Office for Standards in Education, Children's Services and Skills (OFSTED)

Basics	**Web site**	http://www.ofsted.gov.uk/
	Geographical coverage	England (and Wales on behalf of HMI Prisons)
Constitutional Aspects	**Legal Framework/Basis**	The Education and Inspections Act 2006 (available at http://www.opsi.gov.uk/Acts/acts2006/ukpga_20060040_en_1), §112 (1) provides statutory basis. Also, the Childcare Act 2006, the Statutory Framework for the Early Years Foundation Stage, the Childcare (Early Years) Register Regulations 2008 and the Childcare (General Childcare Register) Regulations 2008.
	Independence	Ofsted is a non-ministerial government department that is responsible for inspection and regulation of education, children's services and skills. Ofsted is independent but accountable to Parliament through a Select Committee. The key responsibilities of the Board and of Her Majesty's Chief Inspector (HMCI) are set out in Ofsted's Corporate Governance Framework, available at www.ofsted.gov.uk. Ofsted also publishes detailed information about how it inspects and regulates on its website.
	Financial Independence	HMCI is the Accounting Officer for Ofsted, and is answerable to Parliament for ensuring that all resources are used properly and provide value for money. HMCI, with the advice of the Executive Board, manages the preparation of the Ofsted budget on an annual basis, to reflect Ofsted's strategic priorities. The Ofsted Board reviews the budget annually and monitors it during the year. Any changes to individual directorate or divisional budgets are approved by HMCI, as advised by the Executive Board.
Membership	**Composition of body**	Ofsted's Board is responsible for setting the strategic priorities, targets and objectives for Ofsted, and for ensuring that HMCI's functions are performed efficiently and effectively. The Board has five members including the Chairman and HMCI. The board meets four times a year. HMCI is supported in ensuring the effective strategic and corporate management of Ofsted by an Executive Board, comprising HMCI and seven directors.
	Appointment Expertise	Her Majesty's Chief Inspector (HMCI) has overall responsibility for the organisation, management and staffing of Ofsted. HMCI is appointed by Her Majesty by Order in Council, on recommendation by the Secretary of State for Education.
	Expertise	All inspectors are required to have appropriate qualifications and experience. Ofsted ensures that all inspectors: • are properly trained and assessed to specified standards • engage in continuous professional development to improve their inspection skills • have relevant and up-to-date knowledge about their areas of expertise • have current and enhanced Criminal Records Bureau (CRB) checks and security checks as appropriate.

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Visiting Mandate	**Places of deprivation of liberty to be visited**	Ofsted regulates and inspects childcare and children's social care and inspects schools, colleges, initial teacher education, work-based learning and skills training, adult and community learning, education and training in prisons and other secure establishments, the Children and Family Court Advisory Support Service (Cafcass). Places visited where liberty is deprived are secure units and places of training and prisons.
	Frequency of visits	Determined by HMI Prisons. Secure training centres under an agreement with the Youth Justice Board and secure children's homes as set out in regulation are inspected at least twice a year.
	Types of visits	Unannounced and announced visits. Education and Inspection Act 2006 §131 (3) In respect of education or training provided by an employer in the workplace, the power of entry conferred by subsection (2) may be exercised only if the employer has been given reasonable notice in writing. Proactive and reactive mandate: Education and Inspection Act 2006 § 128 (1) If requested to do so by the Secretary of State, the Chief Inspector must inspect - (a) the quality and availability of a specified description of education or training, in a specified area in England, for persons who are aged 15 or over but under 19; (b) the standards achieved by those receiving the education or training; and (c) whether the financial resources made available to those providing that education and training are managed efficiently and used in a way which provides value for money. (2) The Chief Inspector may conduct such an inspection without being requested to do so. Announced and unannounced inspections of secure training centres under section 146 of the Education and Inspections Act 2006. Announced and unannounced inspection of secure children's homes under Section 148 of the Education and Inspections Act 2006. Powers to enter, inspect, and where necessary seize documents are set out in the Care Standards Act 2000.
	Private interviews	The use of private interviews with children and young people are central to the inspection of secure training centres and secure children's homes. Private interviews are carried out with learners.
	Access to information	Education and Inspection Act 2006 §131 (2): When conducting an inspection, the Chief Inspector may, at any reasonable time, enter - (a) any premises on which the education or training inspected is provided; (b) any premises of the provider of that education or training which are used in connection with its provision. (3) In respect of education or training provided by an employer in the workplace, the power of entry conferred by subsection (2) may be exercised only if the employer has been given reasonable notice in writing. Powers to enter, inspect, and where necessary seize documents in a secure children's home are set out in the Care Standards Act 2000.
	Publication of findings after visits	Education and Inspections Act 2006 §124 (3): On completing an inspection under this section, the Chief Inspector must make a written report on it. (7) The Chief Inspector must arrange for the report to be

		published in such manner as he considers appropriate. Contributions made to HMIP reports
	Coordination of visits	Visits coordinated by HMI Prisons. Visits to secure training centres and secure children's homes are co-ordinated by Ofsted.
Other Aspects of Mandate	**Recommendations and suggestions for amendments to legislation**	Education and Inspections Act 2006 §118 (3): The Chief Inspector may at any time give advice to the Secretary of State on any matter connected with any activities within his remit, including advice relating to a particular establishment, institution or agency.
	Preventive activities	Website: Ofsted regulates and inspects to achieve excellence in the care of children and young people, and in education and skills for learners of all ages. To achieve this Ofsted reports; listens to service users and providers; and communicates findings with a range of actors from service providers to policy-makers. Ofsted does not report to government ministers but directly to Parliament.
Standards	**Legal standards applied**	Inspections are based on *Ofsted Inspects* manual which was drafted in 2007 after an extensive consultation of 39 different regulatory and inspection systems, each with its own processes. *Ofsted Inspects* provides a framework to promote improvement in the services inspected, improve engagement with providers and users, provide greater consistency and integration to inspection and regulation and target inspection resources where they will have the greatest impact. It is also aimed at drawing on best practice from across Ofsted and providing a consistent and coherent approach to its work. *Ofsted Inspects* sets out the principles of inspection and regulation and the overarching arrangements for all Ofsted inspections including the judgements that inspectors will make. Available at: http://www.ofsted.gov.uk/Ofsted-home/Forms-and-guidance/Browse-all-by/Other/General/Ofsted-inspects
Reports	**Annual reports**	Her Majesty's Chief Inspector (HMCI) is responsible for Ofsted's inspection and regulation services and reports annually on the quality of education, children's services and skills in England.