

31 January 2017

Inspection of Gateshead local area's effectiveness in identifying and meeting the needs of, and improving outcomes for, children and young people who have special educational needs and/or disabilities from 6 February 2017 to 10 February 2017.

Dear Parents and Carers

Ofsted and the Care Quality Commission (CQC) will carry out jointly an inspection of your local area. The local area is the geographical area of the local authority. However, the responsibility of the local area for children and young people who have special educational needs and/or disabilities extends to those who are residents of the local area but attend educational establishments or receive services outside the local authority's boundaries.

The inspection will evaluate how effectively the local area:

- identifies the needs of children and young people who have special educational needs and/or disabilities
- meets the needs of these children and young people so that their outcomes and chances of participating fully in society improve.

Inspectors will be visiting your son/daughter's school, during the afternoon of Tuesday, 6th February 2017. The views of parents and carers are an important part of the inspection evidence. If you are a parent or carer of a child or young person with special educational needs and/or disabilities, we would very much like to speak with you during this visit. A meeting has been arranged for 3.00pm – 3.45pm. It is expected that this meeting will last about 45 minutes. Can you please confirm with the school if you are able to attend so that appropriate arrangements can be made.

While we understand that many parents and carers may have views on their experience that extend before the implementation of the reforms in September 2014 it is important that this date is used as the start for the judgements made under the new inspection remit. We would also like parents and carers to understand that we will not be able to follow up or comment upon individual cases.

In addition to the meeting detailed above we are also hosting an online webinar at 7.00pm on Wednesday 8 February that you may wish to take part in. If you would

like to take part in this webinar then please follow this internet link
<http://bit.ly/2k8HHIASENDGateshead>

Information on local area duties toward children and young people with special educational needs and/or disabilities can be found on the Department for Education's website: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/send-guide-for-parents-and-carers>

Yours sincerely

Gina White
Her Majesty's Inspector