

Dear Parents and carers,

Re: New Ofsted Inspections

We are writing to you to explain a bit about the new Ofsted inspections that the government have introduced. You may have already heard about parts of this in the news, but we recognise that some of the messages are confusing.

At Hamwic Education Trust, we are very proud that most of our schools have been graded as good or outstanding.

Only two of our schools have had a new-style inspection so far. We are working closely with all our schools to ensure they are well prepared for when inspectors do visit.

The new inspections do not use the same grades and Ofsted have made it very clear that the new grades and old grades can't be compared. The new grades that have new expectations to reach them are as follows:

Urgent Improvement	Needs attention	Expected standard	Strong Standard	Exceptional
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Safeguarding



Inclusion



Curriculum and teaching



Achievement



Attendance and behaviour



Personal development and well-being



Early Years



Leadership and governance

The government make judgements about schools in the areas to the left of this paragraph. Across these areas they have said they expect that most schools will have a range of judgments from 'needs attention' to 'strong standard'. Different areas can have a different judgement. There is no longer just one word to describe a school.

The **expected standard** is where schools should be – it's what the government expects to ensure children are getting the education they deserve.

The **strong standard** is met when schools are well above average. They meet every point in the expected standard and every point in the strong standard criteria. To achieve this in any area will be impressive.

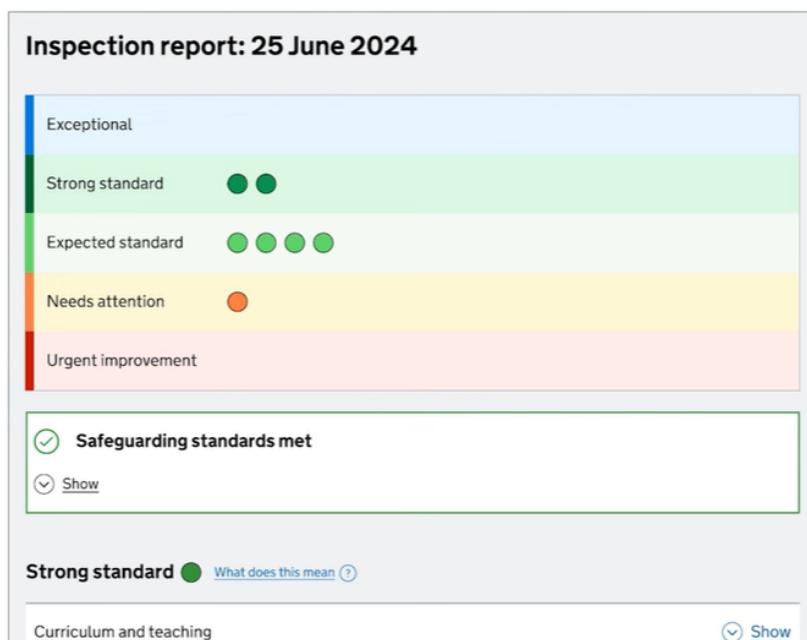
Needs attention is described by Ofsted as a bit like and advisory on an MOT. It's certainly **not** a 'fail', but it could do with being sorted out so it doesn't get any worse.

A school who reaches an exceptional standard in any area will be just that. These grades are likely to be very rare. It is a higher standard than the current outstanding grade.

Urgent improvement means a school is not where it needs to be and needs support to get better in one or more of the areas being judged.

Parents will be able to see how well a school is doing by looking at the new school report cards. Information about report cards can be found here. They will look like the example below with drop down menus to give you some information about why a judgment has been made in each area.

<https://youtu.be/iMMoqZv-DUU>



We hope this information will help you understand what the judgements mean when we do get an inspection in one of our schools. However, regardless of inspection, we will keep working hard to provide the best education we can, not because of Ofsted, but because we believe it's what your children deserve.

Your sincerely,



Robert Farmer

CEO Hamwic Education Trust