

Ofsted Changes 2026

Ofsted September 2026 Readiness Action Plan

The updated Ofsted inspection materials, due to come into effect in September 2026, provide schools with an opportunity to prepare for the changes inspectors will be looking for. While the overall inspection framework remains unchanged, the updated toolkit introduces new areas of focus and greater emphasis on how schools' evidence their practice, particularly around inclusion, safeguarding, leadership accountability and policy implementation.

This action plan is designed to help school leaders turn those updates into practical next steps. Work through each section with your Senior Leadership Team, governors and relevant staff to identify what is already in place, where gaps exist and who will take ownership of any actions required. Completing this review will help ensure your school is not only compliant with the updated expectations but also confident in demonstrating the impact of its practice when inspection day arrives.

Leadership and Governance

- ☐ Share the updated inspection materials with your Senior Leadership Team.
- ☐ Brief governors on the September 2026 inspection updates.
- ☐ Allocate ownership for each area of change.
- ☐ Review your School Development Plan to ensure inspection readiness actions are included.

Allergy Safety

- ☐ Create or review your standalone allergy safety policy.
- ☐ Appoint a named senior leader.
- ☐ Confirm a link governor.
- ☐ Schedule annual policy review dates.
- ☐ Audit staff training.
- ☐ Review emergency procedures and risk assessments.

Mobile Phone Policy

- ☐ Review whether your policy reflects current practice.
- ☐ Check consistency across year groups.
- ☐ Gather evidence that expectations are routinely enforced.
- ☐ Ensure staff understand implementation expectations.

SEND and Inclusion

- ☐ Review how leaders engage with pupils with SEND and their families.
- ☐ Strengthen evidence of leadership involvement.
- ☐ Audit outcomes for pupils facing barriers to learning or wellbeing.
- ☐ Ensure case studies clearly demonstrate impact.
- ☐ Review how inclusion leadership is documented across the school.

Data and Performance

- ☐ Monitor publication of the new similar-schools comparison model.
- ☐ Review how your school's data compares within the new grouping.
- ☐ Update your Self-Evaluation Form (SEF) to reflect the revised benchmarking.
- ☐ Prepare leadership discussions around performance in this new context.

Enrichment

- ☐ Review your enrichment offer.
- ☐ Ensure opportunities are purposeful and inclusive.
- ☐ Consider how leaders evaluate participation and impact.

Early Years (where applicable)

- ☐ Audit safer sleeping procedures.
- ☐ Audit safer eating procedures.
- ☐ Ensure practice aligns with updated EYFS guidance.