

Dear Colleagues

Update on Section 5 inspections

As you know last week was the launch of the revised framework for schools. By the end of this week we will have conducted 400 inspections. It is very early days but the implementation of the framework has started smoothly with few problems being reported around reduced notification, changes to the evaluation schedule or the new style reports. I would like to thank all of you for your hard work over the summer period undertaking training and in ensuring that you are ready for the new term.

Parent View

Inspectors are reminded that they should be reviewing the evidence from Parent View, and any other evidence from parents, towards the end of the first day on site. However, it is also recommended that inspectors review the results from Parent View towards the end of the second morning as there are likely to be many parents that do not respond until the middle evening of the inspection.

Last week there were over 6000 additional responses to Parent View – mostly for schools being inspected. We will be publishing overall results later in the term which inspectors can use to help benchmark school results. However, inspectors must not come to any final conclusions on the basis of the Parent View survey data alone and should in addition take account of results of any surveys carried out by the school or other first-hand inspection evidence.

NQTs in special measures schools

Where a school is deemed to require special measures the lead inspector must ensure that the school is informed about whether newly qualified teachers can be appointed. Inspectors should ensure that this is recorded on an evidence form and in addition noted on Form 1.

Academies and the Teaching Standards

Inspectors should note that academies are not required to apply the Teaching Standards as part of their performance management arrangements. However, when taking account of the leadership of teaching in an academy inspectors should examine closely how the academy promotes high quality teaching through its performance management and professional development arrangements.

Contacting the Ofsted help desk

In order to contact the Ofsted Helpdesk before, during or after inspection, please ensure that you telephone Ofsted's Education and Adult skills telephone number: 0300 123 4234. On dialling this number, you will be given two options (1) if you are

Section 5 – Inspector Update 2 – 19 September 2012

a provider of education or (2) if you are a member of the public. Press option (1) in order to speak to an NBU adviser and to be put through to the Ofsted Helpdesk.

Many inspectors may have the telephone number of Ofsted's general helpline (0300 123 1231) entered into their telephones, please replace this number with the 0300 123 4234.

We will keep in touch with any further updates in the next few weeks. In the meantime thank you for all that you are doing.

Sue Gregory HMI
National Director, Education