

Trust inspection

Implications and next steps

October 2026

Outline of session

- Building our framework in a wider context
- The purpose of trust inspection
- Working with you

**Building our framework
in a wider context**

Where are we so far?

The **Children's Wellbeing and Schools Act** received Royal Assent in April 2026 and amends the Education and Inspections Act to set out Ofsted's duties and powers for trust inspection.

Labour's 2024 **general election manifesto** committed to 'bring Multi-Academy Trusts into the inspection system'.

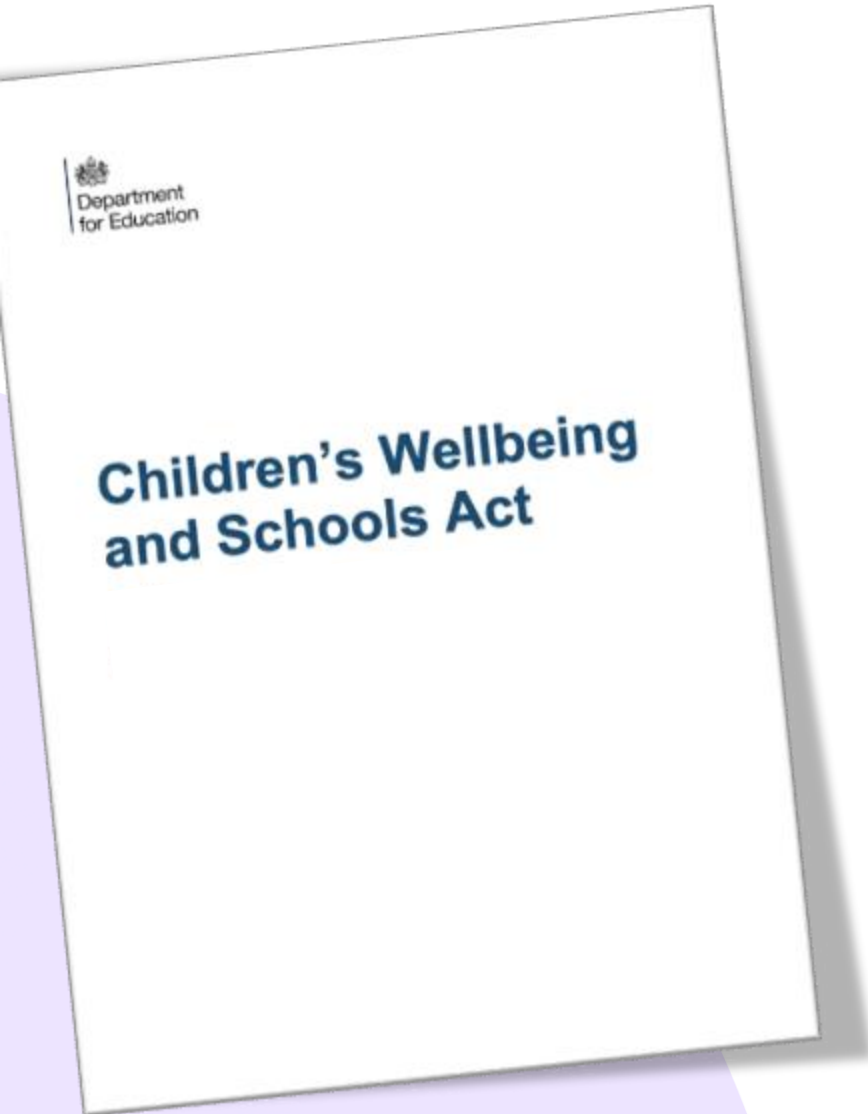


Shortly, a new set of '**Trust Standards**' will be published that strengthen accountability and ensure greater transparency

The '**Every Child Achieving and Thriving**' White Paper (February 2026) sets out the government's planned reforms to the education system, including their plans for trusts.

The amended act sets a duty on Ofsted to...

- inspect trusts at specified intervals, and a power to do so as needed
- following inspection, report on the quality and effectiveness of a trust's:
 - quality of education
 - governance and executive leadership
 - ability to promote children and young people's wellbeing
 - ability to secure improvement of academies
 - management of resources
- following inspection, evaluate whether a trust is performing to an acceptable standard and if not, whether it has the capacity to improve.





Inspection is one part of a wider regulatory system, led by DfE

- The DfE will publish **standards for trusts**
- The changes brought in by the act means that the SoS can use **regulations** to...
 - set out additional requirements for Ofsted
 - exempt categories of trust from routine inspection
 - set the intervals between routine inspections
 - specify whose views Ofsted must have regard to, when inspecting a trust.
- The Act also gives the Secretary of State **powers** to terminate funding agreements.

The purpose of trust inspection

Collectively we share the same purpose...

Trusts

advancing education for
the public benefit and
improving the lives of all
children and young people.



Ofsted

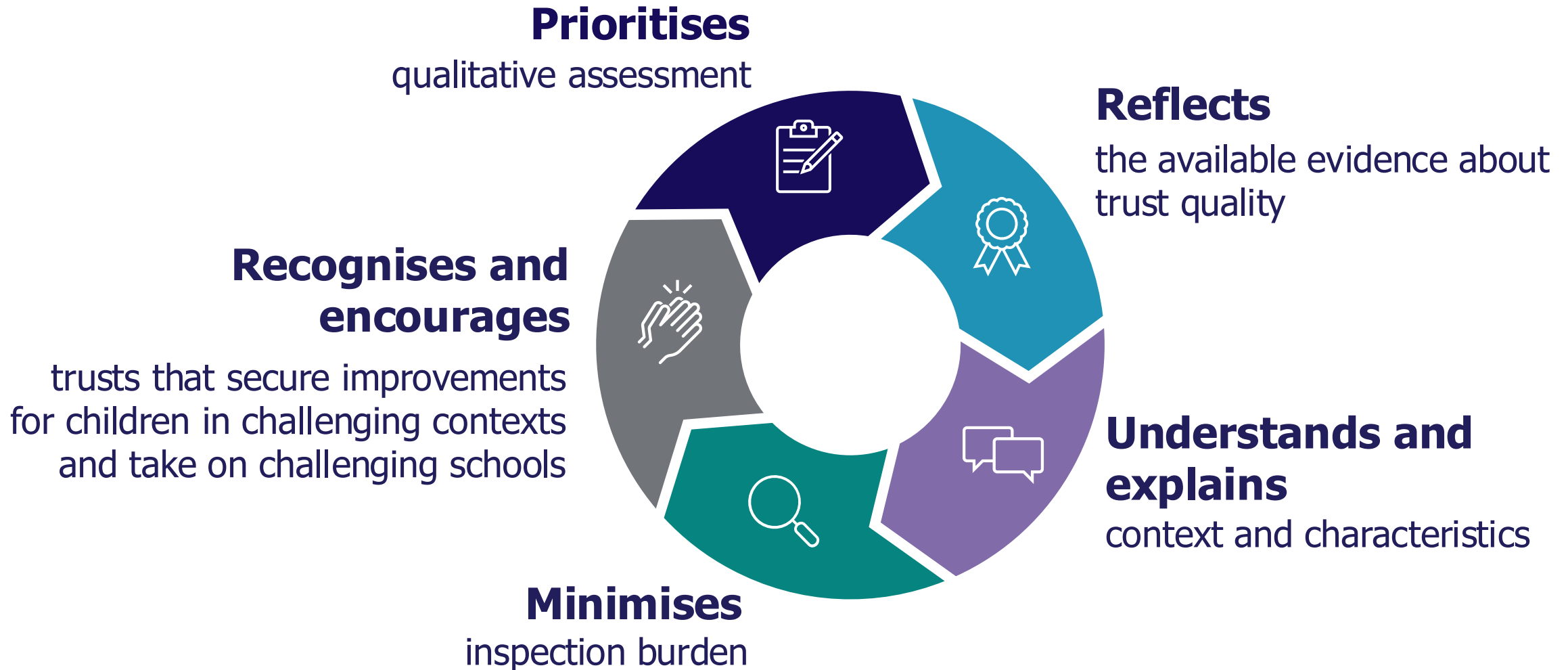
keeping children safe and
improving lives by raising
standards in education.

Together we do this for millions of children and young people every year.

What are we trying to achieve?



We will aim to design a proposed framework that...





We will design with collaborative inspection in mind

Our inspectors will:

- act in the best interests of children, young people and learners
- be proactive in taking careful account of the well-being of leaders and staff, maintaining a constructive professional dialogue and adjusting their approach where possible
- carry out their work with integrity, using their skill, experience, professional curiosity, learning and expertise
- evaluate objectively, in line with our framework
- declare all actual or perceived conflicts of interest and have no real or perceived connection with the provider.

Today, we are asking for your advice on...

1

How we can **deliver** a framework that:

- prioritises qualitative assessment
- reflects available evidence about trust quality
- recognises and encourages trusts that secure improvements for children in challenging contexts and take on challenging schools
- understands and explain context and characteristics
- minimises inspection burden

2

How we **ensure** our framework:

- raises standards and improve outcomes for children
- supports and incentivises positive trust behaviours
- provides unique insight and evidence to support system improvement
- matches accountability to responsibility
- improves transparency



**We know the importance of the
right people**

Our people



The knowledge, skills and experience of our inspectors is as important as the framework they inspect against.



As with all other inspections, HMI are the experts in inspection and OIs and OPIs are our link to the sector.



As part of our current HMI workforce, we have trust experienced personnel, including 10 former CEOs, 19 former Directors, 11 former Executive Headteachers and 6 former school improvement partners.



Our current trained OPIs taking part in our OPI pilot include: 8 CEOs, 1 Deputy CEOs, 22 Directors, 26 Executive Headteachers and 9 school improvement partners.



But we will need more people once we start inspecting... so we ask that you consider joining us as an HMI or through our OPI pilot.

Working with you



Great frameworks emerge from...

- Consultation and research
- Engagement and discussion with those who will be inspected
- The input of those who have the right perspective and relevant experience
- Collaboration, co-production and co-design
- Early and extended testing and piloting with honest feedback
- As many providers and inspectors engaging and participating as possible

This is why we will be...

- **Engaging** with you early to understand what and how you think we should inspect
- **Testing** our proposed framework for:



- And completing **pilots** of our framework to train our inspectors and test our end-to-end method and process

Today, we are asking for your advice on...

1

How do we best **engage** trusts to ensure:

- Collaboration, co-production and co-design
- Engagement and discussion with those who will be inspected

2

How we should **test**:

- what is in our framework
- how we inspect using our framework

We need your feedback

Scan me



That's why we ask that you...

- let us know if you want to engage with us, or participate in our test or pilot visits by following the QR code
- participate in our OPI programme or apply to join us as one of His Majesty's Inspectors when the time comes