

Bullying

15. The Government expects schools to take a strong stand against all forms of bullying and cyberbullying, which can include sexual harassment and violence. It should be tackled at the earliest opportunity to prevent it from escalating, particularly given the impact it can have on pupils both emotionally and physically. All schools are required by law to have a behaviour policy which sets out how they will do this, as well outlining measures to encourage good behaviour. Schools are free to develop their own anti-bullying strategies and are held to account for their effectiveness through Ofsted.
16. The new Ofsted Inspections Framework, introduced in September 2015, includes five criteria for inspections, one of which is personal development, behaviour and welfare, which covers bullying. Evidence is not just drawn from classroom situations. Inspectors take into account a range of documentary and oral evidence based on discussions with, and observations of, pupils at informal times of the day (including break, lunchtimes and when moving between lessons). Inspectors will also consider the views of leaders, governors, staff and parents.
17. In particular, inspectors will look at:
 - records and analysis of bullying, discriminatory and prejudicial behaviour, either directly or indirectly, including racist, disability and homophobic bullying, use of derogatory language and racist incidents;
 - views of pupils about the prevention of bullying, including online bullying and how the school deals with discrimination and prejudiced behaviour, if they happen; and
 - the views expressed formally and informally by different groups of pupils, of their experiences of others' behaviour and attitudes towards them and their understanding of the importance of such attributes in school and adult life.
18. The Government has also made clear that teachers have powers to discipline pupils for bullying beyond the school gates. Where bullying outside of school is reported to teachers, it should be investigated and acted on promptly. If the bullying is criminal in nature schools should take immediate action and report it to the police.