



Helsby Hillside Primary School
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With kindness, respect and gratitude,
together we aim high in all we do.

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Dear Families,

We want to keep you informed about a significant change in how Ofsted reports on schools. The previous system of giving schools a single-word grade such as *Outstanding* or *Good* has now been replaced with a new approach designed to give families a clearer and more balanced picture.

What's Changing?

- No more overall grade: Instead of one judgement, schools will receive a report card showing gradings across several key areas.
- Areas to be inspected
 1. Leadership and governance
 2. Curriculum and teaching
 3. Attendance and behaviour
 4. Achievement
 5. Personal development and wellbeing
 6. Inclusion
 7. Early years
- Safeguarding will continue to be judged separately as Met or Not Met.

New Grading Scale

Each area will be rated on a five-point scale:

- Exceptional – Among the very best nationally
- Strong Standard – Excellent, consistent practice across the school
- Expected Standard – Meeting all requirements – children receiving everything they need
- Needs Attention – Some additional work needed or the work is positive, but it needs time to embed
- Urgent Improvement – Significant concerns requiring immediate action

The report card will also include a short narrative in each area and contextual information about our school.

Ofsted have shared that the 'Expected Standard' is a high bar and it will be the starting point for inspectors in each school

Why This Matters

This new system moves away from "one label fits all" and intends to provide a more detailed picture of what schools do well and where they can improve. It is designed to be fairer and more informative for families.

If you have any questions about these changes, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Thank you for your continued support. Additionally, an information video can be [accessed here](#).

Mr A Khan - Headteacher

