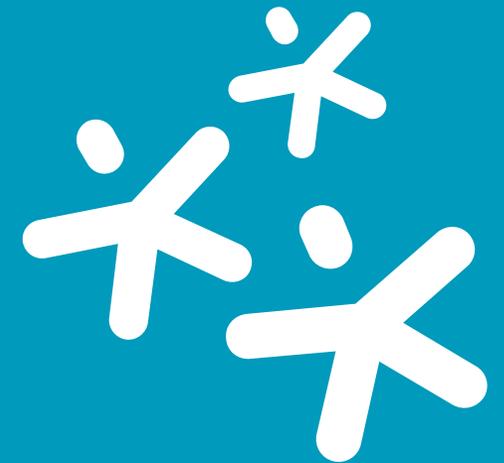


# Restart: update on the phased return to inspections

Education, area SEND, social care and early years:  
plans for the autumn term 2020



# Temporary pause to inspections

## Routine inspection paused

Schools, further education and skills, early years, area SEND and social care.

## Urgent inspections carried out

Where specific concerns were raised.

## Social care

Regulatory work continued to help maintain social care provision for the most vulnerable children.

## Early years

- Regulatory work and registration of vital early years providers continued.



## Plans for the autumn

Our aim is to return in full to our regular inspection frameworks as soon as it is reasonable to do so. Circumstances may mean that this happens at different times across sectors.

### **Routine inspection**

Remains suspended.

### **Visits**

Phased return with an interim programme of visits to education and social care providers, and local areas' SEND arrangements.

### **Reports**

Briefings on the national picture published.

Full reports will follow when inspection restarts next year.

# Visits – a phased return



## Oversight, support and assurance

Proportionate, with the specific approach selected and shaped to match the particular context and circumstances of those we inspect and regulate.

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## Information and assurance

Provide information and assurance to children and young people, commissioners, parents and the Department for Education (DfE) about individual providers and local areas' SEND arrangements.

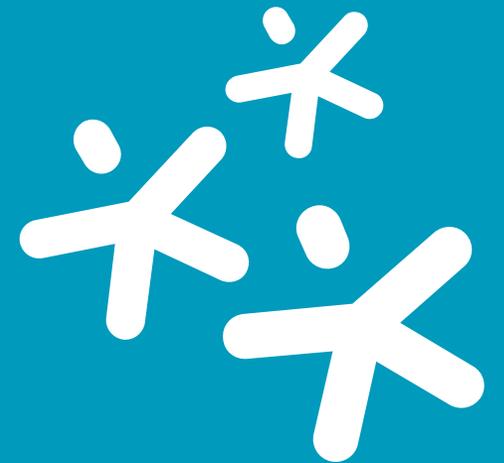
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## Tools we will use

Those available within existing frameworks whenever possible to keep things familiar and to ease the transition back to our full, normal frameworks.

# Restart: schools



# Plans for schools

Interim visits will take place from 28 September 2020. They will usually last for one day.

We published an operational note in September with details about how we will carry out interim visits.

- We will:
  - **not** use the education inspection framework (EIF) and school inspection handbook on interim visits
  - carry out section 8 'no formal designation' inspections when required. These will be used only in response to significant concerns, such as safeguarding.

**Routine inspections remain suspended.** Ofsted intends to resume routine inspection activity in January 2021 but will keep the exact timing under review.

# School interim visits – overview

- We **will**:
  - visit a sample of schools, across all grades (including **all** schools currently judged inadequate)
  - give schools up to one day's notice
  - publish a short letter after each visit, summarising the discussions inspectors had with leaders
- We **will not**:
  - judge schools on their response to COVID-19 during the spring and summer terms 2020
  - provide any evaluation or graded judgements.



# School interim visits – focus and content

Inspectors will work collaboratively with leaders to understand:

## **The barriers**

in managing the return to full education for all pupils.

## **How pupils are settling back**

into expected routines and behaviour.



## **Safeguarding arrangements**

## **How learning is resumed**

in line with the DfE's guidance, including plans for the use of remote education.

## **SEND**

how specific issues related to special educational needs, disabilities, health and well-being are being addressed.

# School interim visits - safeguarding

- The visits are not inspections and inspectors will not be judging leadership and management in the school generally.
- However, as with any Ofsted visit to a school, inspectors will want to discuss with leaders how they:
  - **identify** pupils who may need early help and those who are at risk of harm or have been harmed
  - secure the **help** that pupils need, and, if required, refer pupils in a timely way to those who have the expertise to help
  - **manage** safe recruitment and allegations about adults who may be a risk to children, pupils, students and vulnerable adults.

## School interim visits – further details

- These interim visits are not inspections. They **will not**:
  - require any pre-written planning or other documentation for the visit
  - ask schools for documents or records in a certain format
  - require teachers to prepare any lesson plans or examples of assessment, or to put up any displays for the visit
  - use lesson visits as a method of collecting evidence
  - involve a general review of a school's policies.
  - routinely include meetings with governors, trustees, multi-academy trust leaders or local authorities.



# School interim visits – after the visit

After the visit, there will be:

- a short letter to the school, to provide parents with information about what leaders are doing to help pupils back into full-time education
- a factual accuracy check (FAC)
- a range of briefings and reports published to share our findings on the picture across schools in England with the Secretary of State and the public.

# Ofsted on the web and on social media



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