



Understanding the new Ofsted grading system.

Smestow Academy is proud to be among the first schools inspected under the new framework. We have created this flyer to help parents and carers understand the updated reporting system.

Report Cards

The new report cards are designed for parents and carers, giving a clearer view of what's working well and what could improve at childminders, nurseries, schools, colleges and apprenticeship providers - whether you're checking your child's current setting or comparing options.

What has changed?

The main change is that Ofsted no longer give one overall judgement, such as 'good', 'outstanding' or 'requires improvement'.

The new report cards use colour-coded grades for key areas parents care about - like attendance and behaviour, achievement, personal development and well-being, and inclusion.

Grades are: **exceptional, strong standard, expected standard, needs attention, and urgent improvement.**

They also show whether safeguarding duties are met or not met.

These grades can't be compared with the old system - it's a completely new approach.

What the new Ofsted grades mean

- **Exceptional:** Among the very best nationally, with practice worth sharing.
- **Strong standard:** Excellent, consistent practice making a real difference.
- **Expected standard:** The provider is doing everything it should to give children what they need - a high, secure standard.
- **Needs attention:** Some work is needed to reach the expected standard - not a fail, but action is required.
- **Urgent improvement:** Bigger issues that must be addressed quickly.

Providers may receive a mix of grades, showing where they excel and where they need more focus.

Each report card includes clear explanations of what inspectors found, helping you understand why each grade was given and what it's like for children and learners at that setting.



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