# Eligibility criteria for Inspectors

1. **In order to be recommended for training by their diocese, all applicants must**:​

* be a practising Catholic​[[1]](#footnote-1)
* be a qualified teacher[[2]](#footnote-2)
* **either**be one of the following in a fully compliant[[3]](#footnote-3) Catholic school judged to be good or better under both statutory[[4]](#footnote-4) and denominational[[5]](#footnote-5) inspections:​
  + a current or recent[[6]](#footnote-6) holder of one of the posts[[7]](#footnote-7) required to be filled by a practising Catholic in the Bishops’ Memorandum[[8]](#footnote-8)
  + a current assistant head teacher
* ***or*** be one of the following:
  + a current or recent4 holder of a relevant and equivalent high-level leadership or advisory position within a diocese or a Catholic academy company or trust;
  + in exceptional circumstances, an experienced Catholic Schools inspector (or an inspector of an equivalent predecessor diocesan inspectorate) who has attended all mandatory training and has continued to be actively involved in Catholic education
* hold a current Enhanced DBS check (including a barred list check for those inspectors, and only those inspectors, who will regularly carry out more than three days of inspection in any thirty-day period) and be registered on the DBS update service
* have the permission of the chair of governors, chair of directors or employer, where appropriate, to undergo all mandatory training and accreditation and undertake inspections
* be proposed by a diocese, having met all the criteria above.

1. **In order to serve as an inspector for the Catholic Schools Inspectorate, all inspectors must:**

* have successfully completed the training in the National Framework for the Inspection of Catholic Schools
* continue to meet all the eligibility criteria set out in section 1 of this document (the eligibility to be recommended for training)
* be licensed to inspect by the Catholic Schools Inspectorate, on behalf of the Catholic Bishops of England and Wales
* attend all mandatory training required by the Inspectorate.

## A note on the meaning of ‘good or better’ in different contexts

Part of the eligibility criteria requires a sponsoring diocese to confirm that the applicant’s current school is judged to be good or better in both its denominational and statutory inspections. The phrase ‘good or better’ has a specific meaning but one that is not identical for each context.

In relation to **denominational inspection**, for all kinds of school, ‘good or better’ means that the overall effectiveness grade in the Catholic Schools Inspectorate inspection (or predecessor equivalent) is a grade 1 or 2.

In **England**, a statutory inspection carried out by Ofsted is ‘good or better’ if the overall effectiveness grade is a grade 1 or 2. In England, Ofsted inspects all maintained schools and academies, sixth form colleges, non-maintained special schools, and non-association independent schools.

In **Wales, from September 2017** onwards, a statutory (Estyn) inspection is ‘good or better’ if a school has been judged good or excellent in each of the following areas: standards; leadership and management; care, support and guidance.

In **Wales, prior to September 2017**, a statutory inspection (Estyn) is ‘good or better’ if the school’s ‘current performance’ is judged to be good or excellent.

In **independent schools not subject to inspection by Ofsted**, a statutory (usually ISI) inspection is ‘good or better’ if a school meets all of the Independent Schools Standards in its Compliance Inspection, and it has also been judged to be good or excellent in both key outcomes (the achievement of the pupils and the personal development of the pupils) of its Educational Quality Inspection.

1. For applicants who are not clerics or religious, this will be ascertained by means of a priest’s reference, see *Appendix 4: Definition of Practising Catholic.* [↑](#footnote-ref-1)
2. There is more than one means of ascertaining this, for example by holding DfE Qualified Teacher Status (QTS), by other equivalent or higher professional status, such as Chartered Teacher, or equivalent (including training-related qualifications) for further education and skills. For those dioceses who currently use experienced inspectors who lack this criterion, such inspectors may, at the discretion of the diocese, still be considered eligible until they retire from inspection. No new inspectors could be recruited that do not meet this criterion. [↑](#footnote-ref-2)
3. This means the school meets both the curriculum requirements of the Bishops’ Conference (see Appendix 7) and any requirements laid down by the diocesan bishop. [↑](#footnote-ref-3)
4. This includes inspections undertaken by Ofsted, Estyn or an approved inspectorate pursuant to any statutory power or duty or the requirements of any funding agreement or conditions. Please note, the judgement grade of predecessor schools would still stand after academisation, if an inspection has not occurred since the school academised. [↑](#footnote-ref-4)
5. Any person who is currently employed at a school that was not previously subject to a denominational inspection will not be eligible to apply as an inspector until the school has been judged to be good or better in their first Catholic Schools Inspectorate inspection. Please note, this does not apply to Sixth Form Colleges who did previously undergo denominational inspection as part of the Ofsted inspection, via use of a nominated inspector. [↑](#footnote-ref-5)
6. Recent means in the last five years. [↑](#footnote-ref-6)
7. For executive headteachers, one or more of the schools for which an executive head is responsible may be judged to be less than good in its denominational or statutory inspection. In such a case, if the executive head was asked to take on a school which was already less than good, they may still be eligible to inspect, providing it does not impact on the school improvement work. If the school was judged to be less than good while the executive head was in post, then the eligibility criteria stands as it is, and they are not eligible to inspect. [↑](#footnote-ref-7)
8. <https://www.catholiceducation.org.uk/employment-documents/bishops-memorandum> [↑](#footnote-ref-8)