

19.01.26

Dear Parents and Carers,

Over the past few weeks, Ofsted has begun publishing the first sets of inspection findings under their new national framework. As these new report cards start to appear publicly, I wanted to write to you to explain what has changed and what these new judgements mean. We know that Ofsted reports are important to families, so it is important to us that you have clear, straightforward information.

A new type of Ofsted report

Schools will no longer receive one overall grade like “Outstanding” or “Good”. Instead, each school now gets a **report card**, which shows how it is doing in several key areas such as teaching, inclusion, behaviour, and leadership.

This approach gives parents more detail and a fuller understanding of a school, rather than a single headline grade.

The new grades

Each area of the report card is graded using the following scale:

- **Exceptional** – The school’s work is truly outstanding and among the very best nationally. Other schools could learn from it.
- **Strong standard** – The school is doing better than what is normally expected. Leaders are working above the expected level.
- **Expected standard** – The school is doing what it should be doing. It is meeting the professional, statutory and care standards expected of all schools.
- **Needs attention** – The school is not yet meeting the expected standards, but leaders are likely to be able to make the necessary improvements.
- **Urgent improvement** – The school needs to make rapid improvements in order to reach the expected standard of education or care.

Please note: “Expected standard” is a very positive judgement. It means the school is doing what is required and providing pupils with the education and care they should receive. It is not the same as any grade from the old system.

What this means for you as parents

You may notice that schools receive different grades across different areas. This is normal under the new system — it’s designed to give a fuller and more rounded picture of each school.

It's also important to know that 'Exceptional' will be uncommon. It is intended to highlight rare, sector-leading examples of excellence, that other schools across the country could learn from.

Where an area is judged as Needs attention or Urgent improvement, the school will receive extra support and monitoring to help it improve quickly.

What this means for our Trust

YCAT's priority remains the same: ***to ensure every child in all our schools reaches their full potential.***

When Ofsted visits, we will:

- share each school's report card with you
- explain clearly what the grades mean
- celebrate areas of strength
- work openly and quickly on any areas for improvement

Our commitment to transparency and high standards will not change.

If you have questions

Please speak to your school's headteacher or contact the Trust office. We will be happy to help explain anything in more detail.

Thank you for your continued support for our schools and your children.

Yours sincerely,



Mrs Jo Robinson

Chief Executive Officer

Yorkshire Collaborative Academy Trust (YCAT)