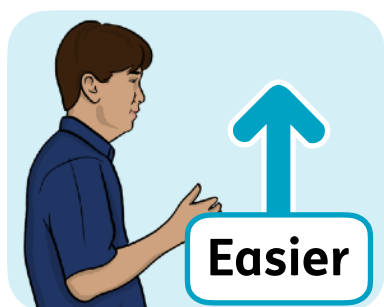
- not ask for as much information when we do inspections



- give children, young people and their families more chances to tell us what they think



- not have as many meetings, so SEND services have more time to make changes



- make it easier for more people to tell us what they think about SEND services.

# Making our reports better

## What people told us

People said that:



- they like it when we give examples of what has worked well, and that they wanted more examples



- our reports do not include enough information about what makes it hard for SEND services to do their work well



- we should be clearer about who needs to change how they work.



Some people said there is not enough information in our reports, but others said there is too much.



Families said we do not include enough of what they told us in our reports, especially when they told us about problems they had with SEND services.



Some people said that those who work in education, in health and in the local authority should all work together to fix problems.



Local leaders said they are worried that they will be held responsible for problems with SEND services that they cannot do anything about.

# What we will do

To make our reports better, we will:



- say who needs to make the changes we suggest



- talk more about why it is difficult for SEND services to do their work



- talk about what SEND services are doing to help children and young people



- think about whether we need to use more people to do each inspection, who are called **inspectors**



- think about the best way to tell people about what our inspections found out.

# Training our staff

## What people told us

People said that:



- our inspectors were good at talking to children and young people, which made it easy for them to be honest about what they think



- our inspectors should know about local SEND services



- it is important for inspectors to have worked in SEND services before



- our inspectors should understand how SEND services work.



Leaders in local areas said that:



- it is important that inspectors get training about SEND and how groups work together



- inspectors should know the law about SEND



- inspectors should understand the problems in SEND services across the whole country.

Inspectors said that:



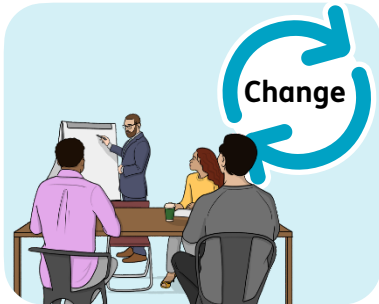
- the training they had before they did their first inspection was good



- they would like more training, especially with inspectors who work in different teams.

# What we will do

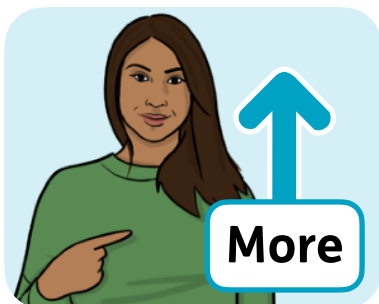
To train our staff better, we will:



- change how we train inspectors because of what we have found out from this review



- give the new training to all our inspectors so they can plan their inspections well



- try to get more staff who have worked in SEND before



- think about having 1 big team of inspectors that covers the whole country, to make sure that all parts of the country are inspected in the same way.

# Find out more



You can look at our website here:  
<https://www.gov.uk/government/organisations/ofsted>



If you need more information please  
contact us by email:  
[area.send@ofsted.gov.uk](mailto:area.send@ofsted.gov.uk)

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