

Understanding changes to Ofsted inspections

Dear parents and carers,

I am writing to share an update on changes to how schools are inspected by Ofsted, and what this means for our schools across Yorkshire Learning Trust.

Ofsted has introduced a new inspection approach. This moves away from a single overall judgement and instead provides a more detailed picture of a school's strengths and areas for development. Schools are now assessed across a number of areas, with a clear focus on the experiences and outcomes of all children and young people, including those who are disadvantaged or have additional needs.

At Yorkshire Learning Trust, we welcome the intent behind these changes. A single word judgement has never fully captured what matters most in a school. What matters is whether children feel they belong, whether they are known and supported, and whether they are able to achieve and thrive.

How Ofsted inspections have changed

Before

- One overall grade
- Labels such as "Good" or "Outstanding"
- A single headline outcome

Now

- A fuller picture across different areas
- Judgements in each area of the school's work
- A more detailed "**report card**" for each school

What this means for our schools

Across Yorkshire Learning Trust, some of our schools are already within their inspection window, with many more likely to be inspected over the coming months.

We approach this with confidence - but also with perspective.

Inspection matters, and we take it seriously. However, our focus remains firmly on what matters every day: high-quality teaching, strong relationships, inclusive practice, and ensuring every child feels they belong and can succeed.

We have been working closely with our school leaders to ensure they feel well-prepared and well-supported. This is not about preparing for inspection as an event, but about continuing to strengthen the quality of education and care in each of our schools.

At Yorkshire Learning Trust, our focus remains unchanged:

Excellence in every journey

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What Ofsted looks at



Achievement



Behaviour and Attendance



Curriculum and Teaching



Personal Development



Leadership and Governance



Inclusion

Schools with **Nursery, Early Years or Sixth Form provision** are also evaluated specifically within those areas.

What the outcomes mean

Exceptional

Strong

Expected Standard

(national benchmark)

Needs Attention

Urgent Improvement

“Expected Standard” is the national benchmark for an effective school.

A clearer picture for families

Inspection outcomes are now shared through **Ofsted “report cards”** rather than traditional reports.

These provide a clearer breakdown of strengths and next steps, alongside narrative that describes what it is like to be a pupil in the school. This means a school may be strong in many areas while continuing to develop in others - giving a more balanced and accurate picture.

Our commitment

As a Trust, we are ambitious for every one of our schools. That ambition is not defined by inspection alone, but by the difference we make to children’s lives.

We will, of course, share inspection outcomes with you openly when they are published. More importantly, we will continue to focus on the work behind those outcomes - supporting our schools to improve, to collaborate, and to deliver the very best for the communities they serve.

Thank you, as always, for your continued support.

Yours sincerely,

Ian Yapp

Chief Executive Officer
Yorkshire Learning Trust

