
Ofsted Inspector (LA SEND) - Specification

1. Introduction

Ofsted believes that all children and young people deserve the best. Across the whole range of education, further education and skills, and social care inspections, our frameworks are raising expectations and raising the bar. We are determined to make a greater difference and continue to raise standards and improve lives. It is of paramount importance to us in, all our work, to put the interests of children and learners and their protection first.

Under the leadership of Her Majesty's Chief Inspector, Sir Michael Wilshaw, we are challenging those we inspect to improve faster. To do this, we have changed radically the way we work, so that inspection can be an even more powerful lever for improvement.

Ofsted has an employed inspector workforce of Her Majesty's Inspectors. In addition, from September 2015, Ofsted has been contracting with other people who will provide inspection services from time to time. These inspectors are known as Ofsted Inspectors (OIs). Part 2 of Schedule 12, paragraph 9, of the Education and Inspections Act 2006 refers to such inspectors as 'additional inspectors'.

Please note that Ofsted Inspectors provide contracted services to Ofsted. They are not employees of Ofsted.

In May 2016, Ofsted and the Care Quality Commission (CQC) will commence a programme of inspections, each lasting 5 days, which will evaluate how effectively local areas identify and meet the needs of children and young people who are disabled and/or have special educational needs. This follows the introduction of a

range of reforms in this area by the commencement, in September 2014, of the Children and Families Act 2014.

2. Requirements

Ofsted is seeking to contract with suitably qualified practitioners with experience in delivering services to children and young people with disabilities and/or special educational needs, who will then be invited to act as team inspectors, in inspections of local areas across England.

Ofsted is keen to work with more serving practitioners, for example those in senior positions in local authorities, but we are interested in all those who can demonstrate up-to-date knowledge and practice in the sector, and who meet the requirements detailed in paragraph 2.1 below.

A serving practitioner, in this context, is defined as someone who is currently working in a local authority and who has responsibility for strategic planning for, or managing the delivery of, services to children and young people who are disabled and/or have special educational needs.

We are also interested in those who may not be employed currently by a local authority, but were so employed in a strategic capacity, as set out above, until recently, and for a period following the introduction of the relevant provisions of the Children and Families Act 2014 on 1 September 2014.

2.1 Qualifications and experience required to be considered as an Ofsted Inspector

Ofsted is seeking to contract with people who can demonstrate and evidence the following:

- a minimum of five years' successful experience, including two years' substantial management experience, in their sector;
- up-to-date knowledge and practice in the relevant sector;
- a thorough understanding of the reforms introduced by the Children and Families Act 2014;
- education to degree level or equivalent (desirable).

2.2 Competencies required

Ofsted requires Ofsted Inspectors to demonstrate the ability to:

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- use evidence and knowledge to provide accurate, expert, insightful and professional advice or judgements, which are based on clear and incisive thinking;
 - identify priorities and gather and analyse evidence to evaluate options before arriving at well-reasoned, justifiable decisions;
 - use data and other evidence to formulate hypotheses and questions;
 - weigh up complex and conflicting evidence, reach robust judgements and record these;
 - produce clear written records and reports expressing judgements cogently and precisely in writing.

3. Minimum commitment by Ofsted Inspectors

Ofsted expects all Ofsted Inspectors to make a minimum commitment of days per academic year.

- All Ofsted Inspectors (LA SEND), including those who are serving practitioners, will be expected to commit to 15 days per year and no less than 5 days in each academic term.
- The minimum expected commitment refers to inspection activity only. Ofsted Inspectors will also be required to attend training.

3.1 Ofsted's requirements where an Ofsted Inspector acts as a Team Inspector

- The team inspector shall complete all of the tasks for each inspection they undertake as allocated to them by the lead inspector, and in accordance with the applicable Ofsted Framework and any other inspection requirements that may be identified.
- The team inspector will be expected to prepare appropriately for each inspection they undertake by reading in advance any joining instructions or other material supplied to them by the lead inspector.

4. Reporting and performance measurement

Ofsted's process of selecting candidates for the role of Ofsted Inspector, and our approach to managing our contracts with Ofsted Inspectors, are designed to support our drive for continuous improvement in the quality of inspection.

The quality of services provided by each Ofsted Inspector will, therefore, be assessed against criteria aligned to the following four-point grading scale:

<u>Grade</u>	<u>Descriptor</u>
A	Standards fully met
B	Standards met with minor shortcomings
C	Standards met with shortcomings
D	Standards not met with major shortcomings

The inspections local areas' arrangements for delivering services to children and young people with special educational needs and/or disabilities will be led by HMI. Following each inspection, the lead inspector will evaluate the performance of team members. The quality of their services may also be evaluated through scrutiny of the evidence base and/or on-site visits conducted by HMI or Senior HMI.

Team inspectors will be able to evaluate their own performance, if they wish. In addition, each Ofsted Inspector will participate in an annual review of the services they provide.

Feedback will be given on quality. This information may be used to inform further training and support. Where there are major shortcomings in quality, for example, as indicated by one D grade or by four C grades in any twelve-month rolling programme, then Ofsted reserves the right to apply remedies. This action will include, but will not be limited to, requiring the Ofsted Inspector to complete a support programme over a set period of time followed by further inspection activity where performance will be further assessed.

Should an Ofsted Inspector's provision of services not improve then Ofsted reserves the right to terminate its commercial arrangements with that Ofsted Inspector.

5. Charging arrangements

Day Rates

The day rate for an Ofsted Inspector providing services as a team inspector is £335. This rate is normally inclusive of travel and subsistence.
