



Thursday 8 January 2026

## Re: Ofsted Inspections Update

Dear families,

Many of you will be aware that a national review and consultation of the Ofsted framework has taken place and led to a new framework being published in November 2025. With the new inspection arrangements now fully in place, this letter provides information on the key differences between the current and previous ways of reporting an inspection.

For many years, an overall judgement grade was used as the indicator of how good a school was. This changed a few years ago with schools no longer receiving an overall grade, but grades for each of the categories that were inspected.

Whilst the underlying framework remains the same, the way of reporting has however changed substantially.

Schools will receive an online 'report card' that details the 'grades' awarded for the following areas of an inspection:

Safeguarding, Inclusion, Curriculum and Teaching, Achievement, Attendance and Behaviour, Personal Development and Wellbeing, and Leadership and Governance, with Early Years and Sixth Form Provision included where relevant.

Each of these areas receives one of five grades:

Exceptional Standard; Strong Standard; Expected Standard; Needs Attention Indicator; Urgent Improvement indicator.

Safeguarding continues to be judged separately as Met or Not Met.



Below is a mock-up of a new report card, and the real one is designed so you can click into the different sections for a narrative text.

Ofsted

Home > Search > Primary School

## Primary School

Address: School Lane, Old Town, Home County, HC4 5DF  
Unique reference number (URN): EGI12345

### Inspection report: 25 June 2024

Exceptional

Strong standard

Expected standard

Needs attention

Urgent improvement

**Safeguarding standards met**

[Show](#)

**Strong standard**  [What does this mean ?](#)

[Curriculum and teaching](#)  [Show](#)

[Early years](#)  [Show](#)

**Expected standard**  [What does this mean ?](#)

[Achievement](#)  [Show](#)

[Inclusion](#)  [Show](#)

[Leadership and governance](#)  [Show](#)

[Personal development and well-being](#)  [Show](#)

**Needs attention**  [What does this mean ?](#)

[Attendance and behaviour](#)  [Show](#)

**Registered Office:** Abingdon Learning Trust  
Hendred Way, Abingdon, Oxon OX14 2AW

John Mason School is part of the Abingdon Learning Trust.  
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company limited by guarantee.  
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There is a strengthened focus on inclusion that flows throughout all of the inspection.

As always whenever Ofsted refreshes its inspection processes, there is an increase in expectation. With a change from the former 4-point scale (outstanding/good/requires improvement/inadequate) to a 5-point scale, direct comparisons with previous inspection reports cannot reasonably be made.

As schools are inspected, we will all become more familiar with the new way of reporting, and, in the meantime, if you have any questions, please do contact myself, or the Trust's Director of Education (Julie Tridgell) or CEO (Dr Fiona Hammans).

Kind regards,



Alastair West  
Headteacher  
John Mason School

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