



Education Act 2005

2005 CHAPTER 18

PART 1

SCHOOL INSPECTIONS AND OTHER INSPECTIONS BY SCHOOL INSPECTORS

CHAPTER 1

SCHOOL INSPECTORS AND SCHOOL INSPECTIONS: ENGLAND

Her Majesty's Inspectorate for England

1 Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Schools in England

^{F1}

Annotations:

Amendments (Textual)

F1 Ss. 1-4 repealed (1.4.2007) by [Education and Inspections Act 2006 \(c. 40\)](#), ss. 157, 184, 188, Sch. 14 para. 99, [Sch. 18 Pt. 5](#); S.I. 2007/935, [art. 5\(ii\)](#)

2 Functions of Her Majesty's Chief Inspector of Schools in England

^{F2}

Annotations:

Amendments (Textual)

F2 Ss. 1-4 repealed (1.4.2007) by [Education and Inspections Act 2006 \(c. 40\)](#), ss. 157, 184, 188, Sch. 14 para. 99, [Sch. 18 Pt. 5](#); S.I. 2007/935, [art. 5\(ii\)](#)

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3 Annual and other reports to Secretary of State

F3

Annotations:

Amendments (Textual)

F3 Ss. 1-4 repealed (1.4.2007) by [Education and Inspections Act 2006 \(c. 40\)](#), ss. 157, 184, 188, Sch. 14 para. 99, [Sch. 18 Pt. 5](#); [S.I. 2007/935](#), [art. 5\(ii\)](#)

4 Powers of entry etc. for purposes of section 2

F4

Annotations:

Amendments (Textual)

F4 Ss. 1-4 repealed (1.4.2007) by [Education and Inspections Act 2006 \(c. 40\)](#), ss. 157, 184, 188, Sch. 14 para. 99, [Sch. 18 Pt. 5](#); [S.I. 2007/935](#), [art. 5\(ii\)](#)

Inspections

5 Duty to inspect certain schools at prescribed intervals

- (1) It is the duty of the Chief Inspector—
- (a) to inspect under this section every school in England to which this section applies, at such intervals as may be prescribed, and
 - (b) when the inspection has been completed, to make a report of the inspection in writing.
- (2) Subject to subsection (3), the schools to which this section applies are—
- (a) community, foundation and voluntary schools,
 - (b) community and foundation special schools,
 - (c) maintained nursery schools,
 - (d) Academies,
 - (e) city technology colleges,
 - (f) city colleges for the technology of the arts, and
 - (g) special schools which are not community or foundation special schools but are for the time being approved by the Secretary of State under section 342 of the Education Act 1996 (c. 56) (approval of special schools).
- (3) This section does not apply to any school—
- (a) which is a closing school (as defined by subsection (4)), and
 - (b) in respect of which the Chief Inspector has decided, having regard to the date on which the closure is to take effect, that no useful purpose would be served by the school being inspected under this section.
- (4) In subsection (3)(a) a “closing school” means—
- (a) any community, foundation or voluntary school, community or foundation special school or maintained nursery school in respect of which proposals to

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- discontinue the school have been approved, adopted or determined under any enactment,
- (b) a foundation or voluntary school in respect of which the governing body have given notice of discontinuance under section 30 of the School Standards and Framework Act 1998 (c. 31),
 - (c) a community, foundation or voluntary or community or foundation special school in respect of which the Secretary of State has given a direction to discontinue the school under [^{F5}section 17 or 68 of the Education and Inspections Act 2006] ,
 - (d) a city technology college, city college for the technology of the arts or Academy in respect of which notice of termination of an agreement made under section 482 of the Education Act 1996 has been given, or
 - (e) a special school which is not a community or foundation special school but is for the time being approved by the Secretary of State under section 342 of the Education Act 1996 and which the proprietor has decided to close.
- (5) It is the general duty of the Chief Inspector, when conducting an inspection under this section, to report on—
- (a) the quality of the education provided in the school,
 - (b) how far the education provided in the school meets the needs of the range of pupils at the school,
 - (c) the educational standards achieved in the school,
 - (d) the quality of the leadership in and management of the school, including whether the financial resources made available to the school are managed effectively,
 - (e) the spiritual, moral, social and cultural development of the pupils at the school,^{F6}
 - (f) the contribution made by the school to the well-being of those pupils.
- (6) Subsection (1) has effect subject to section 9.
- (7) An inspection which is required under this section must not extend to—
- (a) denominational education, or
 - (b) the content of collective worship which falls to be inspected under section 48.

Annotations:

Amendments (Textual)

- F5** Words in s. 5(4)(c) substituted (1.4.2007) by [Education and Inspections Act 2006 \(c. 40\)](#), ss. 71, 188, [Sch. 7 para. 23](#); S.I. 2007/935, [art. 5\(cc\)](#)
- F6** Word in s. 5(5)(e) repealed (1.4.2007) by [Education and Inspections Act 2006 \(c. 40\)](#), ss. 154(a), 184, 188, [Sch. 18 Pt. 5](#); S.I. 2007/935, [art. 5\(ii\)](#)

6 Duty to notify parents of section 5 inspection

- (1) If the appropriate authority for a school to which section 5 applies is notified by, or under arrangements made by, the Chief Inspector that the Chief Inspector is proposing to inspect the school under that section, the appropriate authority must take such steps as are reasonably practicable to notify—
- (a) the registered parents of registered pupils at the school, and

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- (b) such other persons as may be prescribed, of the time when the inspection is to take place.
- (2) Any notification given under subsection (1)(a) must include a statement, in a form approved by the Chief Inspector, inviting the registered parents of registered pupils to inform the Chief Inspector of their views on matters relating to the school.
- (3) In subsection (1) “appropriate authority” means—
 - (a) in relation to a community, foundation or voluntary school, a community or foundation special school or a maintained nursery school, the school's governing body or, if the school does not have a delegated budget, the local education authority, and
 - (b) in relation to a school falling within any of paragraphs (d) to (g) of section 5(2), the proprietor of the school.

7 Duty to have regard to views of certain persons

In conducting an inspection of a school under section 5, the matters to which the Chief Inspector must have regard include any views expressed to him by any of the following persons—

- (a) the head teacher,
- (b) in the case of a maintained school, the governing body,
- (c) in the case of any other school, the proprietor of the school,
- (d) any person prescribed for the purposes of section 6(1)(b),
- (e) members of the staff of the school,
- (f) registered pupils at the school, and
- (g) the registered parents of registered pupils.

[^{F7}8 Other inspections

- (1) If requested to do so by the Secretary of State, the Chief Inspector must inspect and report on such school, or class of school, in England as is specified in the request.
- (2) The Chief Inspector may inspect any school in England in circumstances where he is not required to do so by section 5 or subsection (1) above.]

Annotations:

Amendments (Textual)

- F7** S. 8 substituted (1.4.2007) by [Education and Inspections Act 2006 \(c. 40\)](#), ss. 157, 188, [Sch. 14 para. 100](#); [S.I. 2007/935](#), [art. 5\(w\)\(gg\)](#)

9 Power of Chief Inspector to treat other inspection as section 5 inspection

If the Chief Inspector so elects in the case of any inspection under section ^{F8}. . . 8 of a school to which section 5 applies, that inspection is to be treated for the purposes of section 5(1) and of Chapter 2 as if it were an inspection under section 5.

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Annotations:

Amendments (Textual)

- F8** Words in s. 9 repealed (1.4.2007) by [Education and Inspections Act 2006 \(c. 40\)](#), ss. 157, 184, 188, Sch. 14 para. 101, [Sch. 18 Pt. 5](#); S.I. 2007/935, [art. 5\(ii\)](#)

10 Power of entry etc. for purposes of inspection under section 5 or 8

- (1) When inspecting a school under section 5 or 8, the Chief Inspector has at all reasonable times—
- (a) a right of entry to the premises of the school,
 - (b) a right of entry to any other premises on which, by virtue of arrangements made by the school, any pupils who—
 - (i) are registered at the school, and
 - (ii) have attained the age of 15, or will attain that age in the current school year, but have not ceased to be of compulsory school age,are receiving part of their education from any person (“the provider”),
 - (c) a right of entry to any premises of the provider used in connection with the provision by him of that education,
 - (d) a right to inspect, and take copies of, any records kept by the school, and any other documents containing information relating to the school, which he considers relevant to the discharge of his functions, and
 - (e) a right to inspect and take copies of—
 - (i) any records kept by the provider relating to the provision of education for pupils registered at the school, and
 - (ii) any other documents containing information relating to the provision of such education by the provider,which the Chief Inspector considers relevant to the discharge of his functions.
- (2) It is an offence intentionally to obstruct the Chief Inspector in relation to the inspection of a school for the purposes of section 5 or 8.
- (3) A person guilty of an offence under subsection (2) is liable on summary conviction to a fine not exceeding level 4 on the standard scale.

Annotations:

Modifications etc. (not altering text)

- C1** S. 10(1)(a) applied (E.) (1.9.2005) by [The Children Act 2004 \(Joint Area Reviews\) Regulations 2005 \(S.I. 2005/1973\)](#), reg. 2, [Sch. para. 4\(2\)\(b\)](#)
- C2** S. 10(1)(d) applied (E.) (1.9.2005) by [The Children Act 2004 \(Joint Area Reviews\) Regulations 2005 \(S.I. 2005/1973\)](#), reg. 2, [Sch. para. 4\(2\)\(b\)](#)

Publication of inspection reports

11 Publication of inspection reports

- (1) The Chief Inspector may arrange for any report of an inspection carried out by him under any provision of this Chapter (whether the report is required by any such

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provision or is otherwise made in pursuance of his functions under that provision) to be published in such manner as he considers appropriate.

- (2) ^{F9}
- (3)
- (4)

Annotations:

Amendments (Textual)

F9 S. 11(2)-(4) repealed (1.4.2007) by [Education and Inspections Act 2006 \(c. 40\)](#), ss. 157, 184, 188, Sch. 14 para. 102, [Sch. 18 Pt. 5](#); S.I. 2007/935, [art. 5\(gg\)\(ii\)](#)

^{F10}Investigation of complaints

Annotations:

Amendments (Textual)

F10 Ss. 11A-11C and preceding cross-heading inserted (28.3.2007) by [Education and Inspections Act 2006 \(c. 40\)](#), ss. 160, 188; S.I. 2007/935, [art. 3](#)

11A Power of Chief Inspector to investigate complaints about schools

- (1) The Chief Inspector may investigate a qualifying complaint if he thinks it is appropriate to do so—
- (a) for the purpose of determining whether it is or may be appropriate to have regard to the matters raised by the complaint in carrying out any of his functions in relation to schools in England, and
 - (b) in particular, for the purpose of determining, in the light of the complaint—
 - (i) when to carry out an inspection under section 5 (insofar as the timing of such an inspection is within his discretion), and
 - (ii) whether it would be appropriate to carry out an inspection under section 8(2).
- (2) A complaint is a qualifying complaint if—
- (a) it is about a matter relating to a relevant school and that matter—
 - (i) falls within a prescribed description, and
 - (ii) does not fall within any prescribed exception,
 - (b) it is made in writing to the Chief Inspector, and
 - (c) it is made by a person who satisfies prescribed conditions.
- (3) The conditions prescribed for the purposes of subsection (2)(c) may, in particular, require that the person has, before making the complaint to the Chief Inspector, taken advantage of other procedures of a prescribed description for dealing with the complaint.
- (4) Regulations may enable the Chief Inspector to determine that a condition prescribed for the purposes of subsection (2)(c) by virtue of subsection (3) is not to apply in relation to a person making a complaint.

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- (5) In this section, “relevant school” means any of the schools mentioned in paragraphs (a) to (g) of section 5(2).

11B Investigations under section 11A

- (1) This section applies where a qualifying complaint is made to the Chief Inspector by a person who is a registered parent of a registered pupil at the school to which the complaint relates.
- (2) If the Chief Inspector so requests for the purposes of an investigation of the complaint, the governing body of the school to which the complaint relates must provide him with—
- (a) such information held by them as may be specified or described in the Chief Inspector's request, and
 - (b) such other information held by them as they consider may be relevant to the investigation.
- (3) If the complaint relates to a maintained school and the Chief Inspector so requests for the purposes of an investigation of the complaint, the local education authority who maintain the school must provide him with—
- (a) such information held by them as may be specified or described in the Chief Inspector's request, and
 - (b) such other information held by them as they consider may be relevant to the investigation.
- (4) If, for the purposes of an investigation of the complaint, it appears to the Chief Inspector to be appropriate to hold a meeting for registered parents of registered pupils at the school to which the complaint relates—
- (a) he must give notice to that effect to—
 - (i) the governing body of the school (unless the school falls within subparagraph (ii)), or
 - (ii) if the school is a maintained school which does not have a delegated budget, the local education authority who maintain the school, and
 - (b) on being so notified, the governing body or (as the case may be) the local education authority must co-operate with the Chief Inspector in the making of arrangements for the meeting.
- (5) In particular, the governing body or (as the case may be) the local education authority must if so requested by the Chief Inspector—
- (a) allow the meeting to be held on the premises of the school,
 - (b) fix a date for the meeting which is consistent with any request made by the Chief Inspector for that purpose, and
 - (c) take such steps as are specified by the Chief Inspector to give—
 - (i) the registered parents of registered pupils at the school, and
 - (ii) if the school is a maintained school which has a delegated budget, the local education authority who maintain the school,such notice as the Chief Inspector may specify of the date, time and place of the meeting and of its purpose.
- (6) The following persons (in addition to the registered parents of registered pupils at the school) may attend a meeting held in pursuance of subsection (5)—

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- (a) a representative of the governing body of the school, and
- (b) if the school is a maintained school, a representative of the local education authority who maintain the school.

(7) In this section—

“governing body”, in relation to a relevant school which is not a maintained school, means the proprietor of the school;

“maintain”, in relation to school, has the same meaning as in the School Standards and Framework Act 1998;

“maintained school” means a community, foundation or voluntary school, a community or foundation special school or a maintained nursery school;

“qualifying complaint” is to be read in accordance with section 11A(2);

“relevant school” has the meaning given by section 11A(5).

11C Reports of investigations

(1) This section applies where, for the purposes of an investigation of a qualifying complaint to which section 11B applies the Chief Inspector—

- (a) requests information as mentioned in subsection (2) or (3) of that section, or
- (b) gives notice in pursuance of subsection (4)(a) of that section that he considers it appropriate to hold a meeting for registered parents of registered pupils at the school to which the complaint relates.

(2) The Chief Inspector may, if he considers it appropriate to do so, prepare a report of the outcome of the investigation by him of the complaint.

(3) If the Chief Inspector prepares a report under subsection (2) he must send a copy of the report to—

- (a) the governing body of the school (unless the school falls within paragraph (b)), or
- (b) if the school is a maintained school which does not have a delegated budget, the local education authority who maintain the school.

(4) The body to whom a report is sent under subsection (3) must, if so requested by the Chief Inspector, provide a copy of the report to the registered parents of registered pupils at the school to which the complaint relates.

(5) In this section, “governing body” and “qualifying complaint” have the same meaning as in section 11B.]

Interpretation of Chapter

12 Interpretation of Chapter 1

In this Chapter—

“the Chief Inspector” means [^{F11}Her Majesty's Chief Inspector of Education, Children's Services and Skills];

“prescribed” means prescribed by regulations;

“regulations” means regulations made by the Secretary of State under this Chapter;

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“well-being”, in relation to pupils at a school, is a reference to their well-being having regard to the matters mentioned in section 10(2) of the Children Act 2004 (c. 31).

Annotations:

Amendments (Textual)

F11 Words in s. 12 substituted (1.4.2007) by [Education and Inspections Act 2006 \(c. 40\)](#), ss. 157, 188, [Sch. 14 para. 103](#); S.I. 2007/935, [art. 5\(w\)\(gg\)](#)

Changes to legislation:

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Changes and effects yet to be applied to :

- s. 9 heading words substituted by 2011 c. 21 s. 40(5)(c)

Changes and effects yet to be applied to the whole Act associated Parts and Chapters:

- Act words substituted by S.I. 2010/1158 Sch. 2 para. 13(2)
- Act words substituted by S.I. 2010/1158 Sch. 2 para. 13(3)

Whole provisions yet to be inserted into this Act (including any effects on those provisions):

- s. 5(2)(d) (da) substituted for s. 5(2)(d) by 2011 c. 21 Sch. 13 para. 15(2)
- s. 5(4A) (4B) inserted by 2011 c. 21 s. 40(2)(b)
- s. 5(5)-(5B) substituted for s. 5(5)(5A) by 2011 c. 21 s. 41(1)
- s. 5(5A) inserted by 2010 c. 26 s. 1
- s. 8(3) (4) inserted by 2011 c. 21 s. 40(4)
- s. 9(1) s. 9 renumbered as s. 9(1) by 2011 c. 21 s. 40(5)(a)
- s. 9(2)-(5) inserted by 2011 c. 21 s. 40(5)(b)
- s. 10A inserted by 2009 c. 22 s. 225(2)
- s. 14A inserted by 2009 c. 22 s. 225(4)
- s. 14A(3) omitted by 2011 c. 21 Sch. 16 para. 26
- s. 14A(4) omitted by 2015 c. 20 Sch. 16 para. 6(2)(b)
- s. 16A inserted by 2009 c. 22 s. 225(6)
- s. 20(1)(g) inserted by 2009 nawm 3 s. 3(2)
- s. 44A-44F and cross-heading inserted by 2013 anaw 1 s. 77
- s. 59(1)(e) and word inserted by 2006 c. 21 Sch. 2 para. 44(d)
- s. 59(1)(f) and word inserted by 2008 c. 25 Sch. 1 para. 28(3)
- s. 84A 84B inserted by 2011 c. 21 s. 15(5)
- s. 92(2A) inserted by 2011 c. 21 s. 15(6)(c)
- s. 92(5) inserted by S.I. 2010/501 Sch. para. 5
- s. 92(5) omitted by 2017 c. 29 Sch. 11 para. 31(2)(b)
- s. 92(5) words substituted by 2011 c. 25 Sch. 7 para. 104
- s. 100(1A) inserted by 2011 c. 21 s. 15(9)(d)
- s. 108(3)(ba) inserted by 2009 c. 22 Sch. 6 para. 57(b)
- s. 108(3)(ba) omitted by 2011 c. 21 Sch. 16 para. 28
- s. 114(8)(c) and word inserted by 2013 anaw 1 Sch. 5 para. 8(3)(c)
- s. 121(2A) (2B) inserted by 2011 c. 21 s. 40(9)(b)
- s. 122(3)(ea) inserted by S.I. 2010/1158 Sch. 2 para. 13(7)
- Sch. 3 para. 1(3A) inserted by 2017 c. 4 s. 62(6)