

Schools judged to be outstanding in their previous section 5 inspection used to be exempt from routine inspections. This is not now the case and all formerly exempt schools must receive an initial inspection under section 5 (if previously inspected before September 2015) or section 8 (if previously inspected after September 2015) before 1 August 2026.

Section 5	Section 8
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Full inspection.</li> <li>• 2 days.</li> <li>• Focuses on all areas: Quality of Education, Behaviour and attitudes, Personal development, Leadership and management.</li> <li>• Graded judgements for each area.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Inspection for schools previously judged to be ‘Good’ or ‘Outstanding’.</li> <li>• Confirms that the school remains good or outstanding and that safeguarding is effective.</li> <li>• 1 to 2 days.</li> <li>• Fewer inspectors on site.</li> <li>• No graded judgements for each area.</li> <li>• Focus primarily on Quality of Education.</li> </ul>