

Wiltshire Council

Children's Select Committee

Date 6 November 2018

School and Academy Ofsted Inspection Outcomes September – Mid-October 2018

Purpose of Report

1. The report includes information regarding the most recent Ofsted Inspection reports published from September to mid October 2018. It provides an ongoing view of the effectiveness of schools as seen by Ofsted Inspection.

Background

2. Inspection reports provide information for parents and other stakeholders and an accountability measure regarding the standard of education in each establishment. Ofsted is required to inspect state schools under section 5 of the Education Act 2005 and the inspections are carried out by Her Majesty's Inspectors (HMI) and Ofsted Inspectors who are past practitioners or, in the latter case, are serving headteachers or school leaders.

Inspections focus on four main areas

- Effectiveness of leadership and management
- Quality of teaching, learning and assessment
- Personal development, behaviour and welfare
- Outcomes for pupils

Where appropriate the effectiveness of early years or sixth form is also inspected.

From the evidence collected, schools are given an overall effectiveness grade:

- Grade 1 (outstanding)
- Grade 2 (good)
- Grade 3 (requires improvement (RI))
- Grade 4 (inadequate)

The inadequate category (4) is further subdivided into special measures or serious weakness depending on the capacity of school leaders to make the improvements needed.

Schools judged as Requires Improvement (3) need to improve to be 'good'. To receive this judgement a school will have received a 2 day inspection; it will be inspected again within 30 months.

Many schools previously judged as good (2) will receive a short one day inspection to determine whether they remain at least good and whether safeguarding is effective. Where the short inspection finds evidence of the school remaining good, a letter is published making this judgement clear. If the inspection finds practice that suggests the school is either likely to be outstanding or alternatively might not retain its good grade, a letter is published saying the school will for the time being, retain its current good grade and that the next inspection will be a full 2 days. This allows for a full evaluation of the effectiveness of the provision. This outcome is expressed as 2 (L).

Main Considerations for the Council

- There were eleven inspection reports published between the beginning of September and mid-October. Of those, five retained their previous Good grade although two received letters stating that the next inspection will be a full 2 day inspection. One school retained an RI grade. One school improved their grade from inadequate to Good well within the two years that would be expected.

Although schools with an Outstanding inspection grade are exempt from routine inspection, a number of Outstanding schools were inspected during this period, all three falling at least two grades, one falling to Inadequate. One school was judged to be inadequate that did not have a previous inspection grade since being established as a new academy.

School name	Status	Date of inspection	OE	Previous OE	L&M	TLA	PDBW	Outcomes	EY	Post 16
St Edmunds RC Primary	Academy	25/9/18	3 ↓	1	3	3	3	3	3	n/a
Hindon Primary	Maintained	25/9/18	2(L) ↔	2	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Southbroom St James Devizes	Academy	25/9/18	2 ↑	4	2	2	2	2	2	n/a
The Minster Primary	Maintained	18/9/18	2 ↔	2	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Bishops Cannings Primary	Maintained	18/9/18	2 ↔	2	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Amesbury Archer Primary	Maintained	12/9/18	3 ↔	3	3	3	2	3	2	n/a

Wardour Catholic Primary	Maintained	12/9/18	2(L)↔	2	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Lydiard Millicent Primary	Academy	11/9/18	2 ↔	2	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
St Mary's RC Chippenham	Maintained	10/7/18	4 ↓	1	4	4	4	4	4	n/a
The New Forest CofE Primary	Maintained	10/7/18	3 ↓	1	3	3	3	3	3	n/a
Marden Vale CofE Academy	Academy	21/6/18	4	u	4	4	4	4	3	n/a

Safeguarding Considerations

- Although this report does not include reference to issues regarding child protection, the broader definition of safeguarding does take into account that safeguarding processes should optimise the life chances of individuals. The quality of school provision has a significant impact on supporting improved life chances for children and young people and for those groups vulnerable to underachievement, this is an essential consideration.

Public Health Implications

- Educational attainment is one of the key outcomes for children and young people included in the Public Health Outcomes Framework.

Environmental and Climate Change Considerations

- There are no specific environmental or climate change considerations in relation to this report.

Equalities Impact of the Proposal

- All learners have the right to have the opportunity to make good progress in learning and achieve high standards. The report shows that in Wiltshire there are schools that are ineffective in their practices and not yet good. This will have an impact on the educational progress of children attending these schools and will impact on their achievements. This equalities issue remains a high priority with School Effectiveness working with other partners and LA services to support the outcomes delivered in the Disadvantaged Learners Strategy.

Risk Assessment

- There are a number of national changes and developments which bring risks and associated costs for the local authority in relation to standards of performance in schools and academies.

The ability for the Local Authority School Effectiveness service to intervene and support and improve standards of performance is limited by a number of factors that may pose a risk to continued improvements for children and young people in state funded education

- As the number of Academies grows, the LA has less direct influence on standards of performance. Oversight of academies lies with the Regional Schools Commissioner (RSC) and the LA has no powers of intervention in academies. Relationships between the LA and academies remain good, although as part of national policy, it is primarily for the academy to determine their level of engagement with the LA. It is for the RSC to intervene if and when necessary and the LA liaises closely with the RSC office to provide local information and knowledge about all schools.
- Although the LA remains responsible for educational excellence across the county, with diminishing financial resources including the withdrawal of Educational Services Grant funding for school improvement and other functions from April 2018, the ability for School Effectiveness to lever change in a variety of ways also diminishes. This, coupled with limited capacity, represents a potential need for change in the systems for monitoring performance and for school improvement provision. The Education Transformation Partnership is working to promote the changes that will need to be carried out for system change in order to create a strong, self-improving, self-sustaining school-led system to improve the educational outcomes for every child in Wiltshire.

Financial Implications

9. There are a number of government financial policies that will directly impact on the delivery of school improvement activities. The past funding by central government from the Education Services Transitional Grant and through the School Improvement, Monitoring and Brokerage Grant to resource the monitoring the performance of LA maintained schools, broker improvement provision and intervention where appropriate has reduced the amount of funding for school effectiveness activities over the last few years.

Ongoing funding reductions for school improvement activity have been managed to minimise direct impact on delivery of key strategies to improve performance. With a reduction in staff capacity to develop and sustain school improvement activity for LA maintained schools, it is possible that this focus will not be able to be sustained with the result of increased risk to performance standards.

Reduction in good and outstanding providers and places and higher proportions of RI and inadequate providers leads to operational problems in finding good providers to deliver school to school support, and brings

financial problems, where LGA has estimated the cost to the LA of a school being judged inadequate is £250k.

Legal Implications

10. There are no legal implications in relation to this paper.

Conclusion

11. The School Effectiveness team continues to monitor and risk assess schools and academies through the Local Authority School Effectiveness Review (LASER). An initiative taken in response to declining Ofsted judgements, the Annual Performance Assessment (APA) is carried out using the most recent end of key stage 2 and 4 data for all schools including academies; each school receives a letter with the outcome of this assessment at the start of the academic year. In addition, for all LA maintained schools, an ongoing risk assessment of current activity to bring about improvements is carried out by the Challenge and Support Partner (CASP) three times a year. Both of these activities identify where performance is declining or not acceptable and support the provision of early support.
12. There is a particular focus on Outstanding Schools that were inspected some time ago. The current effectiveness of outstanding schools will be a high priority with additional assurance visits carried out for LA Maintained schools to support identification of improvement areas.
13. Where there are concerns regarding academies, LA officers will continue to liaise with the RSC with the expectation that appropriate challenge will be secured for academies with identified underperformance, and that effective support is available. Continued reports of improvements will be sought from the RSC.

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Background Papers

None

Appendices

None