Edvance
ENGLAND

FREE EDVANCE CHECKLIST - NO LOGIN REQUIRED

Ofsted report cards: a governor’s guide

Use this sheet to read the school’s report card and agree follow-up with leaders.

The five grades

Grade	What it means
Exceptional	The area meets the strong standard and all the additional exceptional standards in the toolkit.
Strong standard	The area meets all the expected and strong standards.
Expected standard	The area meets all applicable standards, including legal requirements, statutory guidance expectations and professional standards.
Needs attention	The area falls short of the expected standard because some provision is inconsistent, has limited reach or effect, or falls short of legal requirements.
Urgent improvement	The area needs urgent action to provide a suitable standard of education or care.

Evaluation areas

Safeguarding (met or not met); Inclusion; Curriculum and teaching; Achievement; Attendance and behaviour; Personal development and wellbeing; Early years (where applicable); Post-16 provision (where applicable); Leadership and governance.

After the report card

- [ ] Read the findings alongside the grades and note the strengths inspectors identified.
- [ ] Compare the improvement priorities with the school improvement plan.
- [ ] Identify actions for each evaluation area graded needs attention.
- [ ] Agree an owner and a review date for each action.
- [ ] Minute the board’s discussion, challenge and decisions.
- [ ] At the agreed review, check progress and record the evidence and any approvals.

Sources

Ofsted education inspection framework:

https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/education-inspection-framework-eif/education-inspection-framework-for-use-from-november-2025

Ofsted state-funded school inspection toolkit (for use from 7 September 2026):

https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/media/6a915d1c01bbff0bf8f97b51/Schools_inspection_toolkit.pdf

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