



Ofsted Inspections

Ofsted inspections have been a focus for governor meetings in the Spring Term. Both the format and the content of inspections are now very different from the previous model.

New inspection toolkit

Ofsted has published an inspection toolkit which includes the standards for meeting each grade in each area and information on the evidence inspectors will gather to inform their evaluations.

The areas to be inspected are:-

- Safeguarding
- Inclusion
- Curriculum and teaching
- Achievement
- Attendance and behaviour
- Personal development and wellbeing
- Leadership and governance
- Post 16 Provision

Each area will be inspected on a 5-point scale

The report card will include a grade for each evaluation area. These grades are:

- Exceptional
- Strong standard
- Expected standard
- Needs attention
- Urgent improvement

There is an additional focus on inclusion. This is a key theme across all areas.

This area focuses on evaluating whether our school is identifying and offering high-quality support for all pupils, but especially pupils:

- Who are disadvantaged
- With special educational needs (SEN) and/or a disability
- Who are known to children's social care
- Who may face other barriers to their learning and/or wellbeing.

Preparation for inspection – tasks this term

- **Governors have used their meetings to work through and understand each evaluation area.**
- **The roles of link governors have been amended to fit with this new framework.**
- **Governors have been asked to read their specific section of the Ofsted toolkit.**
- **An amended report form has been devised for link visits. This will be important evidence in an inspection.**

Safeguarding update

Our link governor for Safeguarding is Joanne Thornes. She meets regularly with our Designated Safeguarding Lead (DSL) and reports back to governors.

The safeguarding work at the school is very strong. It is high profile across the school and regular training and monitoring occurs. Statutory checks and training have all been completed.

Working with the DSL a plan has been devised with reference to the Ofsted toolkit section on Safeguarding. Governors will discuss how to use this plan and evidence as preparation for inspection.

One issue that arose focused on the number and breadth of the safeguarding and pastoral issues that the school is now dealing with. We have a very experienced team but the pressures for the team and wider staff when dealing with ever more complex issues is a concern.

Bitesize training for governors this term was on the Prevent duty, Channel Process and Martyn's Law. These areas focus on the prevention of terrorism and extremism.

Crisis Management for Schools – decision making under pressure.

March 17th

Training attended by the Chair of Governors with 30 staff from schools across the North East. This was led by two former police officers who took participants through a model which sought to help schools deal with a range of emergencies including knife crime, terrorism, and cyber security threats. Responding to the media in such extreme cases was also analysed. A very useful day for all involved.

Agenda item at the January Quality of Education meeting – Policy on English as an additional language

Governors were interested to learn the following:- There are 68 EAL students currently in school speaking a range of 14 different languages. This presents significant challenges but also gives an opportunity to celebrate different languages and cultures. The EAL students complete a termly survey to assess their progress in reading, writing, speaking and listening. Some EAL students participate in the Lexonik programme. The support for EAL students from D.C.C. is strong, but this will be impacted by the reduced Home Office funding.