

Our Ref: SST/HBr

Tuesday 18th November 2025

Dear Parents/Guardians,

Re: Changes to Ofsted Inspections

I am writing to explain some important changes that have recently been made to the way Ofsted inspects and reports on schools. These updates are designed to give families a clearer, fairer and more balanced picture of how schools are performing.

What has changed?

Removal of the single overall judgment

Ofsted will no longer give schools one headline grade such as "Outstanding", "Good", "Requires Improvement", or "Inadequate." Instead, inspection reports will provide a fuller description of strengths and areas for improvement across different aspects of school life. This means parents will receive a more detailed and meaningful understanding of how the school supports pupils academically, socially and emotionally.

More emphasis on narrative reporting

Reports will now focus more on explaining why inspectors reached their conclusions. This will include clearer commentary on teaching and learning, behaviour and attitudes, personal development, and leadership, rather than reducing these areas to simple labels.

Greater transparency and clarity

The new system aims to help families make more informed decisions by improving transparency. The information shared will be more accessible, using straightforward language and giving clearer explanations of the evidence behind findings.

Continued safeguarding focus

Safeguarding remains a central part of every inspection. However, the new approach allows inspectors to describe any concerns in detail and gives schools the chance to address issues promptly, rather than these concerns automatically determining the overall outcome of the inspection.

What this means for us at The Duston School

For our community, these changes mean that future Ofsted reports will provide a richer, more nuanced picture of the work we do every day. You will see a broader explanation of our strengths and the areas we are continuing to develop.

We welcome this move towards more balanced and informative reporting, and we believe it will better reflect the hard work of our pupils, staff, and families.

Mr S Strickland - Principal - BA (Hons), MA, NPQH
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The linked short video from Ofsted further explains how to read the new school report card <https://youtu.be/iMMoqZv-DUU?si=3hBhtOsIIGblEQZ9>.

If you have any questions about the new Ofsted framework or what it means for our school, please do not hesitate to contact us.

Thank you, as always, for your continued support.

Yours faithfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'H. Strickland', written in a cursive style.

Mr Strickland
Principal/CEO