

Education and Skills Director's
Briefing for Chairs and Vice-Chairs
Wednesday 15 January 2014

Welcome



Director's Briefing for Governors 15 January 2014

The Annual Report of Her Majesty's Chief Inspector of Schools

(Elaine Aylmer, Learning Network
Inspector)

HMCI report 2012/13

Published 11 December 2013 and includes

- Full commentary from the HMCI
- Eight regional reports
- Schools Report
- Further Education and Skills Report
- Data View (a digital tool that allows inspection data to be viewed in a visual way)

Progress identified

- Children in England now have the best chance ever of attending a “good” school

<http://dataview.ofsted.gov.uk>

- Many weaker schools have improved – more than 90% of schools “requiring improvement” found to be taking appropriate steps

Barriers to improvement

- Pockets of weak educational provision in parts of the country
- Mediocre teaching and weak leadership in a minority of schools
- Significant underachievement of children from low income families, particularly White children

Characteristics of the best schools

- Routine challenge to low expectations and mediocre teaching
- Effective recruitment and teacher support processes
- Rewarding of good performance
- No tolerance of poor behaviour and attitudes

Characteristics of weaker schools

- Leadership not sufficiently focused on improving teaching and learning and ensuring high standards of behaviour
- English and maths not taught well enough (a third of lessons judged less than good in inspections 2009-13)
- Significant under-performing groups (eg White British on low incomes)

London highlights

- Best overall inspection outcomes nationally
- Primary schools perform very well (although a small number of boroughs compare poorly)
- Secondary school performance even better (although three boroughs are below the national level)
- Some remaining areas of concern eg progress of white British pupils in English

Impact of academies

- More than half of secondary schools now academies
- Sponsored academies established in 2007 have narrowed attainment gap (5+ A*-C at GCSE) by 8%
- However, some trusts not performing well enough

Developments in 2013/14

- Strengthening of inspection arrangements to tackle weaknesses in regional performance
- Continued focus on under-achieving groups
- Review of impact of academy conversion and on performance of free schools
- Publication of HMCI report on Early Years

Implications for governors

Inspectors will expect governors to be monitoring and providing robust challenge to school leaders on:

- Attainment and progress of different groups (particularly low income White British pupils)
- Use of pupil premium funding and its impact

- How quality of teaching is monitored and how appraisal is used to tackle poor performance and reward good
- How behaviour is monitored and how “behaviour for learning” is being developed and improved
- Whether expectations are high enough

Resources

Links to report

- <http://www.ofsted.gov.uk/resources/sir-michael-wilshaw-her-majestys-chief-inspector-introduces-ofsted-annual-report-201213>
- <http://www.ofsted.gov.uk/resources/annualreport1213>

BPSI governance review service (support for self-review and action planning) – contact Richard Griggs (richard.griggs@barnet.gov.uk)