

How Ofsted will inspect Governance arrangements

The impact that Governance makes on an academy is now evaluated as part of the Leadership and Management section of the Inspection Framework. The September 2013 Framework acknowledges that there are now different forms of responsibility and accountability within Governance models. Paragraph 132 within the framework confirms this and reinforces the importance of the overarching board and academy's local board (AAB) working together to secure improved outcomes for learners.

It should be noted that academies in a MAT are not usually inspected simultaneously but in certain circumstances Ofsted will carry out MAT targeted inspections.

The following extract describes how Inspectors are told to evaluate the impact of governors:

"Whatever the mode of governance, inspectors must evaluate the impact of leaders at all levels, including governors, and evaluate how efficiently and effectively the academy is led and managed."

"Inspectors should focus on the effectiveness of leadership and management at all levels in promoting improvements within the context of the academy. They evaluate the extent to which the academy meets the needs of a diverse pupil population, enabling all pupils to overcome specific barriers to learning."

The fellowship as the sponsor will be held to account, during inspection of academies, fellowship executive officer will be interviewed by the inspector. The inspector may also require the Chair of AAB to attend an interview focusing on the following key areas:

-  Carrying out statutory duties
-  Having an understanding of the strengths and weaknesses of the academy, including the quality of teaching
-  Ensuring clarity of vision, ethos and strategic direction
-  Understanding and taking sufficient account of pupil data
-  Being aware of the impact of teaching on learning and progress in different subjects and year groups
-  Challenging and supporting leadership regarding educational performance and standards
-  Performance Management of the Principal/Headteacher
-  Ensuring decisions made regarding teachers' salary progression are in line with requirements
-  Financial management

It is hoped that members of the AAB will want to be available to speak to Inspectors during Academy Inspections as their local knowledge, experience and close relationships with both the Academy and the fellowship will be invaluable to ensure Inspector's judgments are as informed as possible.