

3 November 2020

Update on Ofsted outcomes for schools and settings

Ward(s): All

Portfolios: Councillor Chris Towe – Education & Skills

1. Aim

To update the Committee on the current position of Ofsted visits across the Borough and the current Ofsted outcomes for schools within Walsall.

2. Recommendations

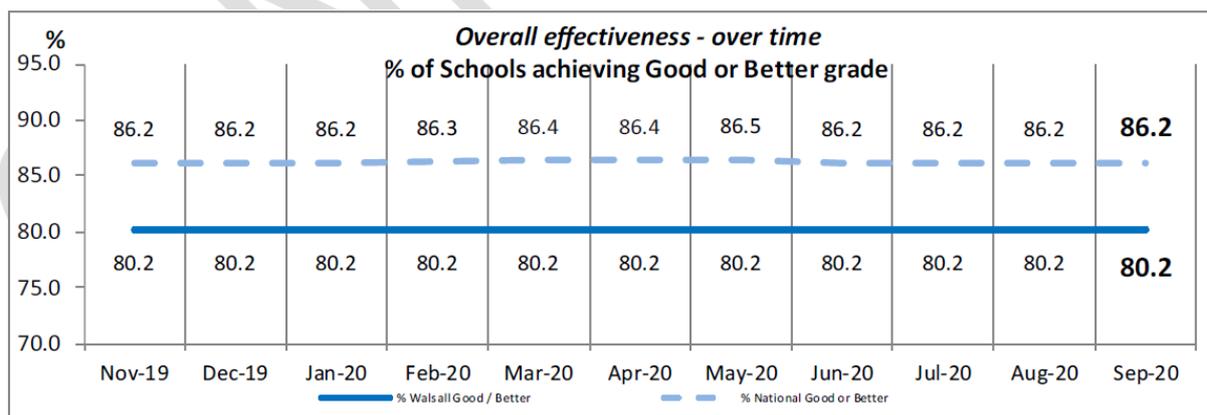
That the Committee considers the contents of this report and decides whether there should be further information or action.

3. Report detail – know

- 3.1 From September 2019, Ofsted released a new inspection framework upon which schools and settings would be judged. This new framework, called the Education Inspection Framework (EIF), concentrates on how schools teach the curriculum, this included ‘deep dives’ into focused subject areas, the cultural capital and ensuring that the curriculum is relevant and inclusive of all learners. There is a key focus on the pupil experiences and ‘what it is like to be a child educated in this setting’ rather than the previous Ofsted frameworks, which were perceived to be more data driven.
- 3.2 Her Majesty’s Inspectors (HMI) were invited to Walsall by the Local Authority to present the new framework to head teachers and senior leaders prior to its implementation. These sessions were very well attended and gave our school leaders insight as to ‘what and how’ inspections and judgments would be made by Ofsted in the future.
- 3.3 In March 2020 Amanda Spielman, Her Majesty’s Chief Inspector, said: I’m grateful for the Secretary of State’s permission to suspend routine inspections. It’s clearly the right thing to do when teachers and social workers are under pressure as a result of the coronavirus outbreak. We all need to support them in their work. We will monitor what’s happening across education and social care and we will reserve the right to inspect where we believe the safety of children could be at risk, or we have other serious concerns. We will also continue to register and regulate social care providers, childminders and nurseries, so that these vital services can continue to support children and their families.
- 3.4 From 1 September until March 2020, when Ofsted visits were suspended due to Covid, there were a total of 16 school Ofsted inspections in schools in Walsall. There are two types of inspections, section 8 (one day monitoring inspections

which either take place for schools in a category or for schools where they are judged to be good or better) and section 5 (two day inspections designed to reassess the category of a schools or due to safeguarding concerns). Of these, 16 of the sections 5 and 8 inspections, **93.4%** (15 out 16 inspections) were judged to be good or outstanding under the new framework. Feedback from head teachers in our schools was very positive about the support the Local Authority had provided in helping prepare and support schools for the transition in Ofsted inspection frameworks.

3.5 The table below shows the overall percentage of schools and settings in Walsall that are judged to be good or better compared to the national average.



% Good or Better	Nov-19	Dec-19	Jan-20	Feb-20	Mar-20	Apr-20	May-20	Jun-20	Jul-20	Aug-20	Sep-20
National	86.2	86.2	86.2	86.3	86.4	86.4	86.5	86.2	86.2	86.2	86.2
Walsall	80.2	80.2	80.2	80.2	80.2	80.2	80.2	80.2	80.2	80.2	80.2
Gap	-6.0	-6.0	-6.0	-6.1	-6.2	-6.2	-6.3	-6.0	-6.0	-6.0	-6.0

3.6 An analysis of the overall Ofsted Judgements below shows the percentage of good or better by school type.

School Type	Good or Outstanding %
LA Maintained	86.9%
Academy Converters	73.7%
Academy Sponsor Led	55.6%
All Schools	80.2%

3.7 Ofsted's routine inspections will remain suspended for the autumn term, with a plan to resume in January 2021. In this autumn term, Ofsted will be carrying out 'visits' to schools and colleges, not inspections. The visits will look at how schools and colleges are getting pupils back up to speed after so long at home. They will help them through collaborative conversations, without passing judgement. The visits will not be graded. Ofsted will publish the outcomes of their discussions with leaders in a short letter so that parents can understand what steps are being taken to help children back into full-time education.

3.8 Ofsted visits will be made to nurseries and childminders to monitor progress and regulatory standards, particularly looking at those where they have concerns, but including a wider sample. Ofsted will also be visiting local authorities and children's

social care providers, including children's homes, to check on the experience and progress of children needing protection or care. These visits will not be graded.

3.9 During 'lockdown', Walsall had two HM inspectors of schools seconded to the Inclusion team to help with our Covid response in supporting schools.

4.0 In early October 2020, Ofsted made interim visits to two schools in Walsall to look at how they were getting children 'back up to speed' and to focus on their experiences during the initial Covid 19 lock down. These visits concentrated purely on the experiences during Covid and did not focus on work scrutiny or any other school documentation other than the single central record. The visit was a series of conversations, with the leaders focussed on safeguarding, attendance, curriculum and behaviour - with a particular emphasis on social, emotional and mental health - and how schools were meeting the needs of their staff and pupils. A brief non-judgemental letter will be sent as a follow up after the visit. Leaders from these schools reported these were positive experiences. The head teachers of these schools then shared their experiences of these ungraded visits as a learning opportunity during the weekly head teachers briefing hosted by the Local Authority.

5. Decide

The Committee may decide to note the current position.

The Committee may decide to request further information or assurance in respect of the report.

6. Respond

Any recommendations made by the Committee will be assessed against the Inclusion Strategy and our Schools Causing Concern process.

7. Review

The performance of schools in relation to Ofsted judgements is under constant review and monitoring by the Inclusion team within the Local Authority.

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