

Agenda Item 9.

TITLE	School Performance Indicators and Ofsted Reports
FOR CONSIDERATION BY	Children's Services Overview and Scrutiny Committee on 17 June 2021
WARD	None Specific;
LEAD OFFICER	Director, Children's Services - Carol Cammiss

OUTCOME / BENEFITS TO THE COMMUNITY

Clear understanding of schools' performance in order to recognise and promote success and ensure robust challenge and support continues to deliver improvement

RECOMMENDATION

Note that during the reporting period there have been no formal inspections of schools due to the pandemic and to understand implications of CV-19 on reporting of results in 2020 and 2021.

SUMMARY OF REPORT

Ofsted Schools Update

In March 2020 the Ofsted suspended all inspections of schools due to the pandemic. In late summer 2020 Ofsted confirmed that although schools will be fully re-open with effect from the start of the autumn term, inspections will remain paused. This is in recognition of the work schools need to undertake to re-engage pupils in all year groups as they return to face to face learning.

During the autumn term HMI conducted a series of survey conversations with schools to understand the impact of the pandemic. These visits were conducted as a conversation with senior leaders in schools and will focus on the following areas of enquiry:

- *identifying the barriers schools have faced and are still facing in managing the return to full education for pupils*
- *how leaders are ensuring pupils resume learning the school's extant curriculum, including the blend of classroom teaching and, where necessary, remote education*
- *how pupils are settling back into expected routines and behaviours*
- *how any identified and specific health and well-being issues for particular pupils are being addressed and what may be needed at local and/or national level to support this*
- *safeguarding*

These survey visits were written up as a letter to the school and posted on the schools Ofsted outcomes page. They do not contain judgements and will not have the scope to change a schools overall grading. Schools were invited to indicate if they would like to volunteer to have a conversation, we anticipate the majority will be selected by Ofsted direct. Visits commenced after term starts in September 2021. The outcome of this research was published in a series of Ofsted research papers culminating in a final document in December 2020.

One school in Wokingham was selected for a research visit, St Crispins.

During the Autumn Term the School Improvement Team undertook virtual visits to all schools using the 5 autumn Ofsted research questions as an agenda for the visits. The team then compiled a view of schools responses to the pandemic locally to be able to compare with the national picture and discussed this with HMI. Findings locally mirrored closely the national picture and in some cases were more positive- for example no schools in Wokingham closed during the lockdowns.

From the start of the Spring term 2021 Ofsted changed focus again and undertook remote monitoring visits to schools based on priority order in relation to current Ofsted grades. This started with those schools currently judged to be Inadequate and moved through to schools with Requires Improvement Judgements.

These visits were also non-graded visits and letters were written from HMI undertaking the visits to the schools thereafter which were also posted on the schools websites. The letters indicated if the school was '*continuing to provide an effective education for pupils given the current context*'. The focus of these visits was on remote education reflecting the provision nationally at this time.

Two schools in the borough experienced these virtual visits during the spring term- Gorse Ride Junior and The Forest school, both were judged to be providing an effective education.

The substantive inspection schedule remains paused until September 2021 at this time, pending further announcements. Section 8 monitoring visits will continue during the summer term, these have no power to change a school grading. These visits will now be risk assessed for on site visits.

Inspections in relation to safeguarding matters continue to be enabled to allow Ofsted to respond to any safeguarding issues appropriately.

School Performance Indicators 2020

During the lockdown response to the pandemic, significant changes were made to the operation of schools and examinations.

DfE removed the testing requirements in respect of all reportable statutory outcomes in the primary phase of education for the academic year 2020. This included the following:

Y1 Phonics Screening

Y2 SATs

Y6 SATs.

The DfE subsequently announced that pupils who would have undertaken the Phonics screening in Y1 in 2019/20 were expected to undertake a past paper from the screening during the second part of the autumn term and pupils who do not meet the expected standard at that point would be required to take the Y2 check in summer 2021. All statutory testing and reporting for 2021 has now also been cancelled.

At KS4 and KS5 guidance was issued to schools to submit assessments to examination boards based on pupils completed course work and mock examinations. This information was submitted by subject and each cohort ranked in order of attainment profile. These Centre Assessed Grades were then used to report outcomes to pupils, alongside the grades generated by the exam board algorithms.

Pupils unhappy with their grades were able to apply to take a 're-sit' examination during the autumn examination season.

The DfE have indicated that all performance tables are suspended and no data from 2020 outcomes will be used to judge school performance. This means that there will be no Analyse School Performance (ASP) reports issued by the DfE and no local statistics for 2020 are available.

School Performance Indicators 2021

At the start of the 202/21 academic year, it was anticipated that the full examination and statutory testing cycle would operate as usual during 2021. This however ended in a full removal of all statutory testing processes in Ks1 and Ks2 and the switch to Teacher Assessed Grades (TAGs) for GCSE and A level students.

The process of awarding TAGs has been a complex operation for schools with a significant increase in workload for practitioners. It should be noted that this process is a different process to that undertaken during the exam period in 2020.

The DfE has confirmed that all performance tables remain suspended and no data from 2021 outcomes will be used to judge school performance. This means that there will be no Analyse School Performance (ASP) reports issued by the DfE and no local statistics for 2021 will be available again this year. Ofsted will be using 2019 published data as the start point for any future judgement-based inspection activities.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS OF THE RECOMMENDATION

The Council faces severe funding pressures, particularly in the face of the COVID-19 crisis. It is therefore imperative that Council resources 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?
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.

Reasons for considering the report in Part 2

List of Background Papers

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