



Rt Hon Michael Gove MP
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Ms Christine,

I wanted to write to thank you and your team for all your hard work and the fantastic progress that Ofsted has made over the past few months. In particular I would like to thank you for the groundbreaking report you published last week on SEN, which has helped us to focus on helping the most vulnerable in our schools.

As we both agree, we need to ensure that we refocus inspection on the principal purpose of schools improving teaching and learning, and dramatically reduce the time and energy spent on other existing bureaucratic duties. To that end, I look forward to working more closely with you to identify how we can move our inspection framework towards ensuring that inspectors can focus on four principal areas: the quality of teaching, the effectiveness of leadership, pupils' behaviour and safety, and pupils' achievement. That will mean inspectors no longer spending time monitoring compliance with peripheral issues, but instead concentrating on our shared core mission of improving standards in education.

As the next step in helping to drive up standards and reduce bureaucracy, I wanted to formally write to you to let you know, following our conversations, that I intend later today to announce plans to remove the school self evaluation form. I will do so in a speech which I am delivering to the Foundation and Aided Schools National Association.

This is an important first step in a series of changes that I intend to make to remove central prescription, which will enable schools to concentrate on the things that really matter and not be distracted by extensive guidance and form filling. The planned changes to school inspection which we have already discussed are an important part of this package of reform.

As you have identified previously in your Annual Report, schools are now very familiar with self evaluation and your evidence shows that this has become a more effective aspect of reviewing performance. Freeing up schools to develop tailored approaches which fit with their own local monitoring arrangements will signal that we recognise the progress that most schools are making in effectively monitoring their performance. For schools that need direction or support in developing their own self assessment arrangements, we can continue to point to Ofsted's inspection evaluation schedule as a useful starting point. Schools and local authorities can also share best practice.

I know that you will be looking at how future inspection can be delivered effectively without the use of a standardised evaluation form. I would be interested to hear your thoughts on this; perhaps we could discuss this when we next meet.

With our, good wish,



MICHAEL GOVE