

OFSTED

What's changed?

Previously, schools received a single overall judgement such as Outstanding, Good, or Requires Improvement. Under the new framework, this approach has been replaced with **report cards** that break down performance into key areas that Ofsted says matter most to families:

- Inclusion (how well the school meets the needs of all children)
- Curriculum and Teaching
- Achievement
- Attendance and Behaviour
- Personal Development and Well-being
- Early Years
- Leadership and Governance

Safeguarding will also be clearly marked as 'Met' or 'Not Met'.

New grading scale

- Exceptional – among the very best nationally, practice to share.
- Strong Standard – excellent, consistent work making a real difference.
- Expected Standard – everything the school should be doing to meet high expectations.
- Needs Attention – areas where work is underway but impact isn't yet visible.
- Urgent Improvement – significant changes needed.

Why can't it be compared to the old system?

Previously, schools were assigned a single overall grade. The updated system, however, offers a multi-dimensional perspective, highlighting both strengths and areas for improvement within the same school. As a result, a school might be at the Expected Standard in one aspect but Needs Attention in another, giving parents a clearer sense of their children's experience at the school. Since the new grading method and criteria differ entirely from the old system, **Ofsted says that previous judgements such as Good or Outstanding cannot be directly mapped onto the new categories and grades.**

National priorities

There is a strong nationwide focus on inclusion, ensuring every child's needs are met and a renewed emphasis on attendance, recognising its vital role in achievement and wellbeing. These priorities are already central to our work.