

Clive House
70 Petty France
London
SW1H 9EX

T 0300 123 1231
Textphone 0161 618 8524
enquiries@ofsted.gov.uk
www.ofsted.gov.uk



15 May 2019

Robert Halfon MP
Chair, Education Select Committee
Education Select Committee
House of Commons
Westminster
SW1A 0AA

Gill Jones HMI
Deputy Director, Early Education

Dear Robert

During my recent evidence session as part of your 'Special educational needs and disabilities' inquiry I promised to write to the Committee with some more detail on off-rolling.

Off-rolling under the current framework

I briefly discussed how off-rolling is inspected under the current framework and why in rare instances, we may identify off-rolling but still find a school to be good.

During inspection, inspectors take into consideration a wide range of evidence and use the handbook to reach key judgements. We must ensure that our judgements are proportionate and fair, and of course there are sometimes cases where we have to defend our inspection judgements in court.

Where inspectors find evidence of off-rolling, they weigh it carefully to see the extent to which it affects key judgements. In most cases, off-rolling will have had, or is likely to have had, a negative impact on the pupils involved. Ofsted's definition of off-rolling is when a school has removed pupils from its roll but has acted in its own interests, not in the best interests of the pupil or pupils. In a small number of cases, the impact on pupils is not clear cut. In a case where pupils have been off-rolled but the school has ensured that pupils are receiving appropriate alternative provision, this will be taken into consideration in reaching key judgements.

Regardless of the impact on pupils, Ofsted is committed to reporting on all cases of off-rolling where we find them. It is likely to affect the leadership and management grade. However, it may not affect the overall grade, in cases where it cannot be proved that teaching and learning or outcomes have been affected.

Off-rolling under the new framework

The new inspection framework, which will take effect in September 2019, is very clear about, and specifically mentions, off-rolling. Where we find off-rolling, we will continue to report on it. Judgements will continue to reflect the impact of the off-rolling on pupils. We have made it very clear in the newly published handbooks that any school where evidence of off-rolling is found is likely to be judged as inadequate for its leadership and management.

School identified as potentially off-rolling

Since we began to use our statistical model to identify schools with exceptional pupil movement, we have inspected 69 of these schools. From these inspections we have identified four cases of off-rolling.

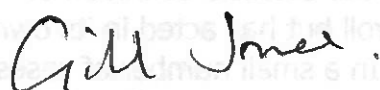
We would be happy to provide you with a further update on this in September when all inspection reports for the current academic year will have been published.

When we are inspecting these schools with exceptional pupil movement, we always consider the groups of pupils who are most likely to leave the roll. This includes pupils with special educational needs and disabilities (SEND). Where we find off-rolling, we consider the groups of pupils who have been off-rolled to see if there are any patterns. Because the number of schools we have identified so far as having off-rolled pupils is very small, it is not possible to identify patterns in pupils at this stage.

I think you will be interested to know that our statistics team has recently produced a tool to allow our inspectors to look at the movements of SEND pupils during LA SEND inspections in greater detail moving forward.

I hope you find this information helpful.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Gill Jones".

Gill Jones HMI
Deputy Director, Early Education