

# Summary of recommendations from the Education Select Committee's Enquiry First Report: *Ofsted's work with Schools*

## Ofsted as an organisation

1. In its 'Big Listen', **Ofsted** must ensure that it is listening to a wide range of views. (Paragraph 16)
2. a) **Ofsted** must respond fully to the seven areas for concern set out in the Prevention of Future Deaths report.  
b) The HMCI should report on a six-monthly basis to the Education Select Committee on Ofsted's progress in relation these seven areas of concern. (Paragraph 17)

## The inspection process

3. In the short term, the **DfE** should work with **Ofsted** to enable the inspectorate to reduce the frequency of inspections to enable inspections to be carried out in more depth. (Paragraph 27)
4. In the longer term, the **DfE** should provide Ofsted with additional funding to carry out more in-depth inspections, without compromising on frequency of inspection. (Paragraph 28)
5. **Ofsted** should consider the case for a small increase in the notice period given to schools. (Paragraph 34)
6. **Ofsted** should consider whether smaller schools could be given a longer notice period. (Paragraph 35)
7. **Ofsted** should explore ways in which it can improve its engagement with parents, pupils, governors, and trustees before and during the inspection process. (Paragraph 47)
8. **Ofsted** should introduce regular surveys of parents, pupils and staff outside the inspection process. (Paragraph 48)

9. **Ofsted** should publish data on inspectors' expertise regarding phase of education and subject, and the proportion of inspections led by at least one inspector with the relevant phase expertise. (Paragraph 59)
10. **Ofsted** must ensure that they are matching inspectors' expertise with the appropriate phase and subject as much as possible. At a minimum, they must ensure that the lead inspector always has expertise in the relevant type of school. (Paragraph 60)
11. **Ofsted** should commission an independent assessment of the factors affecting retention of experienced HMIs and take appropriate steps to address the issue. (Paragraph 61)
12. **Ofsted** must ensure that it is publishing as much information as possible to maximise the transparency of its work. (Paragraph 63)

## Following an Inspection

13. In consultation with stakeholders, **Ofsted** should increase the length and depth of analysis provided in inspection reports. (Paragraph 68)
14. The **DfE** and **Ofsted** should work together as a priority to develop an alternative to the current single-word overall judgement. (Paragraph 84)
15. **Ofsted** and **DfE** websites should always show the full list of judgements, not just the overall judgement on their websites and published materials. (Paragraph 85)
16. The **DfE** should assess whether the decision to impose academy orders on schools that have received 'requires improvement' ratings on more than one occasion is proportionate. (Paragraph 87)
17. The **DfE** and **Ofsted** should review the support mechanisms available to school leaders during and following an inspection and ensure that these are as strong as possible to support the wellbeing of school leaders. (Paragraph 88)
18. The **DfE** must conduct a full audit of the support available to schools to help them improve. (Paragraph 97)
19. The **DfE** must improve the transparency and accountability of the work of the Regional Directors. (Paragraph 98)
20. The **DfE** and **Ofsted** should conduct an in-depth review of the complaints process to ensure that there is an efficient and independent process for schools to challenge the findings as well as the conduct of an inspection. (Paragraph 110)

21. **Ofsted** must allow schools to gain access to the evidence base used to reach a judgement when making a complaint, making redactions where necessary. (Paragraph 111)
22. **Ofsted** should publish separate complaints data for each sector in their remit. (Paragraph 112)

### The scope of inspections

23. **Ofsted** must publish their planned evaluation of the Education Inspection Framework as soon as possible. (Paragraph 130)
24. The **DfE** and **Ofsted** must undertake a programme of research to fully understand the causes of inspection related workload pressure and assess what changes would be genuinely helpful in reducing this. (Paragraph 132)
25. **Ofsted** must ensure that inspectors are fully taking a school's size and context into account in reports and judgements and progress for pupils in receipt of pupil premium should be a key measure on which schools are held accountable. (Paragraph 137)
26. The **DfE** should consult on the best approach to increasing the regularity of safeguarding inspections through a less intensive compliance audit. (Paragraph 146)
27. **Ofsted** should review its policy on 'inadequate' judgements due to ineffective safeguarding and in cases where the problems are uncomplicated and can be resolved within a short space of time, the **DfE** should not issue an academy order until after the school has been reinspected. (Paragraph 147)
28. The **DfE** must authorise Ofsted to develop a framework for the inspection of MATs. **Ofsted** should continue to ensure that all individual schools are assessed on a consistent basis whether or not they are part of a MAT. (Paragraph 155)