



London Diocesan Board for Schools

New Ofsted Framework

After a brief pilot trail the new Ofsted Framework came into affect in September 2009. The new framework is seen to be more tailored to the needs of the school and will mean fewer inspections for good schools and more emphasis on schools' self-evaluations.

Here are some of the key points in the new framework:

- Schools will now get 1½-2 days notice of an inspection. Satisfactory schools or schools causing concern can be inspected with no notice given. 40% of satisfactory schools will be re-inspected within 6-12 months.
- Governors will be judged on their impact and knowledge of the school. Governors should be able to communicate the schools vision and will need to know the grade descriptors. It is highly recommended that the first governing body meeting of the new academic year look at the new grade descriptors.
- Schools will be inspected every 5 years unless:
 - It is a satisfactory school
 - There has been a downward trend in attainment
 - There have been a significant number of complaints (e.g. from parents)
 - There are safeguarding issues at the school
 - The SEF is not up to date
 - The school has a new Headteacher
 - The school is part of a federation – *please note that if in a federation both schools will be inspected at the same time*
- SEF – the old SEF will be accepted during the Autumn term. The new SEF, which is shorter and strongly evaluative, will be compulsory in January 2010
- There are 7 outcomes of the Every Child Matters Agenda – it is recommended that schools should establish files on each outcome showing the impact on the school.
- Grade boundaries – Schools will have to justify the grades they have given themselves and if they are on a boundary will need to be able to explain why they did not pick the other grade.
- Attainment – to achieve an Outstanding grade (1) on Attainment school grades must be above average for three consecutive years.
- Assessment – has been moved to the teaching and effectiveness part of the report. The outcomes have been changed and it will be much harder to be graded as Outstanding.
- Grade description outcomes – it is vital to read the grade descriptors.

- Leadership and Management – there is no overarching judgement. Leadership and Management will now be graded under eight separate judgements.
- Schools should produce and analyse questionnaires for pupils, parents and staff
- The second phone call with the Inspector – this is a key conversation where you may:
 - Update and clarify the SEF;
 - Discuss any issues;
 - Agree some provisional judgements.
 It is advised that the Headteacher make a note of everything discussed during this call.
- Limiting judgements are on safeguarding, and equal opportunities and tackling discrimination. Failure on either of these judgements is likely to lead to grading the school inadequate however good everything else is.
- Implications:
 - Teachers and Governors have to know their SEF and school; especially Headteachers who will need to prepare for the second phone call.
 - Meetings with inspectors will be shorter and more focussed – Heads will need to know the framework to be able to fully participate in the inspection or challenge inspectors.
 - Schools will have to have all the data to hand and any additional information as the inspectors will not have time to chase them for it.
 - Inspectors will analyse the impact of partnerships – they are not interested in the partners just their impact!
 - Schools will need to look closely at pupils' attainment. It is advised that schools produce case studies on any child who is not making two sublevels. This will provide extra evidence for the inspectors.
 - Schools should expect inspectors to scrutinise progress for pupils with Learning Disabilities and Difficulties. Inspectors will be looking at the impact of teaching for them.

Further information is available on the Ofsted website at www.ofsted.gov.uk

We are holding a free training session for schools on the new Ofsted framework on Friday 16th October 2009 – please see the flyer enclosed within this mailing.