

TITLE **Schools Update**

FOR CONSIDERATION BY Children's Services Overview and Scrutiny Committee on 6 September 2023

WARD None Specific;

LEAD OFFICER Director, Children's Services - Helen Watson

OUTCOME / BENEFITS TO THE COMMUNITY

Understanding of the judgement of schools against national benchmarks. In particular a reference to those schools recently inspected by Ofsted.

RECOMMENDATION

For information

SUMMARY OF REPORT

Schools that have newly published reports following recent inspection by Ofsted since the last meeting are:

Alder Grove Primary School	Graded	Good
Shinfield St Marys CE Primary School	Ungraded	Remains Good
Waingels College	Ungraded	Remains Good

Links to the full inspection reports can be found in the attached table.

A reminder of the inspection processes and outcomes is found in the table below.

Outstanding Schools:

Since the re-introduction of inspection for schools previously judged to be outstanding by Ofsted we have had three of our outstanding schools inspected. Two of these provisions have successfully retained their outstanding judgement.

As of August 2023 we have 7 schools awaiting inspection under this new guidance who were previously judged to be outstanding. Additionally the hospital school is also due for inspection under its routine inspection cycle and has a previous outstanding judgement.

At a local level we have been providing tailored support along with a universal offer to our Outstanding Schools to assist them in their preparation for inspection. This has included:

- Being ready for the 90 minute call
- Feedback from HMI on the exceptionality of the Outstanding Grade
- Briefing on HMCI Annual report findings on Outstanding schools losing their status
- Workshop for governors on the Outstanding judgement
- Series of 6 workshops on inspection judgement preparation for each key judgement

Positive feedback has been given by schools who have engaged with officers in preparing for inspection, noting the benefits in the work undertaken.

Ofsted are also currently inviting headteachers from Outstanding Schools to specific inspection workshops to be held on regional basis. Heads in the borough attended along with officers during July 2023 and onward dissemination of those materials will continue via the team in the new academic year.

Changes to the inspection handbook have been made for inspections taking place post 1st September 2023. These include further clarification of the expectations of schools in relation to safeguarding and enhanced processes, both during and post inspection, for headteachers to give feedback or make complaints regarding the process of inspection.

Summary table of Ofsted state-funded school inspections

Type of inspection	Graded	Ungraded	Urgent	Monitoring
Legal powers for inspection	Section 5 of the Education Act 2005	Section 8 of the Education Act 2005	Section 8 of the Education Act 2005	Section 8 of the Education Act 2005
Schools eligible for this inspection	All schools – but most schools with an outstanding/good judgement get an ungraded inspection instead	Schools with an outstanding/good judgement	All schools – but only triggered by a specific concern in a specific school	Schools with an inadequate judgement or 2 consecutive requires improvement judgements
Outcome	A grade (outstanding/good /requires improvement/ inadequate) for the 4 key judgements (quality of education/behaviour and attitudes/personal development/leadership and management) and for overall effectiveness	(1) The school remains good/outstanding (2) The school remains good, but with evidence it may be judged outstanding on a graded inspection (3) The school remains good/outstanding, but with evidence it may receive a lower grade on a graded inspection (4) The inspection was deemed a graded inspection	If inspectors have sufficient concerns about the school, they will deem the inspection a graded inspection and the outcomes will be as for graded inspections. If inspectors do not have serious concerns, they will produce a report setting out their findings in relation to the concerns that triggered the inspection	That the school is, or is not, making progress to improve
Likely timing of inspection after the previous graded or ungraded inspection (not including any COVID-19 delay)	Around 4 years for schools with an outstanding or good judgement and around 30 months for schools with a requires improvement or inadequate judgement	Around 4 years	N/A	Around 12 months for schools with a requires improvement judgement and 3 to 30 months (up to 5 inspections in that period) for schools with an inadequate judgement
Resets the statutory clock?*	Yes	Yes – except in outcome 3 (see above)	No	No

* The law usually requires the maximum interval for inspections to be within 5 school years from the end of the school year in which the last relevant inspection took place. However, for schools last inspected before 4 May 2021, the legal maximum will, instead, be up to 7 years.

Statutory Inspection of Anglican and Methodist Schools (SIAMS)

SIAMS is the statutory inspection of Church of England and Methodist schools with schools expecting their inspection to take place approximately every five years. These inspections sit under S48 of the Education Act 2005.

The National SIAMS team schedules inspections, recruits and appoints inspectors and conducts Quality Assurance of reports and the process.

SIAMS inspections focus on the impact of the Church school's Christian vision. It involves looking at the school's Christian vision, the provision the school makes because of this vision and how effective this provision is in enabling all pupils to flourish.

The Evaluation Schedule has one inspection question:

“How effective is the school’s distinctive Christian vision, established and promoted by leadership at all levels, in enabling pupils and adults to flourish?”

This is explored through seven strands:

1. Vision and Leadership
2. Wisdom, Knowledge, and Skills
3. Character Development: Hope, Aspiration, and Courageous Advocacy
4. Community and Living Well Together
5. Dignity and Respect
6. Impact of Collective Worship
7. Effectiveness of Religious Education.

One overall grade is awarded reflecting the contribution of these strands to the flourishing of pupils and adults in a Church school. In addition a standalone grade is awarded in all schools for collective worship and in voluntary aided (VA) schools and former VA schools for religious education (RE). This grade is based on teaching and learning alone.

SIAMS judgments are: Excellent, Good, Requires Improvement or Ineffective

More information on SIAMS can be found at [SIAMS Inspections | The Church of England](#)

At a local level the Oxford Diocese Board of Education (ODBE) supports diocesan schools in readiness for SIAMS. There are strong links between the ODBE and the WBC School Improvement team with regular information sharing and joint working.

Schools in the borough who are scheduled for a SIAMS inspection during the academic year 2022/23 are:

The Coombes CE Primary School

Others who may be inspected in a wider timeframe during 2023/34 are:

Woodley CE Primary School
The Piggott School
Polehampton CE Infant School
Grazeley Primary

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS OF THE RECOMMENDATION

The Council faces unprecedented financial pressures as a result of; the longer term impact of the COVID-19 crisis, Brexit, the war in Ukraine and the general economic climate of rising prices and the increasing cost of debt. It is therefore imperative that Council resources are optimised and are focused on the vulnerable and on its highest priorities.

	How much will it Cost/ (Save)	Is there sufficient funding – if not quantify the Shortfall	Revenue or Capital?
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Current Financial Year (Year 1)			
Next Financial Year (Year 2)			
Following Financial Year (Year 3)			

Other financial information relevant to the Recommendation/Decision

Cross-Council Implications (how does this decision impact on other Council services, including properties and priorities?)

Public Sector Equality Duty
Please confirm that due regard to the Public Sector Equality Duty has been taken and if an equalities assessment has been completed or explain why an equalities assessment is not required.

Climate Emergency – *This Council has declared a climate emergency and is committed to playing as full a role as possible – leading by example as well as by exhortation – in achieving a carbon neutral Wokingham Borough by 2030*
Please state clearly what the impact of the decision being made would be on the Council’s carbon neutral objective.

Reasons for considering the report in Part 2

List of Background Papers
Schools List

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