

# Understanding Ofsted's New School Report Card

## A guide for parents and carers

### 1. What is changing?

Ofsted is moving away from giving schools a single overall grade such as Outstanding, Good or Requires Improvement.

Instead, schools will receive a **Report Card** made up of several separate judgements.

This gives families a clearer picture of what a school is like across different areas, rather than reducing everything to one word.

### 2. What will the Report Card include?

The Report Card is a new way of presenting inspection findings.

It will show how well the school is performing in several key areas, including:

- **Safeguarding** (whether children are kept safe and the school meets all safeguarding requirements)
- **Inclusion** (how well the school supports all children, including those with SEND or who are disadvantaged)
- **Curriculum & Teaching** (how well teaching helps children learn the curriculum and make progress)
- **Pupil Achievement** (how well the pupils achieve over time, including in assessments, learning and wider school life).
- **Behaviour & Attendance** (how well pupils behave, feel ready to learn and attend school regularly)
- **Personal Development & Well-being** (how well pupils are supported to develop and have their well-being supported)
- **Leadership & Governance** (how effective the school's leadership team and governance structures are)
- **Early Years or Sixth Form (if the school has these)** (a summary of how well these phases are performing)

Each area is judged separately, so families get a fuller picture of school life. The aim is that the report card will make finding things clear and accessible.

### 3. How will the Report Cards help?

- The new report card will make findings clear and accessible.
- The report card will provide a summary overview, as well as a detailed explanation for each of the evaluation areas
- Colours ranging from red (for urgent improvement) to blue (for exceptional) will provide a visual overview
- The next steps will be written in a constructive way to make clear what the priorities for improvement are for the school.

### 4. What are the new grades?

Every key area of the Report Card will be graded using a five-point scale:

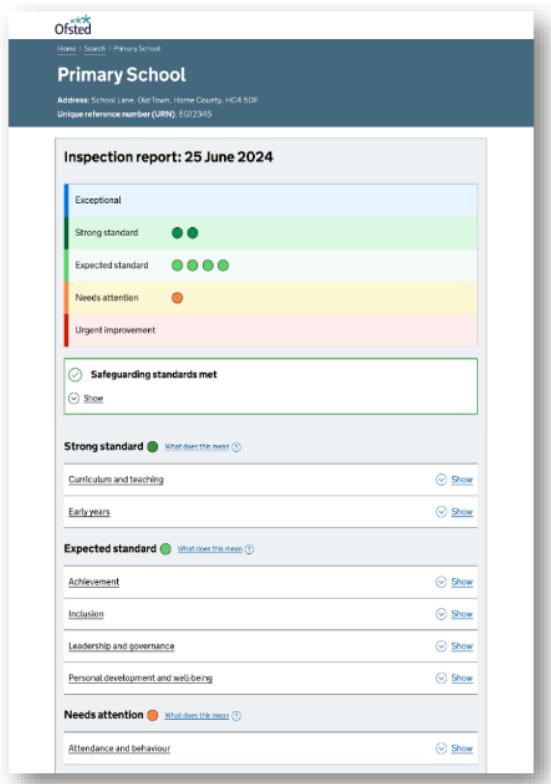
1. **Exceptional** – consistently excellent (not expected to be given very often)
2. **Strong Standard** – above expected
3. **Expected Standard** – meets national expectations and is an acceptable school working well
4. **Needs Attention** – some key areas need improvement
5. **Urgent Improvement** – significant concerns needing immediate action

Safeguarding continues to be “Met” or “Not met”.

### 6. Why is this happening?

The new system aims to:

- give parents better, more detailed information rather than a single word grade
- Schools vary in strengths across different areas; the Report Card shows this more clearly
- focus more closely on inclusion, SEND and pupil well-being
- make inspections more balanced, supportive and focused on long term improvement
- Reduce the pressure on schools linked to previous one word judgements



## THE REPORT CARD

The report card gives information at a glance without needing to work through a long written report with education jargon.

### 7. What does this mean for you as a parent?

#### You will get clearer, more meaningful information

Instead of just knowing the headline judgement, you'll see exactly how the school performs in the areas that matter most: safety, teaching, behaviour, inclusion, leadership, and well-being.

#### You can better understand the school's strengths

A school might be particularly strong in pastoral care or inclusion even if other areas need further work. The Report Card shows the full picture.

#### You will see where improvements are needed

If a school receives a "Needs Attention" or "Urgent Improvement" rating in a particular area, the school will be required to take action and Ofsted will follow up.

#### It supports transparency

Parents and carers will have access to more detail on what the school is doing well and what it is developing.

## 8. How might the new grades look in practice?

Here are some examples of how the Report Card might be read:

1. A school could meet all Expected Standards across the board – this still means the school is delivering a good, safe, effective education.
2. A school might receive Strong Standard in “Leadership” and “Personal Development” but “Needs Attention” in “Attendance & Behaviour” – this means leaders are working on improving specific areas.
3. A school could be judged Exceptional in one area without needing to be exceptional in all.

## 9. What stays the same?

- Safeguarding remains the highest priority
- Inspectors still visit lessons, talk to pupils, meet staff and leaders, and look closely at school life
- Schools must still provide a high-quality, well-rounded education for every child

## 10. How will the school communicate results?

Schools will publish the Report Card and their inspection report on their website.

Headteachers will also:

- ✓ write to parents explaining the outcomes
- ✓ highlight strengths
- ✓ outline any actions being taken where improvement is needed
- ✓ share how the school plans to keep moving forward

The Diocese or Trust may also support communications for Catholic schools.

## Working together

- ✓ This new approach allows us to share a more rounded picture of our school – our values, our strengths, and the areas we are working on
- ✓ As always, we remain committed to providing a safe, nurturing and high-quality education for every child
- ✓ If you have any questions, please contact the school office. We are always happy to help