

A culture of safeguarding

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Ofsted does not set the standards that schools have to meet on safeguarding.

Our job is to inspect against **standards and statutory guidance set by the Department for Education (DfE)** and it is to these documents schools need to refer.

Evaluating safeguarding during inspections



How do you think inspectors gather evidence of the effectiveness and culture of safeguarding during inspections?

Inspectors consider:

- the extent to which leaders, governors and managers create a positive culture and ethos where safeguarding is an important part of everyday life
- the content of safeguarding policies and procedures, and how well these are applied in practice
- how staff are supported to have a good understanding of safeguarding risks to children, and evidence that they know what to do if a child is at risk of harm

Inspectors consider:

- the quality of work that the school does with the local authority and other agencies, for example in making referrals and supporting children who have a multi-agency plan in place
- whether the proper recruitment checks have been carried out for staff, volunteers and governors
- what children say about how safe they feel and how they are helped to understand safeguarding risks.

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Vigilance, promotion, action

Inspecting safeguarding in early years, education and skills settings, Ofsted 2016

Alternative provision

A provider of alternative provision should be registered as an independent school if it caters full-time for five or more pupils of compulsory school age or one or one such pupil who is looked after or has a statement of special educational needs.

Registered = inspected; not registered = not inspected

Use of part-time timetables

Can a school place a pupil on a part-time timetable?

As a rule, no. All pupils of compulsory school age are entitled to a full-time education. In **very exceptional circumstances** there may be a need for a temporary part-time timetable to meet a pupil's individual needs. For example where a medical condition prevents a pupil from attending full-time education and a part-time timetable is considered as part of a re-integration package. **A part-time timetable must not be treated as a long-term solution.** Any pastoral support programme or other agreement **must have a time limit** by which point the pupil is expected to attend full-time or be provided with alternative provision.

In agreeing to a part-time timetable a school has agreed to a pupil being absent from school for part of the week or day and **therefore must record it as authorised absence.**

DfE, School Attendance, November 2016

Use of Code B

Code B: Off-site educational activity

This code should be used when pupils are present **at an off-site educational activity that has been approved by the school.** Ultimately **schools are responsible for the safeguarding and welfare of pupils educated off-site.** Therefore by using code B, schools are certifying that the education is supervised and measures have been taken to safeguard pupils. **This code should not be used for any unsupervised educational activity or where a pupil is at home doing school work.** Schools should ensure that they have in place **arrangements whereby the provider of the alternative activity notifies the school of any absences by individual pupils.** The school should record the pupil's absence using the relevant absence code.

DfE, School Attendance, November 2016

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