

Extract from the School Inspection Handbook – (April 2018)

Inspections carried out under section 8

Short inspections of schools judged good at their most recent section 5 inspection

A short inspection will **not** result in individual graded judgements. It will not change the overall effectiveness grade of the school.

Outcomes of a short inspection

The purpose of a short inspection is to determine whether the school continues to provide a good standard of education and whether safeguarding is effective.

There are four possible outcomes for a short inspection. These are explained below:

Outcome 1 - the school continues to be a good school.

Outcome 2 - the school remains good and there is sufficient evidence of improved performance to suggest that the school may be judged outstanding if it received a section 5 inspection now. The school will be informed that its next inspection will be a section 5 inspection, which will typically take place within one to two years

or

Outcome 3 - the lead inspector is not satisfied that the school would receive at least its current grade if a section 5 inspection were carried out now. The school will be informed that its next inspection will be a section 5 inspection within the statutory timeframe, which will typically take place within one to two years

or

Outcome 4 - the lead inspector has gathered evidence that suggests the school may be inadequate in one or more of the graded judgements under section 5 inspections; there are serious concerns about safeguarding, pupils' behaviour or the quality of education; there are concerns that the performance of an outstanding non-except school could be declining to 'requires improvement'. The short inspection will be converted to a section 5 inspection, usually within 48 hours.

Schools that remain good, with marked improvement (outcome 2)

Where the lead inspector considers that a school remains good and there is sufficient evidence of strong practice and marked improvement in its performance in specific areas to believe that the school may be judged outstanding under a section 5 inspection if carried out now, the school will receive a letter that makes clear that its next inspection will be carried out under section 5 of the Act. The letter will confirm that the school remains good and will highlight the specific areas where particularly strong practice has been evidenced, as well as priorities for further improvement. The letter to the school will be published. The section 5 inspection will usually take place within one to two years, giving the school time for the strong practice and marked improvements to be consolidated. The decision on the timing of the full section 5 inspection will be for the relevant Ofsted regional director to determine. Schools may request an early inspection and these requests will be considered as now, by the Ofsted region.