

Q. Do outstanding maintained schools who converted to an academy receive a short inspection?

A. Outstanding maintained primary or secondary schools which that convert to an academy, are exempt from routine inspection, on the basis of the predecessor school's grade.

However, outstanding special schools, maintained nurseries and pupil referral units do not qualify for an exemption from routine inspection. Pupil referral units, special schools (including maintained special schools and non-maintained special schools with residential provision) and maintained nursery schools that were judged good or outstanding at their previous section 5 inspection will receive short inspections approximately every three years carried out under section 8, as long as the quality of education remains good or outstanding.

Q. Do good maintained schools who converted to an academy qualify for a short inspection?

A. If a school is graded good and converts to an academy, at present they do not qualify for a short inspection. Current regulations state that they require a full section 5 inspection, and this will normally take place in the fifth or sixth terms after conversion.

Q. Will schools with new 2 year old provision have to receive a full section 5 inspection?

A. If a school extends provision to 2 year olds, this will not trigger a section 5 inspection, as this provision is non-statutory. Ofsted wouldn't want to penalise a school and require it to undergo a section 5 purely on the basis of extending its early years provision to 2 year olds. If the school is good it will qualify for a short inspection, under section 8.

Q. Will federated schools still receive linked inspections?

A. Ofsted will look at these on a case by case basis. If all schools in the federation have different grades, Ofsted wouldn't want to programme inspections for the federated schools based on the grade of the weakest school. Ofsted will accommodate good schools having short inspections in the 3 year window. Where reasonable inspections will be aligned, but good schools in a federation will not be required to have additional section 5 inspections.

For further details on the answers to these question please refer to the Ofsted School Inspection Handbook <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/school-inspection-handbook-from-september-2015>

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