

**REPORT FOR: EDUCATION  
CONSULTATIVE FORUM**

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**Date of Meeting:** 25 January 2012

**Subject:** **INFORMATION REPORT –  
Inspection Cycle for Special  
Schools and Pupil Referral Units**

**Responsible Officer:** Catherine Doran,  
Corporate Director Children's Services

**Exempt:** No

**Enclosures:** None

### **Section 1 – Summary**

In the Information Report on school inspection for 7 November 2011 the inspection cycle for special schools was not confirmed. This report brings Forum members up to date on the new cycle for special schools and PRUs.

**FOR INFORMATION**

## **Section 2 – Report**

- 2.1 This report confirms that any special schools that have had two consecutive outstanding judgments, and no change of headteacher since the last inspection, will be inspected at five-year intervals. These schools will be informed of the deferral in writing. All other special schools will be inspected within three years of their last full section 5 inspection. This is because there is, at present, no available performance data on which to conduct a reliable risk assessment and because of the vulnerable nature of the pupils.
- 2.2 Pupil referral units that were judged to be good or outstanding at their last full section 5 inspection will be inspected within three years from the end of the academic year in which they were last inspected, due to the vulnerable nature of the pupils in the unit.

## **Section 3 – Further Information**

- 3.1 The Forum are asked also note that any previously outstanding or good school (including schools that have converted to academy status) whose performance falls below the government's expected level of performance (floor standards) at the time of the risk assessment will be inspected.

## **Section 4 – Financial Implications**

- 4.1 There are no additional financial implications for the Council. If more schools are judged to be satisfactory, have a notice to improve or become subject to special measures there will be need for additional support.
- 4.2 Education Strategy and School Organisation has commissioned the Harrow School Improvement Partnership (HSIP) to deliver this support to all schools causing concern and the budget for this is in place.

## **Section 5 - Equalities implications**

- 5.1 This is an information only report. This change is brought about through new primary legislation and the responsibility for the framework rests with Her Majesty's Chief Inspector of Schools (HMCI).

## **Section 6 – Corporate Priorities**

- 6.1 These considerations will support the Council's Corporate Priority:

- Supporting and protecting people who are most in need.

6.2 The new framework will give greater emphasis to meeting the needs of individuals and groups of learners who are disadvantaged or experience barriers to their learning and who are not making sufficient progress in order to narrow the gap in attainment with their peers.

Name: Emma Stabler



on behalf of the  
Chief Financial Officer

Date: 16 December 2011

## **Section 7 - Contact Details and Background Papers**

### **Contact:**

Patrick O'Dwyer, Education Professional Lead,  
Education Strategy and School Organisation  
020 8736 6514

### **Background Papers:**

'Risk Assessment of Maintained Schools and Academies'

OFSTED (November 2011)

The new draft framework and schedule can be found at:

The Draft Framework for the Inspection of Schools

<http://www.ofsted.gov.uk/resources/draft-framework-for-school-inspection-january-2012>

The Draft Evaluation Schedule

<http://www.ofsted.gov.uk/resources/draft-evaluation-schedule-for-inspection-of-maintained-schools-and-academies-january-2012>