

Summary table of Ofsted state-funded school inspections

Type of inspection	Graded	Ungraded	Urgent	Monitoring
Legal powers for inspection	Section 5 of the Education Act 2005	Section 8 of the Education Act 2005	Section 8 of the Education Act 2005	Section 8 of the Education Act 2005
Schools eligible for this inspection	All schools – but most schools with an outstanding/good judgement get an ungraded inspection instead	Schools with an outstanding/good judgement	All schools – but only triggered by a specific concern in a specific school	Schools with an inadequate judgement or 2 consecutive requires improvement judgements
Outcome	A grade (outstanding/good /requires improvement/ inadequate) for the 4 key judgements (quality of education/behaviour and attitudes/personal development/leadership and management) and for overall effectiveness	(1) The school remains good/outstanding (2) The school remains good, but with evidence it may be judged outstanding on a graded inspection (3) The school remains good/outstanding, but with evidence it may receive a lower grade on a graded inspection (4) The inspection was deemed a graded inspection	If inspectors have sufficient concerns about the school, they will deem the inspection a graded inspection and the outcomes will be as for graded inspections. If inspectors do not have serious concerns, they will produce a report setting out their findings in relation to the concerns that triggered the inspection	That the school is, or is not, making progress to improve
Likely timing of inspection after the previous graded or ungraded inspection (not including any COVID-19 delay)	Around 4 years for schools with an outstanding or good judgement and around 30 months for schools with a requires improvement or inadequate judgement	Around 4 years	N/A	Around 12 months for schools with a requires improvement judgement and 3 to 30 months (up to 5 inspections in that period) for schools with an inadequate judgement
Resets the statutory clock?*	Yes	Yes – except in outcome 3 (see above)	No	No

* The law usually requires the maximum interval for inspections to be within 5 school years from the end of the school year in which the last relevant inspection took place. However, for schools last inspected before 4 May 2021, the legal maximum will, instead, be up to 7 years.