



Understanding the New Ofsted Report Cards

A guide for parents at St Stephen's CE Primary School

What has changed?

Ofsted has updated how it reports on schools to give families a clearer and fairer picture of school life.

- Schools are **no longer given a single overall grade** such as *Outstanding* or *Good*.
- Instead, Ofsted now provides a **report card**, breaking down different aspects of the school.
- Each area is explained in **clear, parent-friendly language**, so you can understand strengths and next steps.

The new Ofsted grades (five-point scale)

- **Exceptional (used very rarely)**
The highest grade, awarded only to a small number of schools demonstrating sustained excellence over time.
- **Strong Standard**
This shows that practice is consistently strong and well embedded. Pupils benefit from high quality teaching, care and leadership, and the school is performing above what is normally expected.
- **Expected Standard**
The school is meeting national expectations and providing a secure, good education. Most schools will be here or above.
- **Needs Attention**
Some areas need improvement. The school is expected to act quickly to strengthen these.
- **Urgent Improvement**
Significant concerns in an area. Immediate action is required and Ofsted will follow up closely.

What areas does Ofsted inspect?

The report card looks at key parts of school life:

- Leadership and governance
- Curriculum and teaching
- Achievement
- Attendance and behaviour
- Personal development and wellbeing
- Inclusion
- Early Years

Each area is judged separately, giving a **fuller, more balanced picture**.

What about safeguarding?

Safeguarding is reported separately and is not given a grade.



St Stephen's
CE Primary School

Instead, it is judged as:

- **Met**
- **Not met**

This shows whether the school is doing everything required to keep children safe.

Why this is better for parents

The new system helps you to:

- See **what the school does well**
- Understand **where improvements are being made**
- Get a clearer picture of **what it feels like to be a pupil**
- Move beyond a single label to a more **honest and detailed view**

Most parents say the new report cards are **easier to understand and more helpful**.

What this means for you

When you read an Ofsted report now, you can:

- Look at each area individually
- Understand strengths and priorities clearly
- Feel confident you are seeing a **true picture of your child's experience**

In summary

The new Ofsted report cards provide a **clearer, fairer and more informative view** of school life — helping you understand how we support every child to thrive.

At St Stephen's, we welcome this approach as it reflects what matters most: inclusion, wellbeing, strong teaching and the success of every child.

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