



Introduction – OFIS School Management Review

FAQ's about this important membership benefit!

What is the purpose of a school management review?

1. The review of a school provides an independent external evaluation of its effectiveness in operations as well as a diagnosis of what it should do to improve, based upon a range of evidence including that from first-hand observation.
2. OFIS School Management Reviews perform three essential functions. They:
 - provide parents with information – a successful review is a selling feature to parents that will inform their choices and preferences about the effectiveness of the schools their children attend or may attend in the future
 - keep the public and government agencies informed about the work of independent schools generally. This provides assurance that minimum operational standards are being met and assists in accountability for sound business practices
 - promote the improvement of individual schools, and the independent education system as a whole.

How does a school management review promote improvement?

3. The review of a school promotes improvement by:
 - setting expectations: the criteria and descriptors set out in the review framework and guidance illustrate the standards of performance and effectiveness expected of schools who sign agreement with OFIS core values
 - increasing the school's confidence by endorsing its own view of its effectiveness when that is accurate, and offering a sharp challenge (and the impetus to act) where improvement is needed
 - recommending priorities for future action by the school and, when appropriate, checking subsequent progress
 - fostering constructive dialogue between OFIS and the senior leaders and staff of the school

What are the key features of the OFIS School Management Review?

4. Under the revised school management review arrangements from September 2010 reviewers give particular priority to:
 - promoting operations improvement – reviewers make specific recommendations based on their diagnosis of the school’s strengths and weaknesses
 - evaluating the policies and procedures of the school and assessing the extent to which schools ensure that all pupils, including those most at risk, succeed
 - assessing how well schools promote equality of opportunity, and how effectively they tackle discrimination
 - checking schools’ procedures for safeguarding – keeping children and young people from harm
 - fostering the engagement of principals’, schools’ staff and board members in the process of review so that they understand the judgements made
 - gathering, analysing and taking into account the views of parents and teachers
 - assessing how effectively schools work in partnership with other providers in order to promote better outcomes for pupils.

How is this review process structured?

5. *The framework for school management review* has four sections.
 - **Part A: Policies & Procedures Assessment.** This section sets out the list of policies and procedures to be examined by the reviewers as part of the overall assessment of the operating system of the school.
 - **Part B: Parent & Teacher Surveys.** This section sets out the results of parental and staff satisfaction as part of the overall assessment of the operating system of the school.
 - **Part B: Classroom Observation Form.** This section summarises the observations of reviewers based on classroom activities as part of the overall assessment of the school’s operations.
 - **Part C: School Site Evaluation.** This section summarizes the observations of reviewers based on site tour(s) as part of the overall assessment of the school’s operations.