



Key performance data

Using data from academic years 2018–19 and 2019–20

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Introduction

Who we are?

This report presents inspection data about the Independent Schools Inspectorate (www.isi.net).

The Independent Schools Inspectorate (ISI) inspects independent schools in England. There are approximately 2360 independent schools in England. We inspect 1291 of those schools (55%). The schools we inspect are all members of associations (these are The Headmasters' and Headmistresses' Conference, The Society of Heads, The Girls' School Association, The Independent Association of Prep Schools, The Independent Schools Association, The Association of Governing Bodies of Independent Schools, The Independent Schools' Bursars Association). Together these associations make up the Independent Schools Council.

Our inspections

- We inspect schools for the Department for Education (DfE). They give us instructions on which schools to inspect and when.
- All independent schools are inspected against the [Independent School Standards](#). These are set by the DfE.
- Each school we inspect has two routine inspections during a six-year period.
- We have five inspection types – two types of routine inspection and three types of inspection which are for specific circumstances.

Routine inspections:

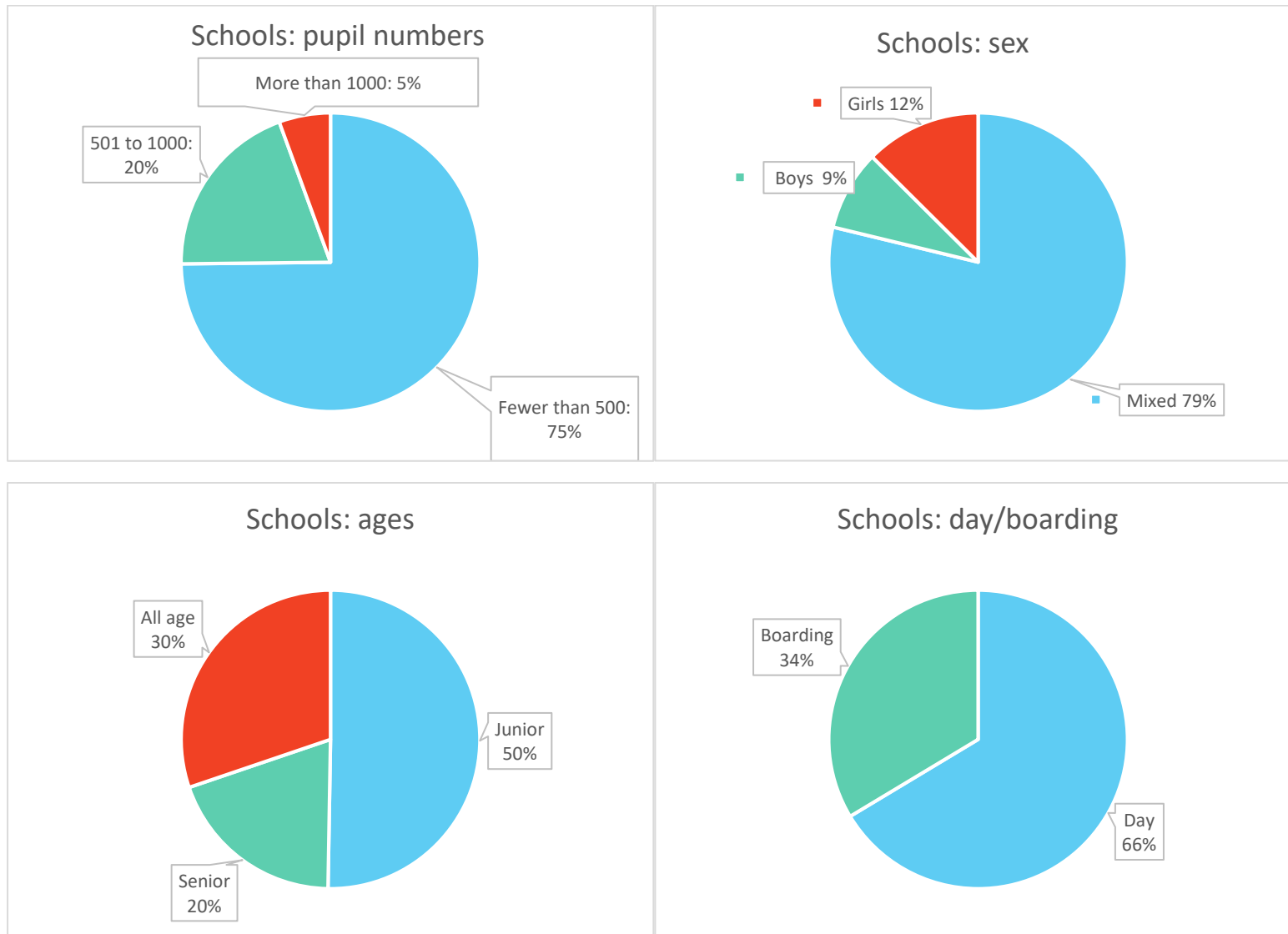
- Regulatory Compliance Inspection (RCI). This inspection looks at whether the school's policies and practices meet the Independent School Standards.
- Educational Quality Inspection (EQI). This inspection looks at the quality of education a school provides and assesses whether it meets the Independent School Standards. It also looks at a smaller section of policies and practices than a Regulatory Compliance Inspection.
- Routine inspections can be brought forward at the request of the DfE in response to specific concerns.

Other types of inspection:

- Material Change Visit (MCV). This inspection looks at whether a school will meet the Independent School Standards once it has made a particular change (for example, taking in an extra year group, or adding a new building to the school premises).
- Progress Monitoring Visit (PMV). This inspection is for schools who have been found non-compliant on their last scheduled inspection. Inspectors assess what progress the school has made and whether it now meets the Standards.
- Additional (emergency) Inspection. The DfE requests us to undertake this inspection if they have particular concern about a school.

The schools ISI inspects

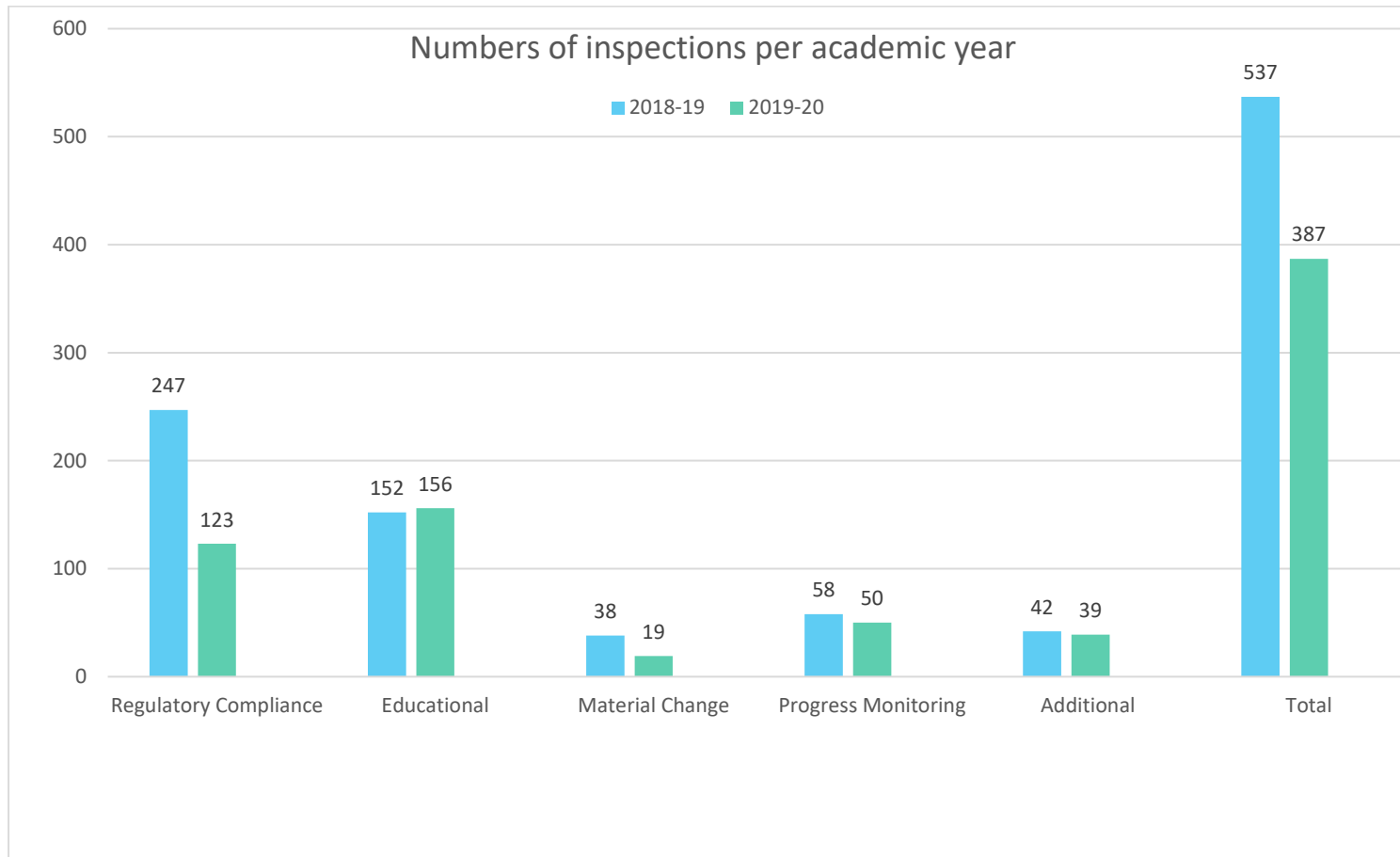
School by type (at November 2020)



88 schools that we inspect are Early Years Registered.

Inspection activity

- In 2018–19 we undertook 537 inspections in total.
- In 2019–20 we undertook 387 inspections in total.
- In March 2020 inspections were suspended due to the pandemic.



Compliance with the Independent School Standards (ISS)

The following compliance data is made up from all of the inspections we undertook during 2018–19 and 2019–20.

All independent schools are inspected against the Independent School Standards.

The Independent School Standards are made up of eight parts:

Part 1 – Education

Part 2 – Spiritual, moral, social, cultural

Part 3 – Welfare, health and safety

Part 4 – Suitability of staff

Part 5 – Premises

Part 6 – Provision of information

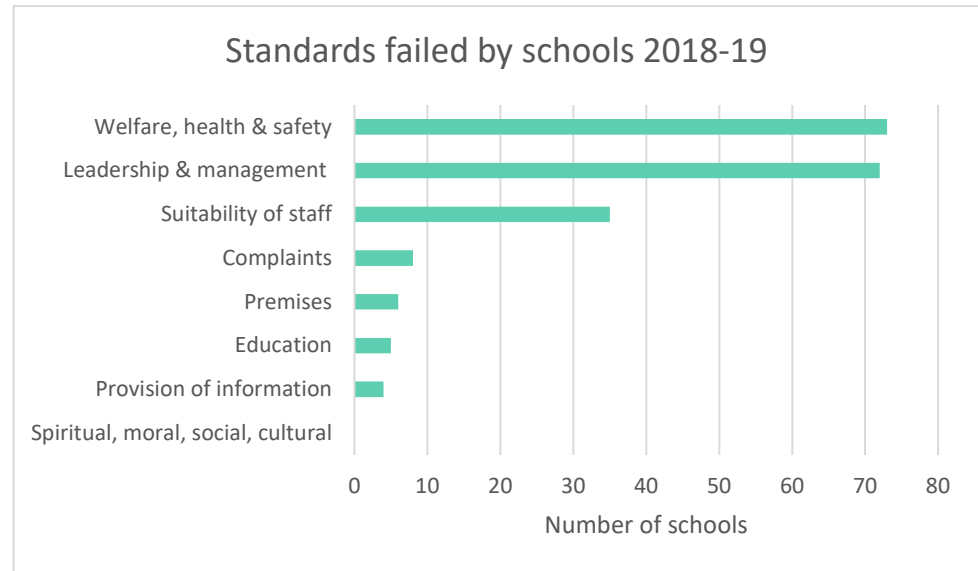
Part 7 – Complaints

Part 8 – Leadership & management (failure of any of the standards in Parts 1–7 will almost always lead to failure of leadership and management in Part 8)

2018–19

Non-compliance rate 14.3%

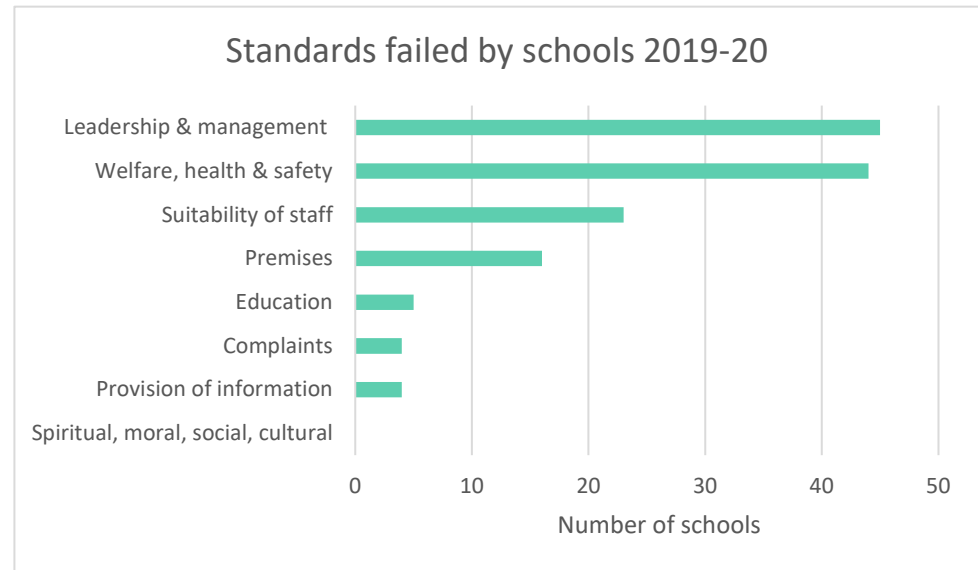
See the graph on the right for which standards schools failed



2019–20

Non-compliance rate 12.1%

See the graph on the right for which standards schools failed

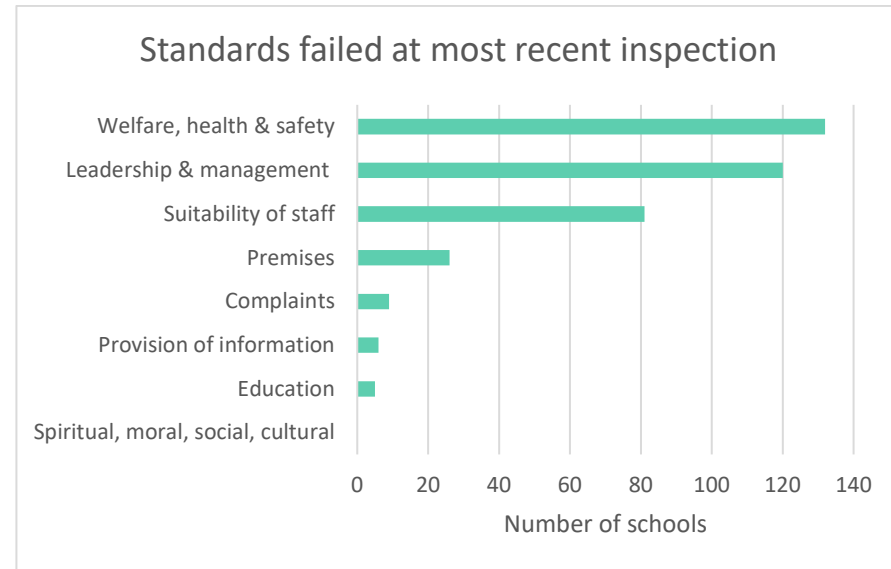
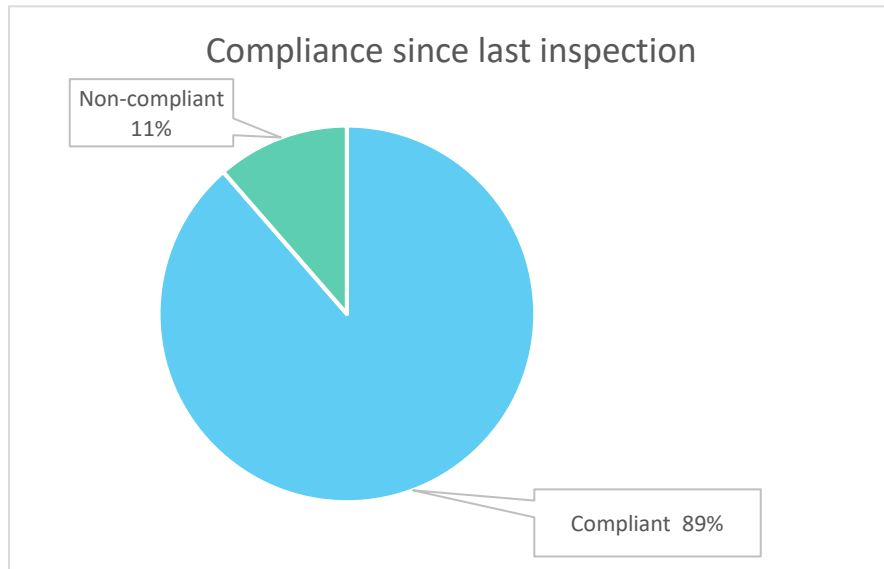


The standards which are most often unmet are welfare, health and safety (Part 3), suitability of staff (Part 4) and leadership and management (Part 8).

- In welfare, health and safety, standards relating to safeguarding, recruitment of staff, fire safety and risk assessments are the least likely to be met.
- Suitability of staff is often not met because the school failed to carry out all the required recruitment checks before members of staff started work at the school.
- Leadership and management requires leaders to consistently meet the standards in the other Parts, and so it is almost always not met when other Parts are not met.

ISS compliance at most recent routine inspection

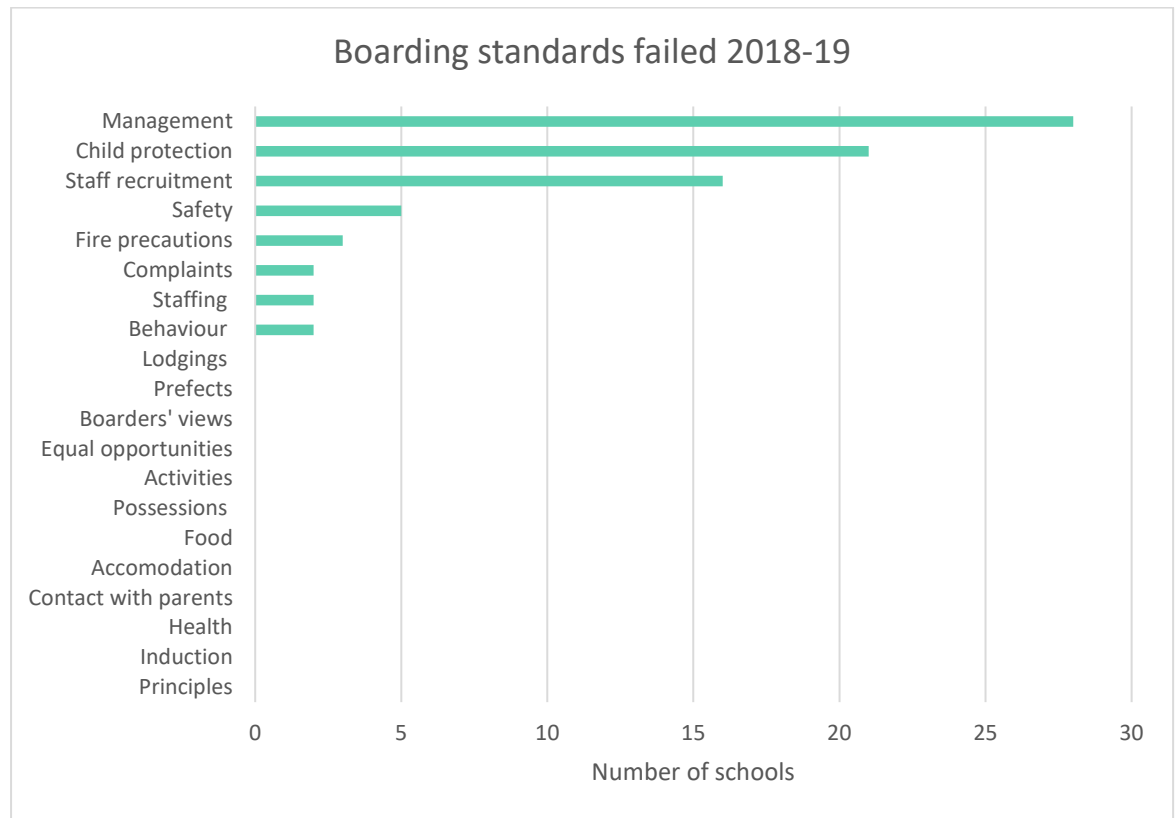
The charts below give the compliance judgement at the most recent routine inspection and the standards failed. Compliance rates at routine inspections are better than at all inspections because all inspections include schools where concerns have been identified, resulting in an inspection.



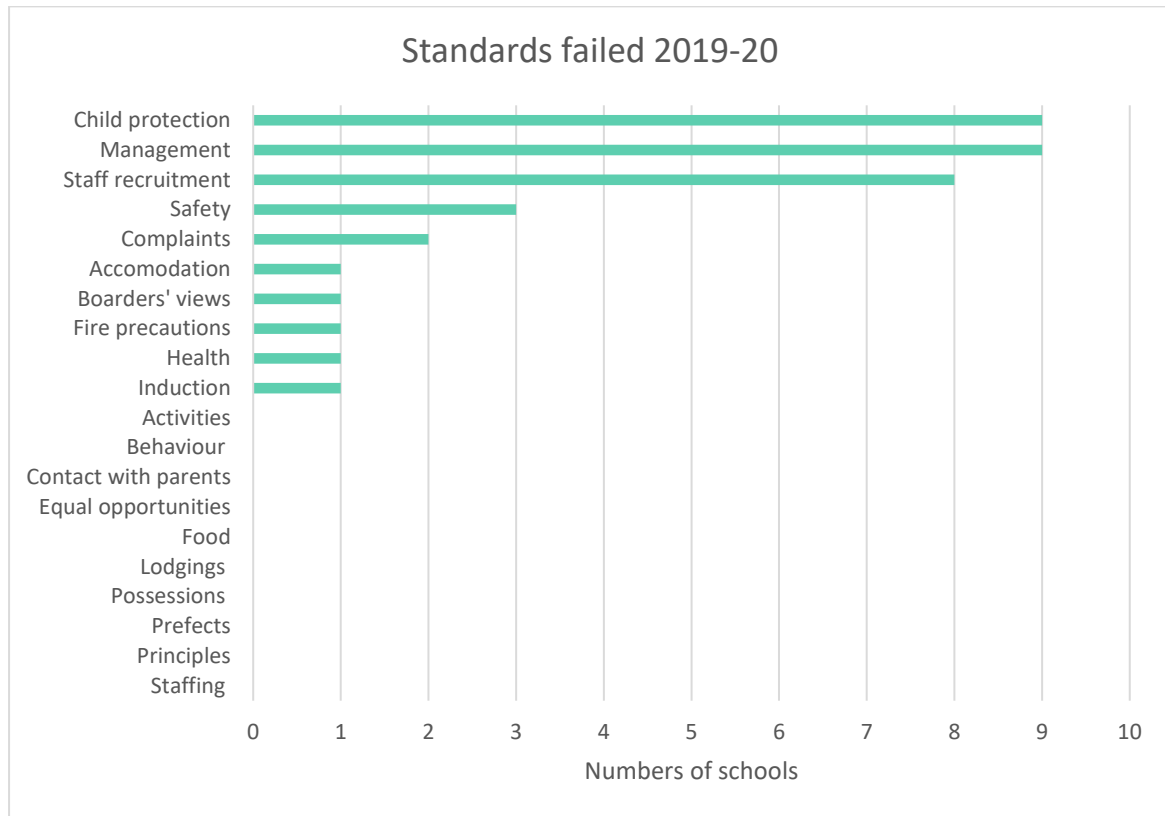
Boarding school compliance

Boarding schools have to meet all of the Independent School Standards and all of the National Minimum Standards (NMS) for Boarding to be found compliant. There are twenty National Minimum Standards for Boarding.

Child protection (NMS 11), Staff recruitment (NMS 14) and Management (NMS 13) are the most frequently unmet standards. In most cases they are automatically not met if the school does not meet the corresponding Independent School Standard.



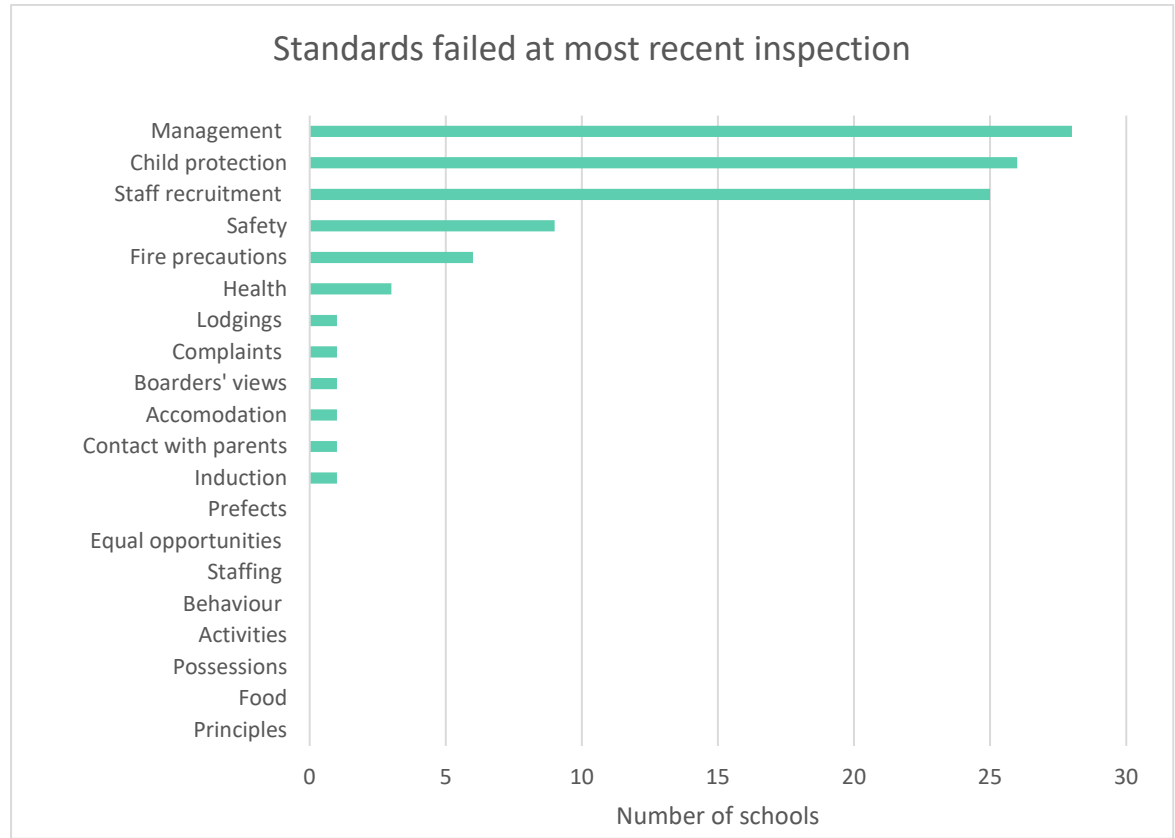
2018-19 Non-compliance rate: 11.8%



2019-20 Non-compliance rate 7.8%

Boarding school compliance at most recent routine inspection

Compliance rates at routine inspections are better than at all inspections because all inspections include schools where concerns have been identified, resulting in an inspection.



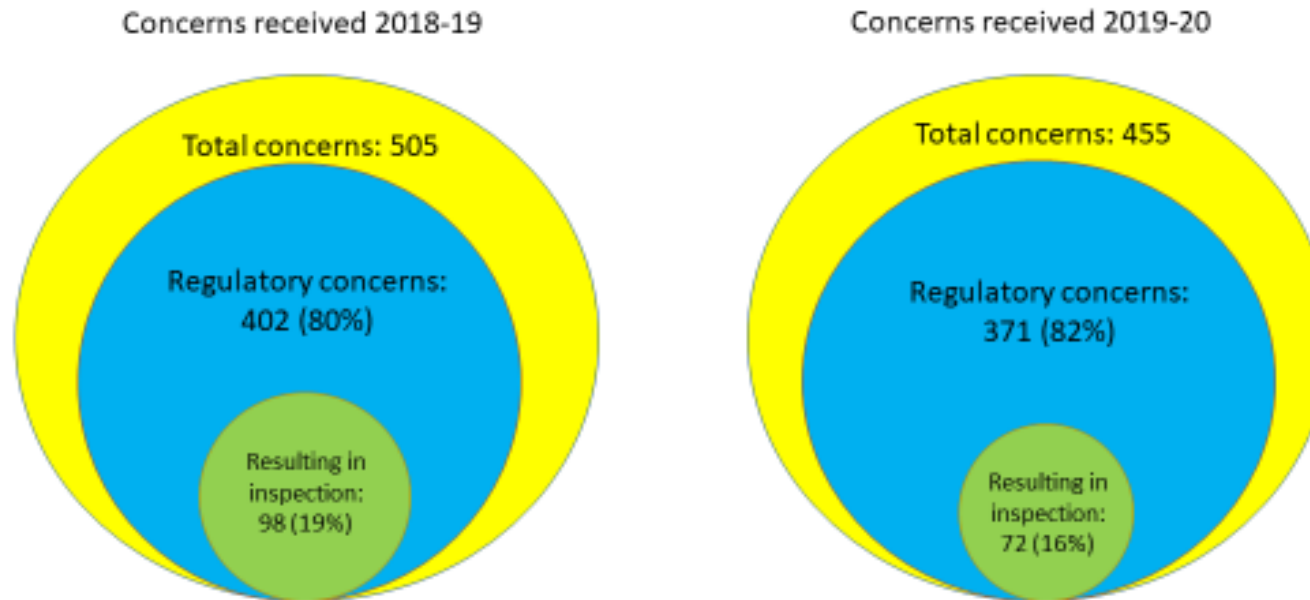
Non-compliance rate from most recent inspection
7.9%

Concerns received by ISI about schools

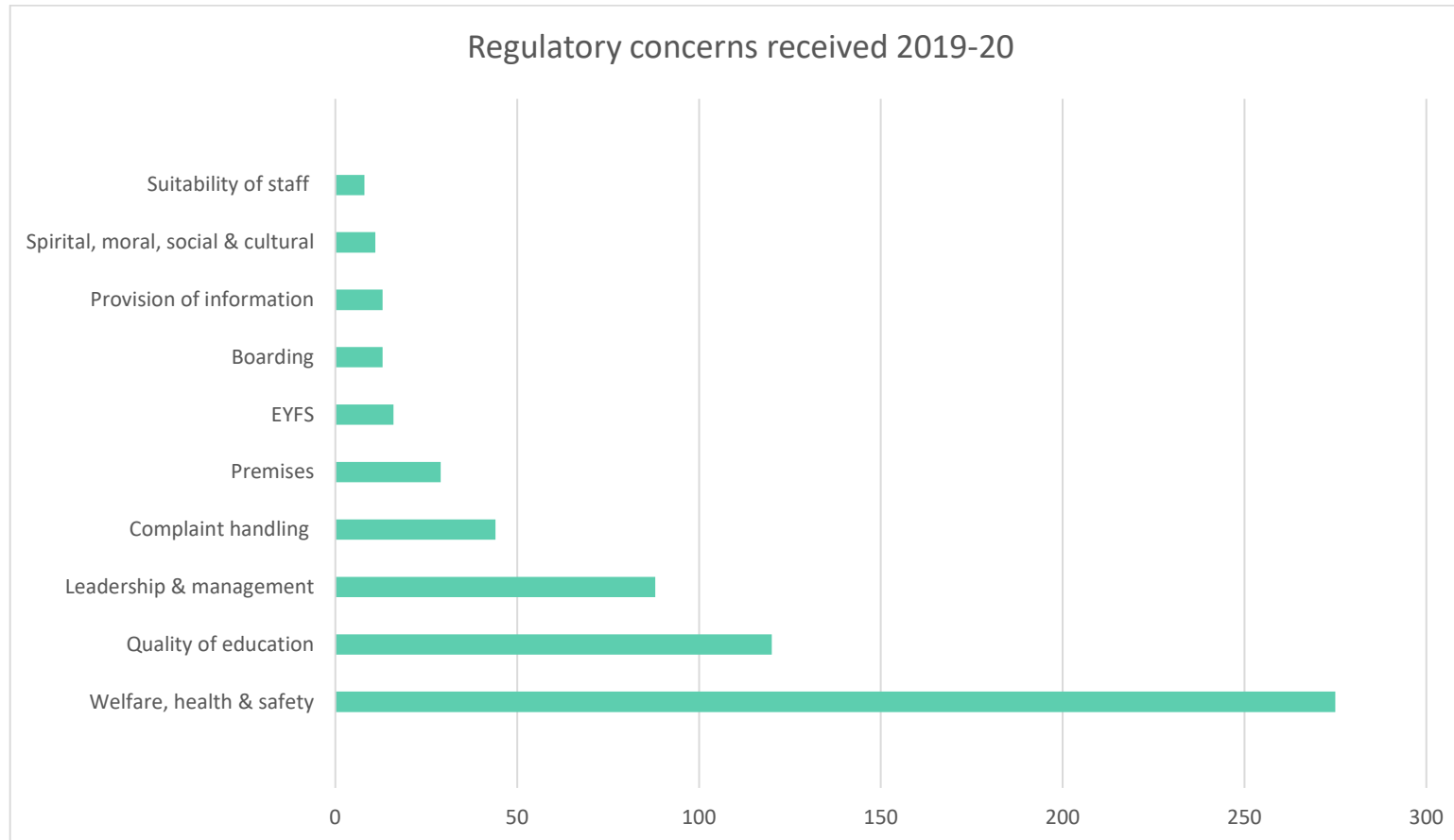
ISI receives concerns about schools. These could come from a range of sources, including parents, staff, pupils and the general public. All concerns are logged. Regulatory concerns (those that relate to one or more of the Independent School Standards) are passed to the DfE, who will also log the concern. They will then do one of four things:

1. Commission an additional inspection, which means that we would inspect the school as soon as possible.
2. Ask us to bring forward the next scheduled inspection of the school.
3. Ask us to pay particular attention to the area of concern when we next inspect the school.
4. Make no change to inspection practice, which means that the concern will be looked at, along with all others, by inspectors when the school is next inspected.

Resulting in inspection are those concerns that resulted in an additional or brought-forward inspection. Other concerns are logged and will be considered as part of the next routine inspection.



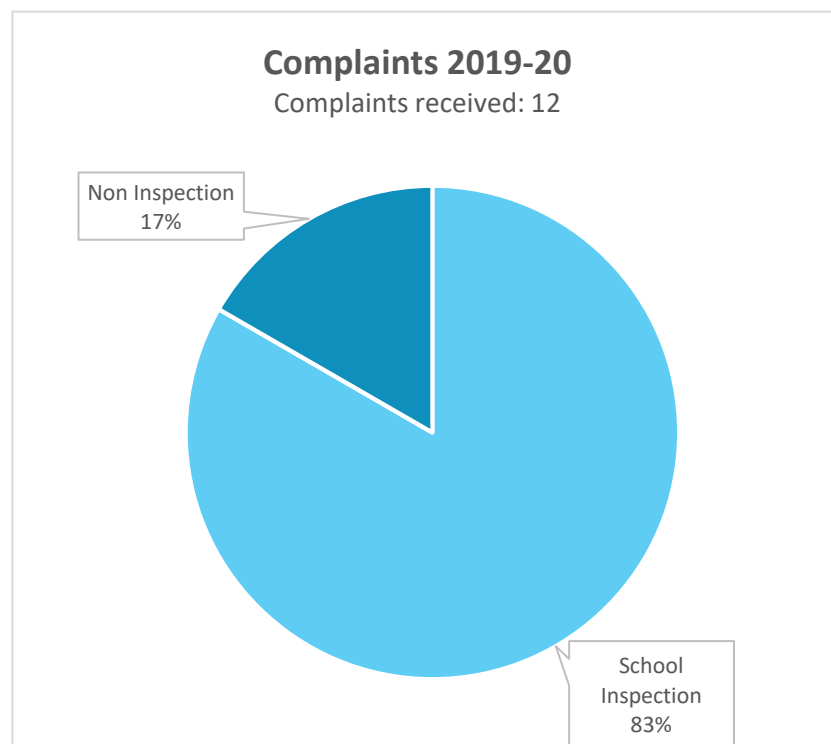
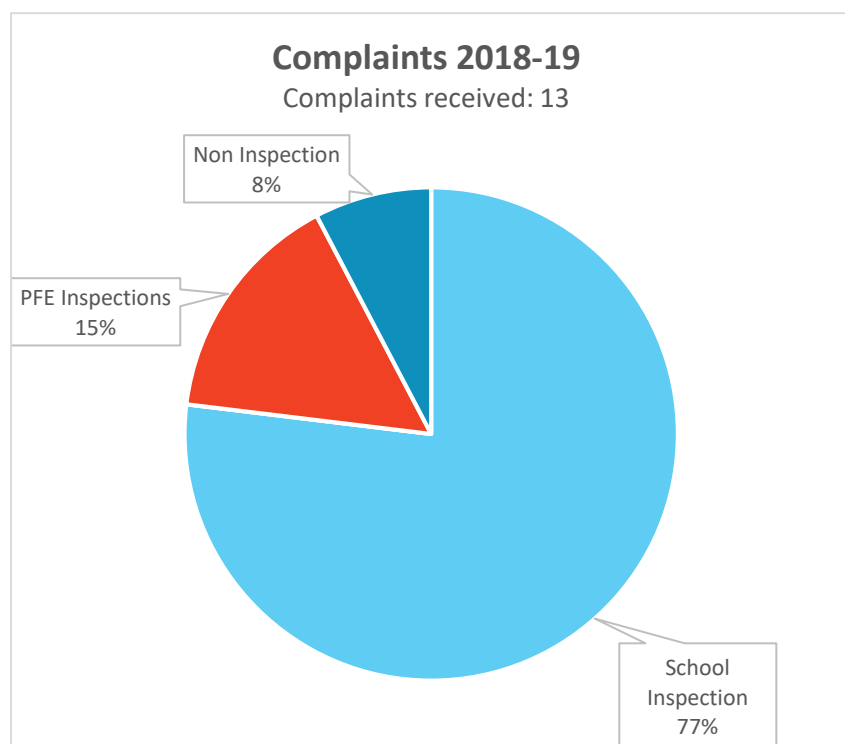
For those concerns that relate to the Independent School Standards, this shows which standard(s) the concern related to. Included here are Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS) concerns and those that relate to boarding. EYFS and boarding both have their own sets of standards which they must meet – the Early Years Foundation Stage Framework and the National Minimum Standards for Boarding.



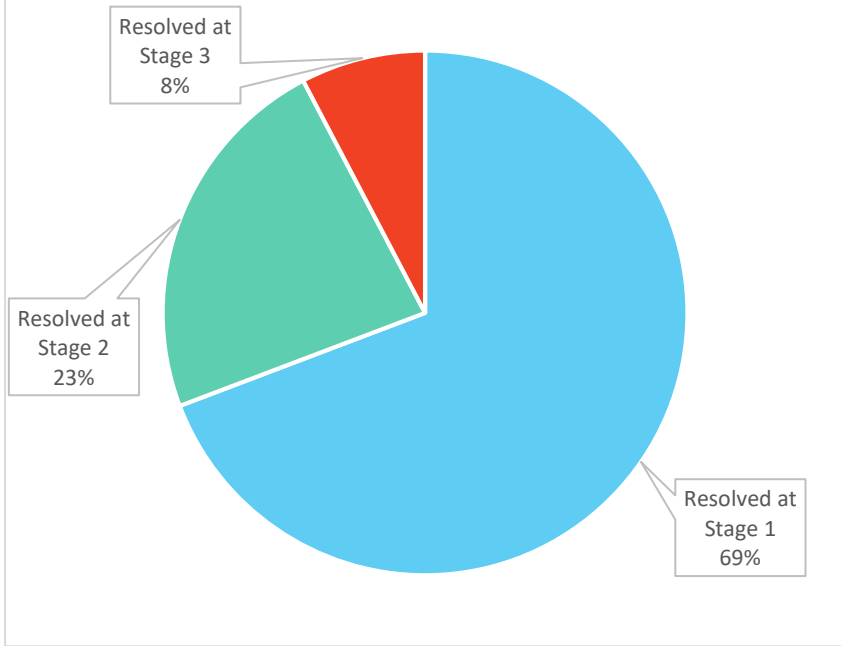
Formal complaints against ISI

Complaints against ISI are counted by academic year in which the stage 1 complaint is received (September–August). We have a three-stage formal complaint policy. Complaints about school inspections go to an Independent Adjudicator at the third stage.

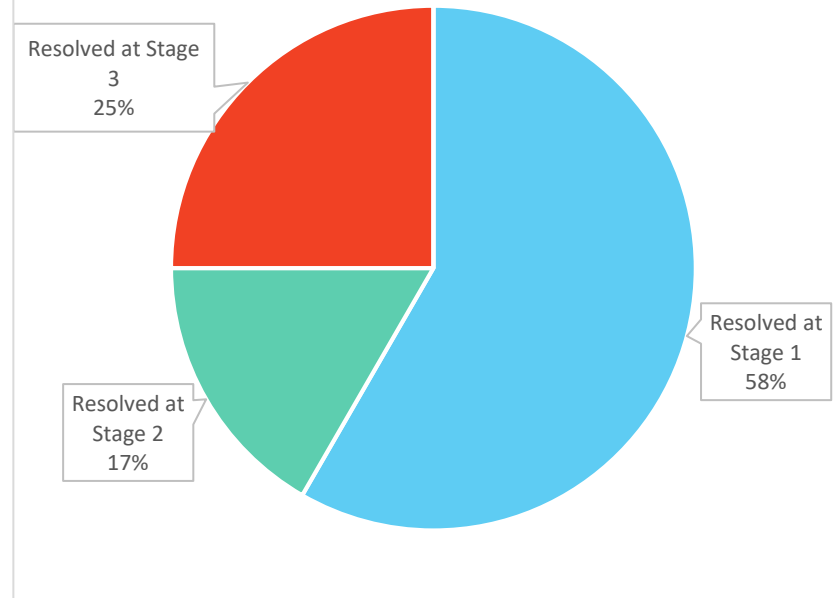
The normal timeframe for responding to a complaint is 30 working days at each stage. An extra 20 working days was applied to complaints received from 1st April to 14th September 2020, due to the pandemic.



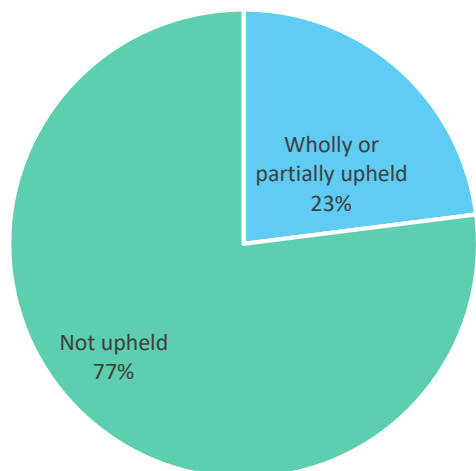
Complaint resolution 2018-19



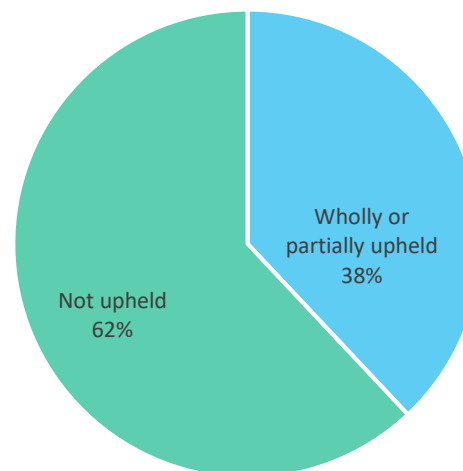
Complaint resolution 2019-20



Complaints 2018-19: outcomes



Complaints 2019-20: outcomes



What people have complained about:

	2018-19	2019-20
Inspector conduct / conduct of inspection ¹	6	7
Inspection judgements ²	11	10
ISI processes ³	4	3

¹ Anything about behaviour of inspectors or manner in which inspection conducted

² Challenge to any judgement in the report

³ Any ISI process not included under manner in which inspection conducted

Inspectors

We have 89 Reporting inspectors and 839 Team inspectors.

Reporting inspectors (RIs) lead the inspection team. There is one RI for every inspection. Specialist RIs are trained to lead non-routine inspections (additional, progress monitoring and material change inspections) and to quality assure reports and inspections (as editor/monitor). The **Duty team** is a team of highly experienced RIs who staff the duty desk, which supports RIs on inspection. **Team inspectors** (TIs) form the inspection team. The number of TIs allocated to an inspection will depend on the size and type of school, for example boarding team inspectors for inspections of schools with boarding provision. Compliance team inspectors are trained to evaluate a school's compliance primarily with the standards relating to premises and health and safety.

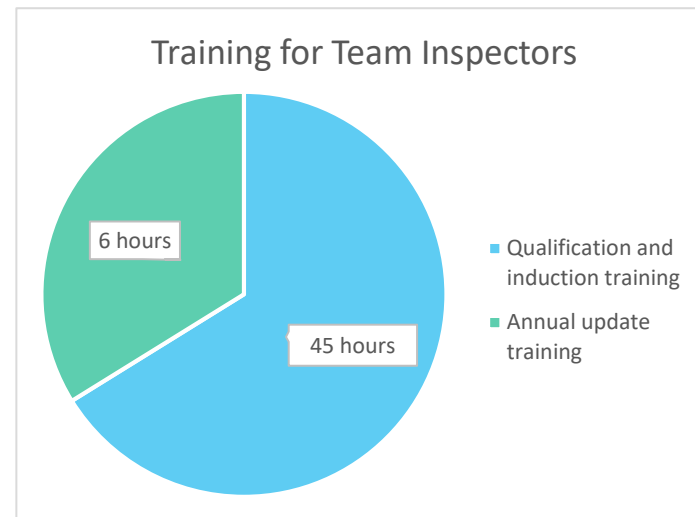
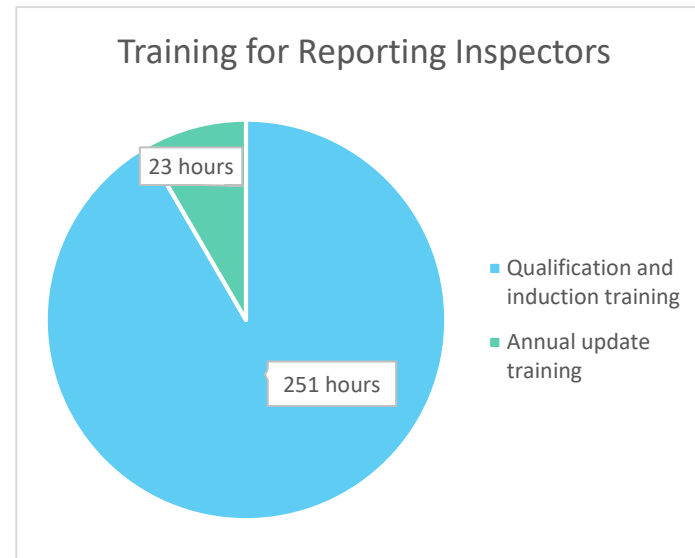
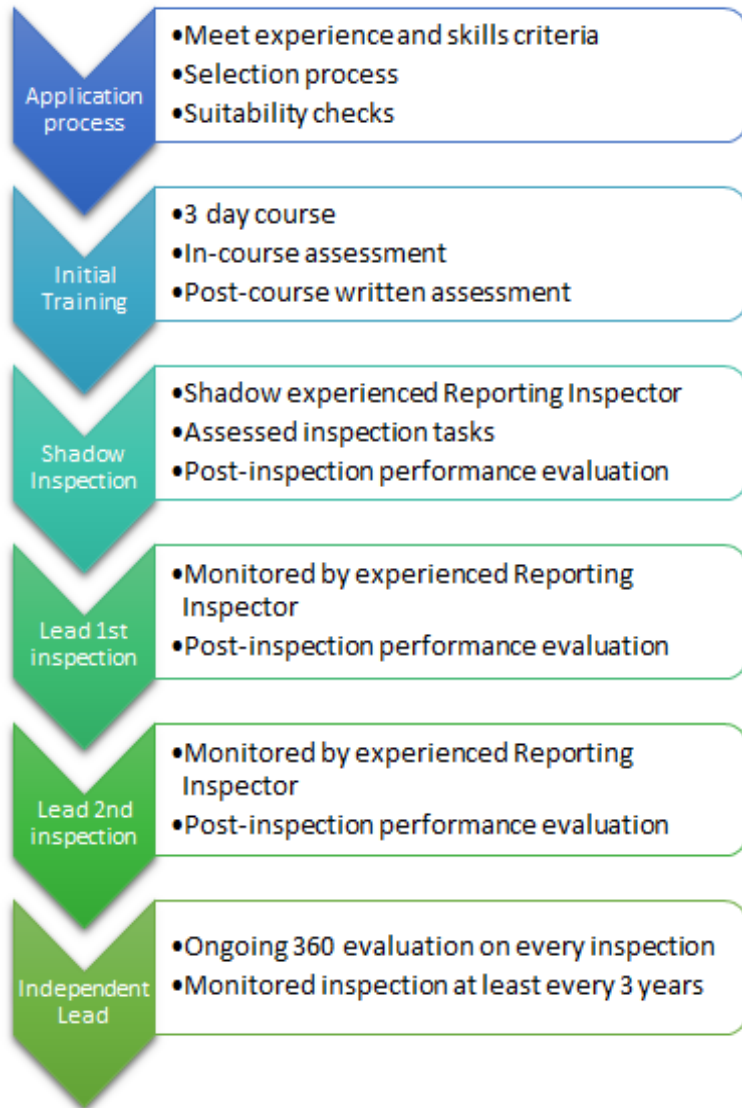
Conflict/connectivity: Prior to inspection, all inspectors make a declaration of any issues of connectivity, which would prevent allocation on inspection. This may include having applied to, worked at or inspected the school previously, or personal friendships with staff or governors.

The majority of RIs are former school leaders. 17% of RIs currently work fulltime in a school. 89% of Team Inspectors work fulltime in a school as senior leaders.



Inspector training

Inspector training over 18 month period:



If you have any questions please contact info@isi.net