



Briefing Note:

Summary of Ofsted Inspection Changes

Effective 10 November 2025



**HELEN HOGAN:
SAFEGUARDING
MATTERS**

Who is this briefing note for?

Audience: School Leaders, DSLs, Governors, Safeguarding Trainers

Strategic Overhaul: What's Changing?

1. Renewed Education Inspection Framework (EIF)

- A fully updated framework will replace the current EIF from November 2025.
- It reflects new statutory guidance, professional standards, and research evidence.
- The renewed EIF applies across all education phases: early years, schools, further education, and independent provision.

Inspection Toolkits for Each Sector

Ofsted has published tailored toolkits and operating guides for:

- State-funded schools.
- Early years settings.
- Further education and skills.
- Independent schools.
- Initial teacher education.
- These toolkits include step-by-step inspection procedures, expectations, and sector-specific guidance.

New-Look Report Cards

- Ofsted has confirmed a redesign of inspection reports to improve clarity and accessibility for parents, carers, and the public.
- These changes aim to make inspection outcomes more transparent and user-friendly.

Glossary of Inspection Terminology

- A new glossary has been published to standardise language across inspection documents and improve understanding for all stakeholders.

Safeguarding Implications

Inspection Focus on Safeguarding Culture

- The renewed EIF places greater emphasis on how safeguarding is embedded across school culture—not just compliance.

Clarity for DSLs and Governors

- Toolkits provide clearer expectations for safeguarding leadership, multi-agency working, and contextual safeguarding.

Early Years and SEND Considerations

- Early years and SEND settings will be inspected with updated criteria that reflect inclusive practice and child-centred safeguarding.

Preparation for Inspection

- Schools should review and align safeguarding policies, training, and evidence with the new framework and sector toolkit.

At Helen Hogan: Safeguarding Matters this renewed guidance embodies everything that our schools believe in, inclusivity, a tangible safeguarding culture that stakeholders can speak to and an environment where children can flourish. Although the guidance does not yet go far enough, focussing on clear expectations and transparency in inspections is a welcome move forward.