

# How Ofsted Judges “Overall Effectiveness”

As a governing board, you don't need to know how Ofsted inspectors will judge 'overall effectiveness' in great detail, but you should familiarise yourself with the basics.

## What is it?

Overall effectiveness is the judgement Ofsted inspectors come to when they've taken into account the 4 key judgements:

- Quality of education
- Behaviour and attitudes
- Personal development
- Leadership and management

Where relevant, they'll also judge the effectiveness of:

- Early years education
- Sixth form provision

In making their judgement, inspectors will also consider:

- Pupils' spiritual, moral, social and cultural development
- The extent to which your school's education provision meets the needs of its range of pupils, including those with special educational needs and/or disabilities

This is explained in paragraphs 421 to 427 of the [School Inspection Handbook](#).

## Safeguarding

Inspectors will judge the effectiveness of your school's safeguarding arrangements. If they're 'ineffective', your overall effectiveness will be 'inadequate' (see the grade descriptors for overall effectiveness in the inspection handbook, underneath paragraph 427).

## Grade descriptors for 'overall effectiveness'

**'Outstanding'** schools have:

- An 'outstanding' quality of education
- Received 'outstanding' in all the key judgements (or 1 might be good if there's proof that the school is improving towards outstanding)
- Effective safeguarding measures

**'Good'** schools have:

- At least a 'good' quality of education
- Received a 'good' or 'outstanding' in all the key judgements (or 1 might be 'requires improvement', as long as the school can prove it's improving towards good)
- Effective safeguarding measures

Schools judged **'requires improvement'** have:

- Been judged 'requires improvement' for any key judgement, other than in exceptional circumstances
- Effective safeguarding measures. If there are any safeguarding weaknesses, they're easily rectified and there are no serious failings that leave pupils being harmed or at risk of harm

**Inadequate** schools:

- Will have received 'inadequate' in on any 1 of the key judgements, **and/or**
- Have ineffective safeguarding measures

This is outlined between paragraphs 427 and 428 of the [inspection handbook](#).