

Briefing for Schools on the Children's Services Ofsted Inspection

1. Background of the Inspections of Local Authority Children's Services

In September 2018, the DfE announced that all inspections of Children's Services will be under the Inspections of Local Authority Children's Services (known as ILACS) framework, which now means that Slough Children's Trust and Slough Council will receive this inspection rather than the Single Inspection Framework. During the ILACS inspection, a team of Ofsted inspectors will be looking at children's services across the Council and Trust and will provide a graded judgement at the end.

2. How will education be inspected?

As well as social care focused inspectors, each inspection will include a schools HMI who will be evaluating data and information in relation to the progress of children looked after and care leavers, elective home-educated children and children missing education. They will also be looking at the educational progress of specific children (Ofsted will decide which children once the inspection starts). To carry out this analysis the schools HMI will speak to the Virtual School Headteacher, relevant Trust and Council personnel, and may also contact schools for further information.

3. What will happen following notification of an inspection?

Ofsted will ring on a Monday morning and the inspection will start that same day for three weeks. Inspectors will be inspecting 'off site' for the first week and then a team of inspectors will arrive at St Martins Place at the start of the second week and will be inspecting 'on site' for the next two weeks. An email will be sent to all schools in Slough to inform them that an inspection of children's services is commencing.

4. Will there be a timetable as per previous inspections?

The Single inspection framework had a formal timetable with a number of focus groups, some of which schools may have been asked to attend. This is not the case under this inspection framework as inspectors will be spending nearly all of their time with front line workers and looking at as many cases as they can. However, inspectors may ask to speak to some specific individuals in relation to a particular issue or key line of enquiry.

5. What we need you to do upon notification

Following notification please ensure that all designated safeguarding staff in your school and any individuals who have a key role in safeguarding children and young people e.g. Family Support Workers know that an inspection has commenced in Slough's Children's Services.

6. What your school may be asked to do

As the focus is on front-line practice, inspectors will want to talk to everyone involved in a case and so they may ring your school and ask to speak to a particular individual involved in a particular case. *(Please note that this may be either a social care or a school HMI inspector)*. We ask that if a request is made by an inspector to speak to someone within your school that every effort is made for the correct individual(s) to speak to Ofsted.

If an inspector does make contact with an individual in your school during the course of an inspection and they are unable to contact them back, please let Michelle Gwyther or Jeanette Duncan know (their contact details are in section 8) and they will let the inspector know that your school is trying to reach them.

We also expect inspectors to attend scheduled meetings such as Initial and Review Children Protection Conferences and Children Looked After Conferences as well as impromptu meetings such as strategy meetings. We ask that once your school is aware of an inspection that your safeguarding lead checks whether there are any relevant social care meetings that involve your school during the course of the inspection period, and if yes to prioritise attendance by the right people (ideally

someone who knows the child or young person well). This is so that Ofsted get a good sense of the team working around the child and family in Slough.

We appreciate that a school day is busy but you will be aware of the importance of Ofsted inspectors getting the answers to their questions from your own experiences of Ofsted inspections. We will undertake where possible to minimise the number of requests made to speak to individuals in your school, but this may not be possible as the Ofsted team will dictate which cases they wish to follow up on.

7. When will the inspection be?

In a nutshell – we don't know! The inspection is no notice and we have no idea when it is Slough's turn to be inspected, apart from that we expect it to be in the Spring 2019. But please be aware that it could be as early as the 7th January 2019.

8. Local Authority key contact

On a day-to-day basis, the lead contact for the inspection will be Michelle Gwyther. She can be contacted on 07771 874647 or emailed via michelle.gwyther@scstrust.co.uk Jeanette Duncan can be contacted on 01753 477176 or emailed via Jeanette.duncan@scstrust.co.uk