

# 35 Questions you may be asked during a school inspection

As a school leader, how best to prepare your school and yourself for a 'good', relatively 'stress-free' inspection is always on your mind. Although you cannot predict what an inspector will ask you, our experience working with various schools suggests that the questions below are typical. As there is no 'best' or preferred route to becoming an outstanding school, your answers should reflect your school's 'everyday greatness' and the evidence you have gathered to support the everyday work you do.

To do that, your replies will need to demonstrate your strengths, acknowledge areas of potential improvement and how you are addressing them, and demonstrate the way your leadership is raising standards and improving student progress in your school.

## How to use this resource:

- Review the list of questions with your senior team in your SLT or SMLT meetings. Choose five to ten questions at a time so this is not overwhelming. Or you could share these questions with members of your senior team and use this as a framework to structure your line management meetings.
- List the type of evidence you have in place.
- Use this as a go-to document for checking what you have and what you need to work on further.

Questions	Thoughts, School Initiatives, and Improvements	Evidence
What would you say is the best thing about this school?		
How do you identify and address any gaps in student learning?		
What are you doing differently now to support the emotional well-being of students compared to what you did three years ago?		
How well are your students learning across various subjects and how are you assessing this?		
What guiding principles underpin your school's curriculum philosophy?		
How is PSHE structured across the school, and how does it align with your school's values, British values, and the values of the country where your school is situated?		

Questions	Thoughts, School Initiatives, and Improvements	Evidence
How do you ensure curriculum clarity and provide a broad and balanced curriculum for all, including learners with SEN, newcomers, those with high levels of absence due to illness, and students who miss classes due to sports, music, or other academic commitments?		
How are assessment practices aligned with curriculum objectives?		
How is your curriculum sequenced at each key stage, from EYFS to primary and secondary?		
What aspects of the curriculum are you changing, and why are these changes? What will this look like in 2023/24?		
How does homework support, motivate and enhance student skills and understanding? How do you assess this in your school?		
How are your leadership and management team conveying an aspirational vision for your school?		

Questions	Thoughts, School Initiatives, and Improvements	Evidence
What have you done to increase the achievement of EAL and SEND students?		
How are you addressing the personal and emotional needs of pupils with SEND?		
What is the procedure for involving parents in the school improvement process?		
How do you keep school governors informed adequately about both the achievement and the under-achievement of students?		
What is your governance body doing to support your leadership and school improvement work? Can you provide examples of this from recent minutes?		
How are your teachers contributing to the targets outlined in your whole-school improvement plan? What evidence is there for this?		

Questions	Thoughts, School Initiatives, and Improvements	Evidence
What teaching practices have been developed to better engage students in their learning?		
How do you assess whether extracurricular activities are supporting the emotional, academic and social development of your students?		
What steps have you taken to effectively communicate your strategy for raising standards to all key stakeholders?		
How do lesson observations support and improve classroom practice?		
What professional development do your staff receive to improve their teaching and learning? How do you evaluate its effectiveness?		
How is professional development contributing to the school's long-term plans?		

Questions	Thoughts, School Initiatives, and Improvements	Evidence
How do senior leaders support the professional development of teachers in the school?		
What measures are you implementing to address poor teacher performance?		
What steps have you taken this year to evaluate the quality of teaching at each key stage?		
How do you monitor student attendance and punctuality? What strategies do you have in place to promote outstanding attendance and punctuality?		
How has safeguarding changed at the school compared to three years ago?		
Are the appropriate safeguarding procedures in place?		

Questions	Thoughts, School Initiatives, and Improvements	Evidence
How did you create your safeguarding policy and when was it last updated?		
When was your central record system last updated?		
How rigorous is your vetting of those working in your school? Can you show an example of the systems you have in place?		
How have you built safeguarding into the curriculum?		
How good is your site security? What improvements are needed?		

For further inspection support or information about our inspection support program, please contact us at [cpd@veema.co.uk](mailto:cpd@veema.co.uk).



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