

Interim visits to schools



Temporary suspension of inspections

Routine inspection suspended

Schools, further education and skills, early years, area SEND and social care.

Urgent inspections carried out

Where specific concerns were identified.

Social care

Regulatory work continued to help maintain social care provision for the most vulnerable children.

Early years

Regulatory work and registration of vital early years providers continued.

Plans for schools



Interim visits will take place from 28 September 2020. They will usually last for one day.

We published an operational note in September with details about how we will carry out interim visits.

- We will:
 - **not** use the EIF and school inspection handbook on interim visits
 - carry out section 8 'no formal designation' inspections when required. These will be used only in response to significant concerns around safeguarding and/or a breakdown in leadership and management.

Routine inspections remain suspended. Ofsted intends to resume routine inspection activity in January 2021 but will keep the exact timing under review.

School interim visits – overview

- We **will**:
 - visit a sample of schools, across all grades (including **all** schools currently judged inadequate)
 - give schools up to one day's notice
 - publish a short letter after each visit, summarising some key facts about what is happening in the school.
- We **will not**:
 - judge schools on their response to COVID-19 during the spring and summer terms 2020
 - provide any school-level evaluation or graded judgements.



School interim visits – focus and content

Inspectors will work collaboratively with leaders to understand:

The barriers

in managing the return to full education for all pupils.

How pupils are settling back

into expected routines and behaviour.



How learning is resumed

following an extended period of disruption in pupils' learning.

How specific issues related to SEND, health and well-being are being addressed.

Safeguarding arrangements

School interim visits – safeguarding

- The visits are not inspections and inspectors will not be judging leadership and management in the school generally.
- However, as with any Ofsted visit to a school, inspectors will want to discuss with leaders how they:
 - **identify** pupils who may need early help and those who are at risk of harm or have been harmed
 - secure the **help** that pupils need, and, if required, refer pupils in a timely way to those who have the expertise to help
 - **manage** safe recruitment and allegations about adults who may be a risk to children, pupils, students and vulnerable adults.

School interim visits – further details

- These interim visits are not inspections. They **will not**:
 - require any pre-written planning or other documentation for the visit
 - ask schools for documents or records in a certain format
 - require teachers to prepare any lesson plans or examples of assessment, or to put up any displays for the visit
 - use lesson visits as a method of collecting evidence
 - involve a general review of a school's policies
 - routinely include meetings with the full range of stakeholders.



School interim visits – after the visit

After the visit, there will be:

- a short letter to the school, to provide parents with information about what leaders are doing to help pupils back into full-time education
- a factual accuracy check (FAC)
- a range of briefings and reports published to share our findings on the picture across schools in England with the Secretary of State and the public.

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