The New Ofsted Report Cards – A Parent Guide

Ofsted has changed the way it reports the outcomes of school inspections. This one-page guide explains the new Ofsted inspection report cards.

What has Changed?

In the past, schools were given one overall grade, such as 'Good' or 'Outstanding'. This has changed. Schools no longer receive a single overall judgement. Instead, Ofsted now produces a report card to show how a school is doing in different areas.

What is included in an Ofsted Report Card?

A report card shows separate gradings for different areas of the school's provision. These areas include:

- **Attendance and Behaviour**
- **Curriculum and Teaching**
- **Achievement**
- **Personal Development and Well-being**
- **Inclusion** (how well the school supports all children)
- **Early Years** (Nursery and Reception)
- **Leadership and Governance**

Each area is graded using a new scale (see below). Confirmation is also gained that the expected responsibilities in relation to safeguarding are met (or not met).

Alongside the grades, inspectors write clear explanations of their findings during the inspection. This helps parents understand:

- Why grades were given
- What the school does well
- What it is like to be a pupil at the school

The report card also includes background information, such as pupil numbers and age ranges.

The New Ofsted Grades - What Do They Mean?

- **Exceptional**: only given when the school's work is amongst the best nationally.
- **Strong standard:** consistently excellent provision
- **Expected standard:** provision consistently of a high standard
- **Needs attention:** overall good provision but with some improvements needed to ensure this is maintained (the school may have already identified these and be working on them)
- **Urgent improvement:** provision that is not yet good enough.

It is expected that most schools will have a range of gradings across the different areas – particularly across 'the expected standard' and 'needs attention'. The latter is not a failing grade.

The new grades cannot be compared to the old overall grades. This is a new way of reporting.