

ISI inspections

A short summary by Virtual College

Summary

The Independent Schools Inspectorate (ISI) is the body responsible for inspecting the schools that are members of the Associations that make up the Independent Schools Council. After inspecting schools, it reports back to the Department of Education as to the extent that schools meet statutory requirements.

Within this guide we'll discuss why ISI inspections are important, what schools need to do to prepare, and how complaints about inspections can be reported.

What are ISI's aims?

ISI conducts its inspections with pupils in mind. It seeks to improve quality and effectiveness of education, while also ensuring their welfare is properly cared for.

Types of inspection

The inspections are broken down into three categories: Educational Provision, Boarding Welfare, and Early Years Foundation Stage.

1



The Educational Provision inspections comply with the Independent School Standards Regulations. They are, as you would expect, designed to evaluate the quality of the educational aspects of a school's offerings.

2



Boarding Welfare applies to those independent schools that take boarders. Boarding schools must meet a set of standards - The National Minimum Standard for Boarding Schools - regarding pupils' welfare.

3



Early Years Foundation Stage inspections, on the other hand, look into the welfare of children from birth up to the age of five. The inspection looks at the extent to which the setting is meeting the requirements of the Department of Education's Early Years Foundation Stage Statutory Framework. It also evaluates how well it is following the requirements of the Childcare Act 2006.

Of these three categories of inspection, there are further breakdowns when it comes to the type of evaluation that is being carried out.

In **Integrated Inspections**, a school’s educational provision is assessed in just one visit. Where applicable, this type of inspection is also carried out on Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS) and boarding provision.

Inspectors are looking for the school’s compliance with the Independent School Standards Regulations. Furthermore, in cases that a school has EYFS provisions, inspectors will seek to determine the extent to which the setting fulfils requirements. The same applies for boarding schools compliance with the National Minimum Standards for Boarding Schools.

Schools will be given five working days’ notice of an upcoming integrated inspection.

Intermediate EYFS Inspections last two days. Institutions will also be given five days’ notice for this type of evaluation.

Meanwhile, **Intermediate Boarding Inspections** take 2.5 days, and also have a notice period of five days.

Regulatory Compliance Inspections apply to schools that have not yet achieved the criteria that allows them a period of up to six years between inspections. These schools will be inspected every three years. In these cases schools will get just two working days’ notice of the inspection.

INTEGRATED INSPECTION



1 VISIT



WORKING
DAYS NOTICE

IMMEDIATE EYFS INSPECTIONS



LASTS FOR
2 DAYS



WORKING
DAYS NOTICE

IMMEDIATE BOARDING INSPECTIONS



LASTS FOR
2.5 DAYS



WORKING
DAYS NOTICE

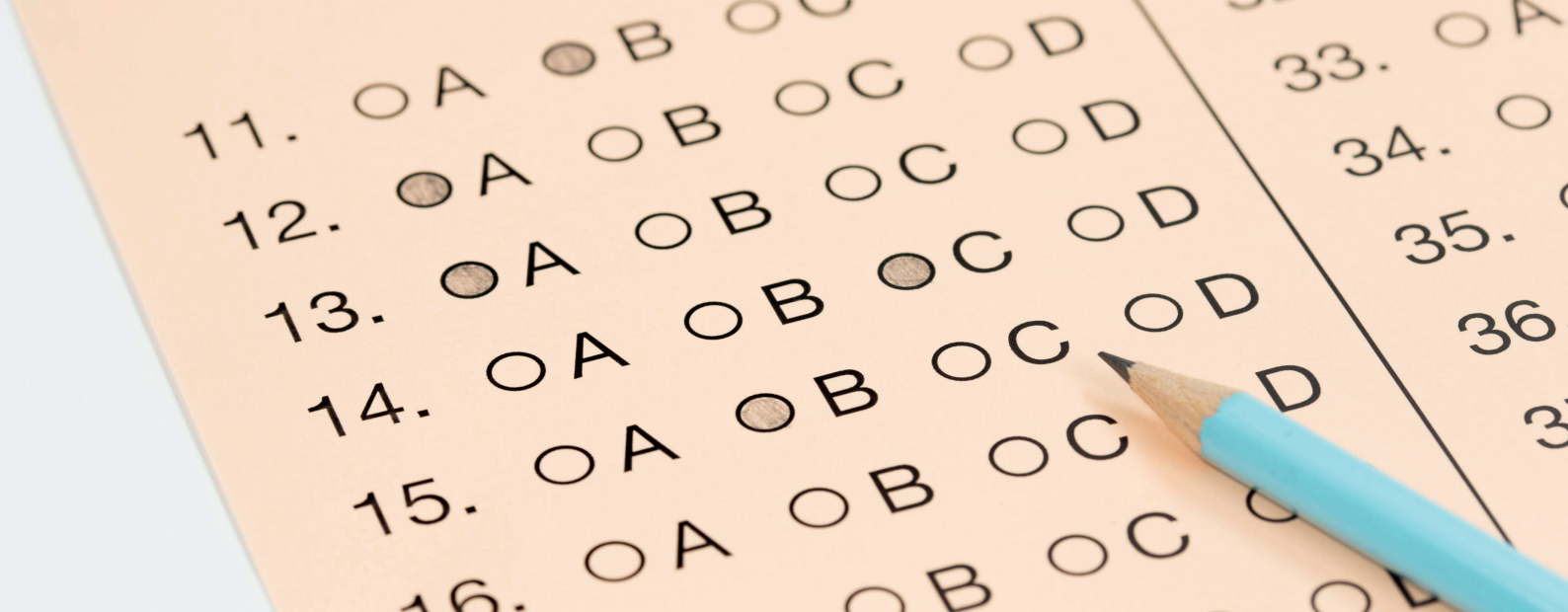
REGULATORY COMPLIANCE INSPECTIONS



INSPECTED
EVERY 3 YEARS



WORKING
DAYS NOTICE



How can teachers, parents and pupils participate?

Ahead of inspections, pupils and parents are asked to fill in questionnaires and submit their feedback. The responses to this drive the inspection, highlighting areas that perhaps need particular attention.

Furthermore, staff may arrange confidential discussions with inspectors regarding any inspection by getting in touch with the ISI office ahead of the inspection. This communication needs to reach the ISI by the end of the week preceding the visit.

Before or during the inspection pupils and parents have the option of requesting private discussions with inspectors surrounding their concerns.



Parent



Teacher



Pupils

How to report complaints about an inspection

School heads are advised to tell members of staff that if they have a complaint about an inspection, they should raise it with them during the inspection. This way, it can be reported to the Reporting Inspector. If this is not possible, or if the head is concerned with the Reporting Inspector themselves, they can immediately contact the ISI's head of communications Durell Barnes.

It is also possible that there may be complaints regarding the feedback at the end of an inspection. In these cases, register the complaints with the Reporting Inspector so that they can be reflected in the draft report where appropriate.

The ISI also has a complaints procedure through which complaints can be made at the proof stage. However, it must be noted that raising a complaint will not necessarily delay the report's publication.

How can schools and associations themselves feedback?

The ISI holds formal consultations with schools and associations in order to give them a platform to bring their ideas and opinions to the table, with several hundred delegates attending every event.



Sources

<http://www.isi.net/about>

<http://www.isi.net/schools/guidance-for-schools/>

<http://www.isi.net/schools/guidance-for-schools/different-types-of-inspection>

<http://www.isi.net/schools/complaints-about-an-inspection>

<http://www.isi.net/schools/private-further-education/>

<http://www.isi.net/news/feedback-from-schools-and-associations>

<http://www.isi.net/reports>



www.vceducation.co.uk

education@virtual-college.co.uk • 01943 885093

Virtual College

Marsel House, Stephenson's Way, Ilkley, West Yorkshire, LS29 8DD, England

Virtual College is one of the UK's leading providers of online learning solutions with over **2 million online learners**. Together, we steer our online community by creating effective products, resources and services that meet the needs of organisations and individual learners.

