
Meeting	Special Safeguarding Overview and Scrutiny Committee
Date	24 September 2012
Subject	Ofsted Inspections of Schools
Report of	Cabinet Member for Education, Children and Families and the Director of Children's Services
Summary	This report outlines recent and forthcoming changes to the Ofsted inspection of schools framework and the response of the Children's Service in terms of assisting schools in preparing for inspections and the outcomes of inspections for Barnet schools.

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Status (public or exempt)	Public
Wards affected	All
Enclosures	Appendix A – Outcomes of Ofsted inspections
Reason for urgency / exemption from call-in	Not applicable

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1. RECOMMENDATIONS

- 1.1 That the Safeguarding Overview and Scrutiny Committee consider and comment on the implications of the changing nature of Ofsted inspections of schools and the action being taken in Barnet in response to this.

2. RELEVANT PREVIOUS DECISIONS

- 2.1 None

3. CORPORATE PRIORITIES AND POLICY CONSIDERATIONS

- 3.1 The Children's Service supports and challenges schools around performance and outcomes to help deliver the Corporate Plan 2012-2013's strategic objective 'ensuring every school is a good school for every child and targeting support at young people at risk of not fulfilling their potential, which is also prioritised in the Barnet Children and Young People Plan 2010-2013. Achieving this objective continues to be the main driver for the work of the four Learning Network Inspectors.

4. RISK MANAGEMENT ISSUES

- 4.1 With successive Ofsted frameworks being introduced there is a continual 'raising of the bar'. If this results in fewer schools being judged outstanding and potentially more schools at the other end of the continuum, this could pose a reputational risk for the local authority. In order to mitigate this risk, the Children's Service has a termly Schools Review Group meeting where our schools causing concern are discussed. These schools receive enhanced levels of support and challenge through a series of additional visits.
- 4.2 Since the funding for school improvement moved to schools (in April 2011) schools, not local authorities, have had the responsibility for school improvement. However, parents look to the local authority as well as individual schools to ensure high standards of education within the borough. Barnet has a strong partnership of schools and the local authority works closely with all schools to help improve outcomes for children and young people through the work of the Learning Network Inspectors and the Narrowing the Gap Team and Early Years Standards Team.
- 4.3 Since the introduction of the Academies Act – July 2010 and the Education Act – January 2011 there has been a change in the relationship between the Local Authority and schools which have opted to become academies. Academies (which are no longer L.A. maintained schools) have greater freedom and, whilst some wish to continue to work closely with the Local Authority, others have exercised their freedom by working less closely with the Local Authority. However, as far as parents are concerned, a school located in Barnet is a 'Barnet school' regardless of whether or not it is an academy. At the time of writing this report, three secondary Academies previously judged to be 'Outstanding' have been inspected this academic year and are now judged to be 'Good.'

5. EQUALITIES AND DIVERSITY ISSUES

- 5.1 Barnet benefits from the diversity of its schools, which can help to meet parental preference. Barnet now has a growing number of academies and free schools, as well as maintained schools which includes voluntary aided, foundation trust and community schools. It also has a growing number of independent schools. Ensuring a parity of provision across the authority will be challenging, especially as more funding is delegated directly to schools, which reduces the support that the local authority can give to schools most requiring this.
- 5.2 As set out in 9.2, the Ofsted inspection framework used since January 2012 looks at how successful schools are on 'closing the gap' between different groups of pupils, particularly those who are underachieving nationally. In Barnet in 2011/12 there was an 18% attainment gap for children eligible for free schools meals at Key Stage 2 and 25% at Key Stage 4. The attainment gap at Key Stage 4 (GCSE) for children with SEN was 32%. Greater scrutiny of underachieving groups within the Ofsted framework could help to drive improvement.

6. USE OF RESOURCES IMPLICATIONS (Finance, Procurement, Performance & Value for Money, Staffing, IT, Property, Sustainability)

Staffing

- 6.1 The Local Authority continues to have a strategic role as the champion of children and young people. It is, therefore, essential that the Council maintains a good working relationship with schools. This is currently brokered through Director's meetings for Headteachers, Learning Network meetings and councillor representation on Governing Bodies. However, not all schools choose to attend meetings if they are not obliged to and there is no pre-requisite for there to be a Local Authority representative on the Governing Body of academies. The work of the four Learning Network Inspectors is still regarded as a vital link with our schools, and they undertake a programme of termly visits to schools. The purpose of these visits is to support and challenge schools around performance and help to broker school-to-school links. A crucial part of the role of the Learning Network Inspector is also to help schools prepare for Ofsted inspections and to validate their school self-evaluation. An annual 'keeping in touch' visit is offered to all Academies.

Finance

- 6.2 With an increasing number of schools converting/planning to convert to academy status or set up as free schools, their funding stream changes. They are funded directly by government on an equivalent basis to other schools. This includes funding for functions that the council previously carried out. As more schools convert to academy status, the centrally retained budget is decreased, reducing the funding available for the Council to support the remainder of the schools network. This has already impacted on our services as we are supporting schools with an increasingly depleted team.

7. LEGAL ISSUES

- 7.1 The Local Authority is bound by a number of Acts passed by the government, including the Academies Act 2010, the Education Act and the Education Acts 1996, 2002 and 2005. Under the terms of the 2005 Act, (as amended by the Education and Inspections Act 2006) the Local Authority is required to act quickly and decisively in relation to schools that have received an adverse Ofsted report. The role of the Local Authority in relation to an Academy receiving an adverse Ofsted report is still unclear.

8. CONSTITUTIONAL POWERS

- 8.1 The scope of Overview and Scrutiny Committees is contained within Part 2, Article 6 of the Constitution
- 8.2 The terms of Reference of the Scrutiny Committees are in the Overview and Scrutiny Procedure Rules (Part 4 of the Constitution). The Safeguarding Overview and Scrutiny Committee has within its terms of reference the following responsibilities:
- To scrutinise the Council and its partners in the discharge of statutory duties in relation to safeguarding.
 - To scrutinise the provision of education (children and adults), special educational needs provision, and the protection and welfare of children.

9 BACKGROUND INFORMATION

- 9.1 Schools are regularly inspected by Ofsted and since January 2012, have been subject to a new Inspection framework. On average, schools are inspected once every three years. Satisfactory schools may be visited more regularly. Outstanding schools are not routinely re-inspected. However, Ofsted undertakes an annual 'desk top' exercise which may flag up concerns which would prompt an inspection, e.g. falling standards, falling rolls, significant changes in leadership, complaints from parents.
- 9.2 Under the new framework the bar has been raised. Schools are now inspected under four main criteria: Achievement of Pupils at the school; Quality of Teaching in the school; Behaviour and Safety of pupils at the school; Quality of Leadership and Management of the school. Standards are crucial to the final outcome of an inspection and there is an even closer synergy under the new framework between the four main areas inspected. Achievement focuses not just on final outcomes of pupils (e.g. end of Key stage results, GCSE results) but also on the progress made by pupils. Inspectors will look at how successful schools are on 'closing the gap' between different groups of pupils, particularly those who are underachieving nationally. This includes scrutiny of the performance of boys and girls, pupils on free school meals, pupils with special educational needs, EMA pupils and those with English as an additional language. More details can be found in 'The School Inspection Handbook': Published by Ofsted June 2012.
- 9.3 **Achievement:** Pupil achievement is one of the key issues examined by Ofsted inspectors. In judging achievement, inspectors look at pupils' levels of attainment when they join the school, the progress they make during their time at the school through to the standards they reach by the time they leave, compared with all pupils nationally.
- 9.4 **Teaching:** Under the new framework, inspectors spend even more time in classrooms observing lessons. An example is that in a one form entry primary school with a Nursery provision, inspectors observed 19 lessons/part lessons during a two day inspection. During these observations, inspectors look at how well pupils are learning and how effectively teachers assess and give feedback to children on their work and the next steps they need to take in their learning. There is a real focus on how effectively literacy and numeracy skills are taught, and inspectors will talk to pupils about their work and, in primary schools, will also listen to children read.

- 9.5 Behaviour and safety:** Inspectors judge how well the school manages pupils' behaviour and attendance and promotes and ensures their safety from bullying and harassment. Particular attention is given to pupils' attitudes to learning, as well as to their conduct in lessons and around the school. Inspectors take into account the views of pupils, staff, parents and carers, and governors to get a view of what behaviour is typically like at the school.
- 9.6 Leadership and Management:** Inspectors judge the effectiveness of leaders and managers of the school, (including Governors), in improving the quality of teaching and learning, raising standards and ensuring the health, safety and wellbeing of pupils at the school. They will also judge how well leaders and managers ensure that the curriculum meets the learning needs of the pupils and how effectively they lead and manage school improvement.
- 9.7 When considering the overall effectiveness of a school, inspectors take all of the above into account, including the spiritual, moral, social and cultural development provided for pupils and how well the school meets the range of pupils at the school, in particular, pupils with a disability and/or special education needs.
- 9.8 Grading:** inspectors use a four-point grading scale to judge the quality of education provided in the school:
- Grade 1: outstanding
 - Grade 2: good
 - Grade 3: satisfactory
 - Grade 4: inadequate
- 9.9 Process:** most schools will receive up to two working days' notice of an inspection. Following the inspection, the lead inspector writes a report about the main findings of the inspection. The report is published on the Ofsted website and the governing body (or appropriate authority) are asked to send a copy to all parents and carers of pupils at the school.
- 9.10 Under the new framework, greater account is being taken of the views of parents. Parents are requested to complete a questionnaire during the course of the inspection. Ofsted have also introduced a new online questionnaire called 'Parent View' (October 2011). Using this tool, parents can rate their child's school on a range of issues, including the quality of teaching, bullying, behaviour and levels of homework. There is a final question asking whether or not parents would recommend the school to other parents. Once a small number of surveys are completed, the results for the school are visible in 'Parent View' although individual responses are not. Ofsted inspectors will use this additional information when making decisions about which schools to inspect and when.
- 9.11 The new Chief Inspector, Sir Michael Wilshaw, has consulted on further changes to the inspection of maintained schools from September 2012 to raise expectations even more. From September 2012, Ofsted will replace the current 'satisfactory' judgement with 'requires improvement' where schools are not inadequate but are not yet providing a good standard of education. Schools judged as requiring improvement will be re-inspected within two years and earlier if required. The current 'notice to improve' category will be replaced with 'serious weaknesses.' If a school is judged to 'require improvement' for two consecutive inspections, they will then be deemed to require 'special measures.'

9.12 The notice given for an inspection will reduce from the current two days to a phone call to the school on the afternoon before an inspection. There are other minor changes to the framework which can be found in 'The School Inspection Handbook': June 2012.

9.13 Preparation for Ofsted inspections:

The local authority takes a robust view in terms of the importance of rigorous preparation for the eventuality of an Ofsted inspection. Community and Voluntary Aided Schools are supported in this preparation, mostly through the work of the Learning Network Inspectors. Learning network inspectors undertake a rolling programme of visits to the above schools within their learning networks. In the course of these visits, they will check the school's own self-evaluation, undertake lesson observations in order to validate the school's judgements on teaching and learning, and have in-depth discussions on the standards reached by the school and how this compares with other schools both locally and nationally. A strong element of challenge is a feature of all of these visits and discussions.

9.14 Regular training has been held for senior leaders in schools on the new framework. Additionally, we have an Ofsted update at every Learning network meeting with Headteachers (twice a term). Bulletins are put in the school circular to alert Headteachers to any ongoing changes and training has been held for Governors. Learning Network Inspectors are always willing to undertake bespoke training for individual Governing Bodies on request.

9.15 When a school receives notification of an Ofsted inspection, they will (Community and Voluntary Aided schools) notify their Learning Network Inspector. The day before the inspection the LNI will go into the school and scrutinise the pre-Inspection briefing with the Headteacher and Senior leaders and offer support in terms of preparing an appropriate response. The pre-Inspection briefing sets the agenda for the course of the inspection and the role of the LNI is to help the school prepare for the two days of inspection. During the two days of the inspection schools may contact the LNIs for help, advice and support and the LNI will always attend the feedback from the inspection team at the end of the two days. If an Academy particularly requests support, the LNI will endeavour to respond. However, experience has indicated that not all Academies notify the local authority in the event of an inspection.

9.16 From September 2012 schools will be informed of their inspection by telephone the afternoon before. Learning Network Inspectors will as far as practicable, provide advice and support in advance and during the inspection.

9.17 The performance of L.A. schools in Ofsted inspections:

Barnet has 4 nursery schools, 88 primary schools, 22 secondary schools, 4 special schools and 3 pupil referral units.

Of the 88 primary schools, 11 are infant schools and 10 are junior schools.
1 Academy and 34 primary schools are voluntary-aided comprising 11 Roman Catholic, 14 Church of England and 9 Jewish schools.

Of the 22 secondary schools, 14 are Academies (as at July 2012), 7 are single-sex schools, 7 are voluntary-aided comprising of 1 non-affiliated, 1 Jewish, 1 Church of England and 4 Roman Catholic schools.

Our outcomes for Ofsted inspections statistics compare very positively with national, as follows:

9.18 The last inspection judgement for all Barnet Schools

Outstanding 38%
Good 54%
Satisfactory 7.5%
Inadequate 0%

9.19 National: 2011 – 2012 Academic year

Outstanding 11%
Good 46%
Satisfactory 38%
Inadequate 6%

9.20 National: Jan – March 2012

Outstanding 7%
Good 48%
Satisfactory 32%
Inadequate 13%

10. LIST OF BACKGROUND PAPERS

10.1 The School Inspection handbook: June 2012.

The web link to this:

<http://www.ofsted.gov.uk/resources/school-inspection-handbook-september-2012>

Cleared by Finance (Officer's initials)	JH
Cleared by Legal (Officer's initials)	LC

APPENDIX 1: Table of Ofsted Outcomes for Barnet Schools

Name of school	Judgement at most recent inspection	Date	Judgement at previous inspection	Date
Brookhill Nursery	1	12 Oct 10	V Good	29 Apr 02
Hampden Way	1	28 Jan 10	1	14 June 07
Moss Hall Nursery	1	16 Sept 09	2	18 Jan 07
St Margaret's	1	19 Jan 11	1	11 Dec 07
Akiva	2	11 Sept 08	-	-
All Saints NW2	2	7 Mar 12	2	7 Nov 06
All Saints N20	2	30 Mar 11	2	17 June 08
Annunciation Infant	1	23 Mar 09	1	9 May 06
Annunciation Junior	1	29 Nov 07	1	16 June 03
Barnfield	1	22 May 07	1	10 June 02
Beit Shvidler	2	19 June 12	-	-
Beis Yaakov	1	15 June 11	2	10 Oct 07
Bell Lane	3	27 Feb 12	3	17 June 09
Blessed Dominic	2	19 May 10	2	3 July 07
Broadfields	2	23 March 10	2	6 Dec 06
Brookland Infant	2	9 Dec 08	2	3 Nov 05
Brookland Junior	1	24 June 10	1	12 June 07
Brunswick Park	2	11 July 11	2	2 July 08
Chalgrove	2	23 July 10	3	25 Mar 08
Childs Hill	2	21 June 11	2	20 May 08
Christ Church	2	29 Sept 09	3	13 Nov 06
Church Hill	2	2 Nov 11	3	9 July 09
Claremont	2	5 July 11	2	25 June 08
Colindale	2	04 June 09	2	7 June 06
Coppetts Wood	1	19 Sept 11	2	7 June 07
Courtland	1	16 June 08	3	5 July 04
Cromer Road	2	1 March 12	3	22 Nov 05
Danegrove	2	28 Nov 11	2	1 Nov 06
Deansbrook Infant	1	14 Nov 07	2	19 Nov 01

Deansbrook Junior	2	30 May 12	1	12 June 09
Dollis Infant	2	24 Jan 11	3	19 Dec 07
Dollis Junior	2	20 Oct 09	3	14 Mar 09
Edgware Infant & Nursery	2	27 Jan 09	2	28 Sept 05
Edgware Junior	3	22 Nov 11	4	10 Jan 08
Fairway	2	23 May 12	2	18 Nov 08
Foulds	2	19 Nov 07	2	29 Oct 01
Frith Manor	1	12 June 07	2	31 Jan 02
Garden Suburb Infant	2	27 Jan 09	2	6 Dec 05
Garden Suburb Junior	2	31 Jan 12	2	11 July 07
Goldbeaters	2	14 March 12	3	15 Oct 08
Grasvenor Avenue Infant	2	09 Dec 09	2	12 Sept 06
Hasmonean Primary	1	21 May 08	2	14 June 04
Hollickwood	2	12 Feb 08	2	9 Nov 05
Holly Park	1	21 Nov 11	2	18 June 09
Holy Trinity CE	2	23 Sept 09	2	14 Sept 06
Hyde (The)	3	10 June 10	3	21 March 07
Independent Jewish Day	1	11 Dec 07	2	22 Jan 02
Livingstone	3	15 May 12	2	25 June 09
Manorside	2	27 March 08	2	12 Nov 08
Martin	1	01 Dec 11	2	12 Feb 09
Mathilda Marks Kennedy	1	28 June 07	2	19 March 01
Menorah Foundation	2	12 May 08	3	17 May 04
Menorah Primary	1	29 Feb 12	2	13 Nov 06
Monken Hadley CE	2	13 July 09	2	4 July 06
Monkfrith	1	13 Sept 11	2	10 Feb 09
Moss Hall Infant	1	26 Feb 09	2	11 May 06
Moss Hall Junior	2	15 March 11	2	10 July 08
Northside	1	29 Jan 09	2	22 June 06
Orion (The)	1	09 Feb 10	1	22 Nov 06
Osidge	2	07 Feb 12	2	27 Nov 06
Our Lady of Lourdes Catholic	1	25 Nov 11	2	15 Jan 08

Pardes House	2	22 March 11	3	12 Nov 08
Parkfield	3	13 July 10	3	24 Nov 08
Queenswell Infant & Nursery	2	23 April 12	2	2 Dec 08
Queenswell Junior	3	20 March 12	3	2 Dec 08
Rosh Pinah	2	12 Jan 10	2	25 Sep 06
Sacred Heart	1	25 Nov 08	1	29 Nov 05
St Agnes' Catholic	2	12 May 10	1	4 July 07
St Andrew's CE	2	18 Nov 11	3	26 Mar 09
St Catherine's CE	1	30 April 09	2	27 June 06
St John's CE N11	1	23 Feb 12	2	27 Nov 06
St John's CE N20	2	16 Jan 12	2	21 June 07
St Joseph's Catholic Infant	2	24 Nov 09	2	27 Feb 07
St Joseph's Catholic Junior	1	22 Jan 09	1	4 June 06
St Mary's & St John's CE	2	06 Oct 11	2	15 May 07
St Mary's N3	1	15 Nov 11	2	13 Nov 06
St Mary's EN4	1	24 March 10	2	5 Dec 06
St Paul's N11	2	10 March 09	2	4 May 06
St Paul's NW7	2	10 Oct 11	2	10 Oct 06
St Theresa's Catholic	2	22 Sept 10	2	16 June 08
St Vincent's Catholic	1	18 June 08	2	24 Nov 03
Summerside	2	9	2	21 May 09
Sunnyfields	2	28 Nov 11	2	12 March 09
Trent CE	2	12 Sept 11	2	14 May 07
Tudor	3	11 Jan 11	3	25 June 08
Underhill Infant	2	07 Oct 09	2	9 May 07
Underhill Junior	2	11 July 11	3	10 Oct 07
Wessex Gardens	2	01 Feb 09	2	7 Dec 05
Whitings Hill	1	10 Nov 10	3	12 Oct 06
Woodcroft	2	01 Dec 09	2	2 Oct 06
Woodridge	2	11 July 11	2	18 June 08
Ashmole	1	24 Jan 07	2	20 Mar 00
Bishop Douglass Catholic	2	14 Oct 10	2	16 Jan 08

Christ's College	2	16 Sept 10	3	14 May 08
Compton (The)	1	11 Sept 06	1	10 June 02
Copthall	2	14 Oct 10	2	30 Jan 08
East Barnet	2	25 April 12	1	6 Feb 07
Finchley Catholic High	2	06 Nov 08	2	12 Oct 05
Friern Barnet	1	10 Feb 11	2	28 Nov 07
Hasmonean High	2	09 Jan 08	2	7 Sept 04
Hendon	1	21 Nov 11	2	24 May 07
Henrietta Barnett (The)	1	4 Dec 07	1	17 Nov 03
JCoSS	2	15 May 12	-	-
London Academy	2	9 Nov 11	2	26 Feb 07
Mill Hill High	2	6 March 12	2	25 Apr 07
Queen Elizabeth's Boys'	1	9 Jan 08	1	13 Sept 04
Queen Elizabeth's Girls'	1	21 Nov 07	1	3 March 03
St James' Catholic High	3	13 Jan 10	2	17 May 07
St Mary's High	3	23 Sept 09	3	6 Nov 06
St Michael's Catholic Grammar	1	13 Jan 08	1	31 Jan 05
The Totteridge Academy	2	12 Sept 11	1	16 Jan 08
Whitefield	2	30 May 12	1	11 March 08
Wren Academy	1	1 Feb 11	-	-
Mapledown	1	31 Dec 08	1	11 Oct 05
Northway	1	10 June 10	1	14 June 07
Oak Lodge	1	28 Sept 10	2	10 Oct 07
Oakleigh	1	11 Mar 10	1	22 Feb 07
Etz Chaim Jewish Primary (Free school)	-	-	-	-
Pavilion Study Centre	2	5 July 11	2	2 Feb 08
Discovery Bay	2	11 Jan 12	2	6 May 09
Northgate	1	28 June 11	2	11 Sept 07