

By:	Mike Whiting, Cabinet Member for Education, Learning and Skills Patrick Leeson, Corporate Director for Education, Learning and Skills
To:	Education Cabinet Committee, 19 March 2013
Subject	Ofsted Inspection Outcome Up-date September 2012 – February 2013
Classification:	Unrestricted

Summary	This report summarises the performance of Kent schools in Ofsted inspections during the period September 2012 - February 2013 and reflects on the overall Kent position on Ofsted Inspections.
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1. Ofsted Inspections

1.1 Kent has seen a positive trend in the 94 Ofsted inspections that have taken place since September 2012 under the revised Ofsted inspection framework. Attached to this report is the breakdown of the 94 school inspection outcomes.

1.2 Five (5.3%) schools achieved an outstanding judgement and 56 (59.6%) schools achieved a judgement of good. Overall, 61 (65%) of schools achieved a good or outstanding judgement. This compares with an overall national figure for the last academic year 2011-2012 of 70% of schools being described as good or outstanding.

1.3 Forty five (47.9%) schools improved a grade and 42 (44.7%) schools moved from previous double satisfactory inspection outcomes to good. This is very positive particularly in relation to those schools that have moved to good, in many cases, after a number of years as satisfactory schools.

1.4 Twenty six (27.7%) schools received the judgement of Requires Improvement. This is the former satisfactory judgement. Requiring Improvement means that schools have a limited time in which to improve before they are re-inspected, usually within two years.

1.5 The School Improvement Service is working very closely with all Requires Improvement schools. In many, but not all, schools currently with a Requires Improvement judgement there is capacity within the leadership to ensure the school makes rapid progress and achieves a good outcome in its next inspection. We are providing support and challenge to ensure that that good progress is achieved. Where there is not leadership capacity to make the necessary improvement we are working with Governing Bodies to ensure appropriate action is taken.

1.6 When a school is deemed to Require Improvement following an inspection since September 2012, we are implementing the Kent Challenge approach alongside the new Ofsted HMI support that all schools who require improvement will receive. The new South East Ofsted regional HMI team will determine when a school is then ready for re-inspection to achieve the good judgement.

1.7 Seven (7.4%) schools went into an Ofsted category, either serious weaknesses or special measures, during this period. This is clearly very serious and action had already been taken in a number of those schools to address leadership capacity and effectiveness. In some cases the Inspection identified 'green shoots' under the new leadership and appropriate plans were already in place for sustainable improvement through the sponsored academy route. In a small number of cases where these plans were not already in place, it has been necessary to use the Local Authority's intervention powers to appoint new leadership, replace Governing Bodies with Interim Executive Boards, or strengthen Governing Bodies with additional governors to ensure there is effective capacity to improve the school.

2. KCC Overall Ofsted Position

Member should note that the overall current position includes 83 inspections since September 2012 and not the 94 described in the first section of this report. Management Information has to wait for the published report before adding schools to the statistical data base whereas the previous information is our very latest position on 22 February 2013 including reports not yet published.

2.1 The current Ofsted position overall across all Kent schools (Primary, Secondary and Special) is as follows:

- 100 schools (17%) are judged to be outstanding
- 280 schools (48%) are judged to be good
- 166 schools (29%) are judged to be requiring improvement
- 21 schools (3.6%) are judged to be inadequate and therefore in an Ofsted category (Nationally the current percentage of schools in an Ofsted category is 3%)
- 22 schools (3.7%) do not have an Ofsted inspection record and are without a full report currently. These are schools which may have amalgamated i.e. the new St.John's school in Canterbury, or new academies awaiting their first inspection.

2.2 At present 71% of Secondary schools, 79% of Special schools and 61% of Primary schools are good or outstanding. The national average is 69% for Primary schools and 66% for Secondary schools. Clearly Kent is doing well in Secondary and Special provision and is improving its Primary school position. Just over a year ago Primary school inspection outcomes were as low as 57% good and outstanding schools.

2.3 We also know that many of the 'Requires Improvement' schools are well led and making good progress. A good number of these schools significantly improved their Key Stage 2 and Key Stage 4 results in 2012 and are well above the floor standard, so that we can be more confident of a future good inspection outcome.

2.4 We expect this positive trend to continue and to gather pace towards our ambitious target of at least 85% of primary and secondary schools and 100% of special schools to

be judged good or outstanding by Ofsted by 2015. This is deliberately ambitious in order to challenge ourselves to do much better as quickly as possible..

2.5 While there is improvement in the outcomes of Ofsted inspection since September 2012, there are still a number of schools at risk. The school improvement strategy is well focused on targeting improvement in these schools but it may not be sufficient in the short timescales available to prevent some failing their Ofsted inspection. However the risk is decreasing as the school improvement strategy becomes more effective.

Recommendation

Education Cabinet Committee is asked to note the progress achieved to date in improving Ofsted inspection outcomes.

Background Documents
None

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