

# Have your say on how Ofsted plans to inspect further education and skills in the future

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**361**

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## What is this guide for?

We are from Ofsted, the organisation that sends inspectors to check on education, training and children's services in England. This guide is about how we are planning to inspect education and training for most learners aged over 16.

The guide is about how we plan to inspect:

- colleges
- training for apprentices
- evening classes
- training at work
- training arranged by local councils.

It is not about how we inspect education for learners aged over 16 who are in schools.

We are changing the way that we do our inspections and want to find out what people think of our plans. Then we will try them out to see how well they work. If all goes well, we will start inspecting in the new way next year, from September 2012.

This guide is to tell you about what we want to do and to invite you to let us know whether you think we have got it right. Please tell us what you think about our plans to inspect colleges and learning providers in the future, or any ideas you have for making our inspections better.

We will wait until we know what young people, and the public generally, think of our plans before we make our final decisions.

We promise to take notice of what you tell us when we make those final decisions.

We will take on board any views you send us by 24 November 2011, so tell us what you think of our plans and make a real difference to how colleges and learning providers get inspected in the future.

## How to tell us what you think

If you want to tell us what you think of our plans, or you want to make a suggestion about how we should inspect in the future, you can fill in an electronic version of our questionnaire: <http://85.234.135.179/index.php?sid=77156>.

You can also download the questionnaire, complete it on your computer and email it to us at: [lands@ofsted.gov.uk](mailto:lands@ofsted.gov.uk). Please put 'Common Inspection Framework 2012 consultation' in the subject line.

You can also print and complete it by hand. Please post it to us at:

Ofsted Learning and Skills Development Team  
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Aviation House  
125 Kingsway  
London  
WC2B 6SE

## **What we are planning to change**

### **Key headline grades**

We will say how well the college or learning provider is doing overall, by checking on:

- how well learners at college or in training are doing (outcomes for learners)
- how well the college or learning provider teaches people and helps them to learn (quality of teaching, learning and assessment)
- how well the college or learning provider is being run by the people in charge (effectiveness of leadership and management).

After each inspection we will write a report and publish it on our website so that learners, and their parents and carers can read it.

### **Outcomes for learners**

This is how inspectors will check how well learners at college or in training are doing.

To do this, inspectors will look at how learners are doing when they finish their course or training compared with how they were doing when they started. They will look at how the college or training provider helps learners to get on in life, get a job or progress to get higher-level qualifications.

Inspectors will check on how different groups of people, for example men and women, are doing and whether there is any particular group of people who are not doing as well as the others. If there is, they will want to know what the college or learning provider is doing about that.

Remember we are there to inspect the provider, not the learners. Our role is to make sure they are helping you to learn and to achieve your full potential.

### **The quality of teaching, learning and assessment**

This is how inspectors will check how well the college or learning provider teaches people and helps them to learn.

Inspectors will be looking to see how teachers and trainers encourage learners to do well, how well they help people to learn, and whether they set the right targets for

each of their learners. They will also look to see how good they are at helping learners to understand things and to learn new skills. Inspectors will do this by sitting in on lessons or training sessions to see how well they are taught. They will also be looking to see whether lessons are well planned.

As well as all this, inspectors will look at how good the teachers and trainers are at checking how each learner is doing and at letting them know how well they are getting on. Inspectors will look at whether any learners are not getting enough help to do well.

Inspectors will also check whether learners are given enough advice on jobs and training in the future.

## **The effectiveness of leadership and management**

This is how inspectors will check on how well the college or learning provider is being run by the people in charge

To check on this, inspectors will ask the college or training provider to tell them how it is doing, and see if they have got it right. Inspectors will also check how well the people in charge – like the principal and the managers – run things. They will check on how well all the staff work together to teach learners and help them get on in life.

Inspectors will be especially interested in how they make sure learners are on the right courses or programmes and that learners are safe.

They will want to know whether the college or training provider asks learners what they think and makes sure that they take up good ideas.

## **Saying how well the college or learning provider is doing overall**

This is called **overall effectiveness**.

After looking at all these things mentioned above, inspectors will decide and say how well they think the college or learning provider is doing overall. They have to decide whether they are:

- outstanding (they are one of the best )
- good (they are doing well)
- satisfactory (they are OK, but could do better)
- inadequate (they are not doing well enough).

These are called the four grades.

## **How inspectors will check that everyone is treated fairly**

They will check that the people in charge make sure each of the learners has an equal chance to do well, and are all treated fairly. We call this equality and diversity. We will write about this in the report.

## **Knowing whether the college or learning provider will get any better**

Inspectors will also check whether the college or training provider can do better in the future. We call this their capacity to improve. We will write about this in the report.

We would like your views on whether this is a good idea.

## **How inspectors will check on different subjects being taught**

Inspectors will look at classes and training in different subjects, such as science and maths or hairdressing and beauty therapy. This will help them make their decision on how well colleges and learning providers teach their learners. They will write about these subject areas in the report.

## **How we will decide when to inspect each college and training provider**

We want to spend more time checking on the colleges and training providers that are not doing very well and spend less time on those that are already good or outstanding.

We will also ask learners, parents and employers to tell us what they think about the college or training provider. This will help us decide when we should do the inspection.

- If a college or training provider is outstanding we will not plan to inspect it again unless we hear there is a problem.
- If a college or training provider is good we will inspect it every six years.
- If a college or training provider is satisfactory we will inspect it more often and do extra checks if it doesn't improve.
- If a college or training provider is inadequate we will inspect it sooner.

## **What happens if we are asked to do another check?**

If learners, parents or other people think that there is a problem with the college, or learning provider, they can ask us to check. We will listen to what they say about the college or learning provider and decide whether we should do an extra inspection.

Colleges and learning providers that are good may want us to see whether they have got even better. They can ask us to do an inspection earlier than we planned. We will listen to what they say and decide whether we should do an extra inspection.

We will not plan to inspect outstanding colleges and learning providers but they can ask us to do an inspection too. If they ask us to inspect them we will listen to what they say and decide whether we should.

We will try to do extra inspections if we are asked to do them, but it will not always be possible. Where a college or learning provider asks us to inspect them, we may ask them to pay for the cost of the inspection.