

Date

Name
Address

Sir Michael Wilshaw
Her Majesty's Chief Inspector

Dear INSERT NAME OF HEADTEACHER

A good education for all

As Her Majesty's Chief Inspector, I am determined that every child should have the opportunity to go to a good school. I believe in the power of education to change lives and to shape the society in which we live. It was that same passion that inspired me as a headteacher – to improve, through a good education, the lives of children and young people, particularly from poor backgrounds.

As you know, I removed the 'satisfactory' grade from the school inspection framework last autumn. It signalled that nothing less than good provision will do. From 1 January 2013, I have appointed new Regional Directors to support and challenge schools. Under their leadership, Her Majesty's Inspectors are now working with schools requiring improvement and leading new 'getting to good' seminars and good practice conferences across England.

I am making other important changes to strengthen the inspection of maintained schools and academies. These are set out below.

Impact of pupil premium and Year 7 catch-up premium

Since October 2012, inspectors have evaluated and reported on how additional funding provided through the pupil premium¹ is being spent and its impact on raising standards. From 25 February 2013, inspectors will report specifically on the performance in English and mathematics of pupils supported through the pupil premium compared to all other pupils in

¹ Pupil premium is for pupils known to be eligible for free school meals, children from service families, and those children that are looked after. Year 7 catch-up premium is for pupils who did not achieve the expected Level 4 in English at the end of Key Stage 2.

the school. Inspectors will highlight any differences between the average point scores for English and mathematics² and whether gaps are narrowing for the following pupils:

- those pupils known to be eligible for free school meals and all other pupils (FSM and non-FSM pupils)
- children who are looked after and all other pupils (CLA and non-CLA)
- children of service families and all other pupils (this information is not contained in RAISEonline, but inspectors will expect schools to provide it during the inspection).

Inspectors will also scrutinise the school's own assessment data and evaluate the progress made by those pupils who are eligible for the Year 7 catch-up premium.

Next month, I will publish a report from a survey of good practice into the use of the pupil premium to raise standards. My earlier report *The pupil premium*, published in September 2012, is available at: www.ofsted.gov.uk/resources/pupil-premium.

Information about performance management

Inspectors evaluate already how effectively school leaders recognise and reward good teaching. In future, inspectors will ask schools for anonymised information from the last three years, which shows the proportions of teachers who have:

- progressed along the main pay scale
- progressed to, and through, the upper pay scale
- progressed along the leadership scale
- received additional responsibility payments, such as teaching and learning responsibility payments and special needs allowances.

The information provided should include information about patterns of progression through the different salary scale points, and comparisons between subject departments and/or teachers deployed in different key stages.

You can find the new guidance used by inspectors in *Subsidiary guidance supporting the inspection of maintained schools and academies* from Ofsted's website at: www.ofsted.gov.uk/resources/110166.

² Inspectors will do this separately for English and mathematics. They will report on the difference between average point scores at the end of Key Stage 2 for primary pupils and at the end of Key Stage 4 for secondary pupils.

Governance

My Annual Report for 2011/12 stressed the importance of the leadership of schools, including the role played by governing bodies. As now, inspectors will want to meet with as many governors during an inspection as is possible. They will want to know how well governing bodies evaluate the performance of the school, particularly in terms of: pupil progress; the leadership of teaching; the management of staff; and the difference made by initiatives such as the pupil premium or the Year 7 catch-up premium. Where governance requires improvement, inspectors will recommend an external review of the governing body. Ofsted will launch a new online tool in February 2013 to help governors, as well as parents and others, to understand and review essential school performance data. More details will be sent to the chair of the governing body.

Parent View

I am making changes to Parent View (www.parentview.ofsted.gov.uk). I have increased the minimum number of responses to the questionnaire, before any results are displayed on the website, from three to 10. Schools will be sent an email alerting them that results are to be made public, and asking how often they want to receive ongoing alerts about Parent View (for example daily, weekly or monthly). Where a school raises a concern about Parent View, Ofsted will investigate the concern within one working day of being notified. As now, inspectors will consider Parent View when making inspection judgments. I hope these changes are helpful to you in promoting Parent View at your school.

School websites

As you know, schools are required to provide key information to parents and others on the school's website, including details of curriculum provision. Inspectors will use the website as a starting point when considering provision in the school. Full details of what schools are required to publish can be found at:

www.education.gov.uk/aboutdfe/advice/f00215241/school-information#.

Finally, I have said before that teaching, at its best, is the noblest of professions. As a former headteacher, I know well the challenges and privileges that you face as leaders. In that spirit, I would like to thank you all for your hard work so far this academic year and to take this opportunity to wish you every success in 2013.

Yours sincerely

Sir Michael Wilshaw
Her Majesty's Chief Inspector

Copy to: Chair of Governing body