

A quick guide to the new Ofsted report cards

Ofsted has recently changed how it reports the outcomes of school inspections, with parents and carers in mind. The new approach is designed to give a **clearer and more balanced picture** of what is working well in a school and where there may be areas to improve.

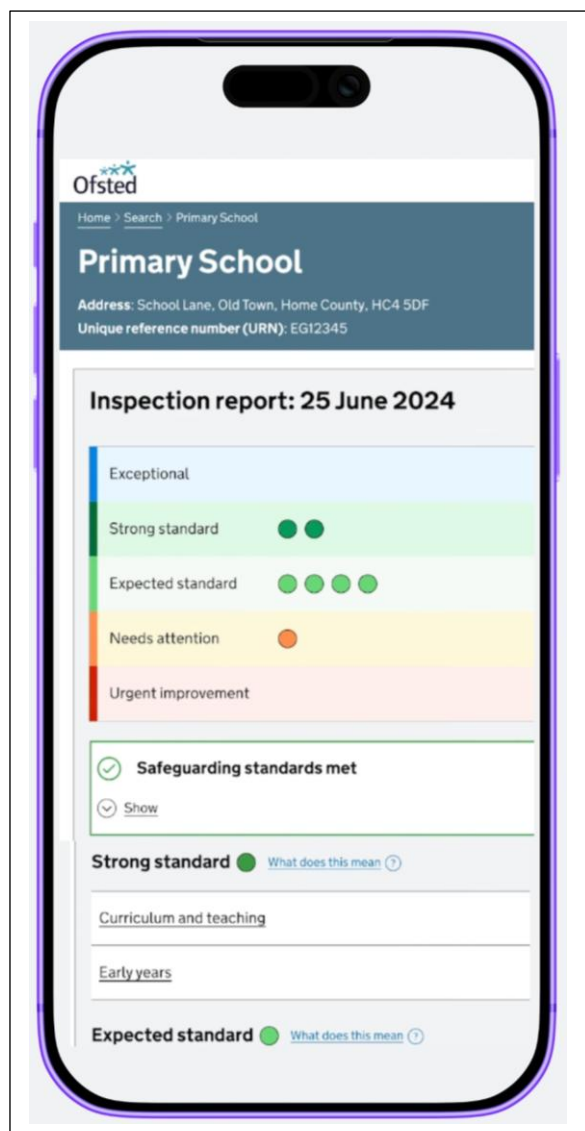
Ofsted has created a short video illustrating the new 'Report Card' system for parents & carers which we recommend you watch:

[Click here to watch Ofsted's explainer video](#)

What's changed?

Schools are no longer given **one overall judgement** such as *Outstanding* or *Good*. Instead, inspection outcomes are shown on a **report card**, with **separate colour-coded grades** for key areas of school life, including:

- Attendance and behaviour
- Achievement
- Personal development and wellbeing
- Inclusion (how well the school meets the needs of all pupils)
- Curriculum and teaching
- Leadership and governance



Safeguarding is also reported clearly as either “**met**” or “**not met**”.

Understanding the grades

Each area is graded using a **new scale**:

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

An **expected standard** is a high bar and means the school is doing everything it should be doing for pupils.

Grades above this recognise excellent or exceptional practice and carries an expectation for the school to share its best practice with other schools.

A grade of **needs attention** is *not* a failure – it highlights areas that need focus before problems grow. It is entirely normal for a school to be stronger in some areas than others and it is becoming common for many schools to have areas that need attention due to the changing expectations on schools nowadays.

What parents will see

Alongside the grades, report cards also include **clear, detailed explanations** of what inspectors found and what it is like to be a pupil at the school, helping parents understand the full picture.

What this means for our school

For our school, this new approach means inspections focus more clearly on the **day-to-day experience of pupils**, rather than a single headline judgement. It allows us to celebrate strengths in specific areas, while being open and transparent about where we are continuing to improve. Most importantly, it helps parents see **how we support children's learning, wellbeing and inclusion**, and reassures families that high expectations remain at the heart of our work.