

# **Analysis of Ofsted Inspection Outcomes by School Type**

A report by Angel Solutions  
commissioned by the Local Government Association (LGA)



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## 1. Introduction

While there are many possible metrics to compare one school to another, the overall Ofsted inspection grade is arguably one of the most holistic, aggregating leadership, behaviour, quality of education and more into a solitary value: one of Outstanding, Good, Requires Improvement, or Inadequate.

This report compares LA-maintained schools, academies, and free schools using the overall Ofsted inspection grade as its primary metric.

First, we plot the distribution of schools across each inspection grade by school type with a further breakdown by phase of education, noting the impact of grade inheritance on academy and free school distributions.

Next, we trend the proportion of schools obtaining a Good or Outstanding grade by school type, including analysis by phase of education and impact of grade inheritance.

We study the impact of academisation, and grade inheritance, on inspection grades compared to LA-maintained schools during the same period.

Finally, we compare the change in inspection grades for schools previously sharing the same starting grade. Again, this analysis shows the impact with and without grade inheritance.

## 2. Recent history of the inspection landscape

While the Ofsted inspection has a much longer history, for this report, the applicable history started in 2018.

In June 2018, Ofsted introduced a significant statistical methodology change<sup>i</sup>: all academies would inherit the inspection grade of their predecessor school, where possible. While converted academies already used this approach, sponsored academies were previously treated as a new provision and were considered ungraded until their next inspection. Therefore, our longitudinal analysis uses August 2018 as a baseline to make grade comparison over time more representative.

Unlike the analysis in this report, Ofsted's aggregated statistics separate sponsored academies that have not received an academised inspection under a "not inspected in current form" group, distinct from those that have.<sup>ii</sup>

The Common Inspection Framework (CIF)<sup>iii</sup>, in effect since September 2015, was replaced by the Education Inspection Framework (EIF) in September 2019<sup>iv</sup>. The EIF shifted focus towards the quality of teaching and the curriculum. Six months after introducing the EIF, Ofsted suspended all inspections from March 2020 due to the COVID-19 pandemic<sup>v</sup>. No inspections took place for 13 months until April 2021. "Lighter-touch" inspections were carried out over the 2021 summer term, with a full programme of inspections starting in the following autumn term<sup>vi</sup>. Consequentially, even though the EIF has been the active framework for a significant amount of time, relatively few schools have been subject to it.

Since restarting inspections following the pandemic, the Government has requested Ofsted inspect every school between September 2021 and the end of the 2024/25 academic year, including schools graded Outstanding that would typically be exempt from inspection<sup>vii</sup>.

## 3. Data sources

This report utilises data available in the public domain from official sources.

### 3.1. Inspection data

Ofsted has released monthly management information and quarterly official statistics into the public domain for many years, and this report uses both.

In the context of this report, we sourced each school's latest inspection grade from the management information as of 31 January 2022.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/statistical-data-sets/monthly-management-information-ofsted-school-inspections-outcomes>

For the historical latest inspection grade per school, this report uses the official statistics dated 31 August from 2018 to 2021.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/state-funded-schools-inspections-and-outcomes-as-at-31-august-2021>

<https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/state-funded-schools-inspections-and-outcomes-as-at-31-august-2020>

<https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/state-funded-schools-inspections-and-outcomes-as-at-31-august-2019>

<https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/state-funded-schools-inspections-and-outcomes-as-at-31-august-2018>

### 3.2. Academy mapping data

Upon academisation, a school changes its Unique Reference Number (URN), the identifying number of a school.

The Department for Education (DfE) supplies a regularly updated list of all open academies, their new URN, and their predecessor schools' URNs. With this, we can map LA-maintained schools to their academised successors.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/open-academies-and-academy-projects-in-development>

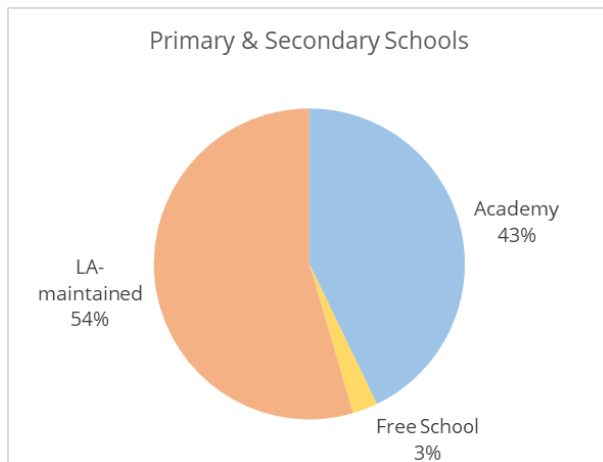
Since academies can have multiple predecessors, and those schools do not inherit an inspection grade, we limited our mapping to those schools with a one-to-one relationship between predecessor and successor.

## 4. Scope, Definitions and Methodologies

In general terms, the scope of this report is limited to English mainstream, state-funded schools that offer the primary or secondary phase of education. More specifically, the scope of this report is limited to all schools categorised by Ofsted as one of the following types:

MAIN TYPE			SUB TYPE			
	Count	%		Count	% of all schools	% of group
<b>LA-maintained</b>	11,015	55%	<b>Community School</b>	6,003	30%	55%
			<b>Foundation School</b>	706	4%	6%
			<b>Voluntary Aided School</b>	2,649	13%	24%
			<b>Voluntary Controlled School</b>	1,657	8%	15%
<b>Academy</b>	8,652	43%	<b>Academy Converter</b>	6,246	31%	72%
			<b>Academy Sponsor Led</b>	2,406	12%	28%
<b>Free School</b>	529	3%	<b>City Technology College</b>	3	<0.5%	1%
			<b>Free Schools</b>	457	2%	86%
			<b>Studio Schools</b>	21	<0.5%	4%
			<b>University Technical College</b>	48	<0.5%	9%

From Ofsted's January management information dataset, 20,196 schools are in scope; 92% of all state-funded schools.

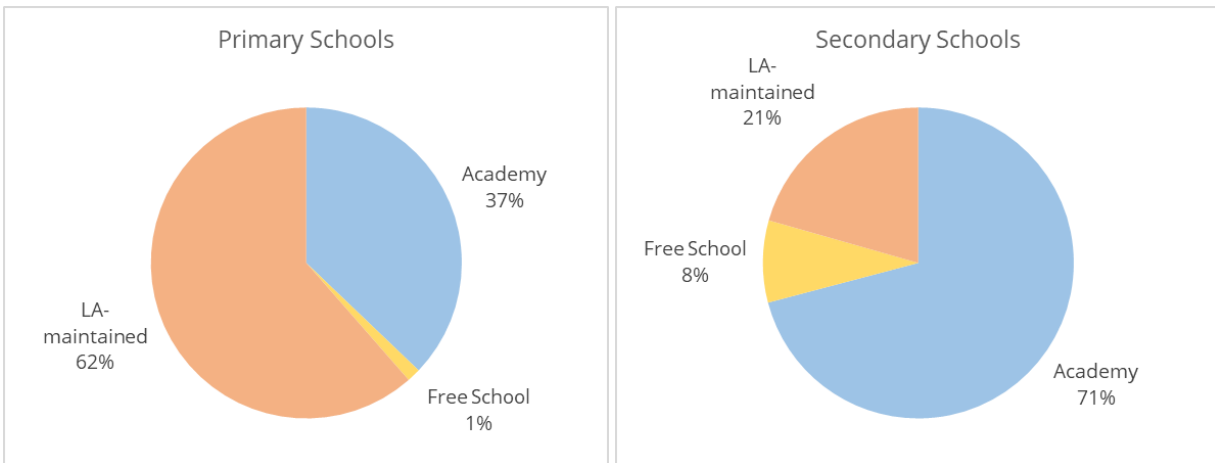


LA-maintained schools are the majority, but the number of academies is constantly rising; according to Ofsted's statistics, 2,731 academies have an open date on or after 1 January 2018. That is 32% of the total number of academies, with more than 10% (845) opening since 1 January 2020.

When school phases are applied, the composition

changes quite significantly.





The distribution of primary schools across school types shows a more significant majority of schools are LA-maintained, 62%, with 37% an academy and just 1% a free school.

Meanwhile, the case is different for secondary schools. 71% are academies, 21% are LA-maintained, and 8% free schools.

In this report:

- We round all percentages to the nearest whole number.
- Summed percentages may not add up to 100 due to rounding.
- We distinguish between true zero and rounded-to-zero with "0%" and "<0.5%", respectively.

## 5. Distribution of Inspection Grades by School Type

### 5.1. Primary and Secondary Schools Combined

#### 5.1.1. With Grade Inheritance

The table below shows the distribution of schools by latest inspection grade and school type as of 31 January 2022.

	Outstanding or Good	Outstanding	Good	Requires impr.	Inadequate	Not inspected
<b>LA maintained</b> inspected: 11,000	92% 10,076	16% 1,742	76% 8,334	8% 878	<0.5% 46	<0.5% 15
<b>Academies</b> inspected: 8,624	80% 6,927	17% 1,506	63% 5,421	13% 1,088	7% 609	<0.5% 28
<b>Converted</b> inspected: 6,230	89% 5,523	22% 1,351	67% 4,172	10% 627	1% 80	<0.5% 16
<b>Sponsored</b> inspected: 2,394	59% 1,404	6% 155	52% 1,249	19% 461	22% 529	<0.5% 12
<b>Free schools</b> inspected: 336	83% 279	27% 92	56% 187	12% 39	5% 18	36% 193

This table allows grade inheritance: an academy or free school not yet inspected since changing school type inherits their inspection grade from their predecessor. Uninspected new schools and schools with multiple predecessor schools are discounted from the grade distribution percentages but displayed for completeness.

LA-maintained schools have the highest percentage of schools that hold a Good or Outstanding grade as of 31 January 2022, with 92%.

When all academies, regardless of route, are combined, 80% of them hold a Good or Outstanding grade, 12 percentage points lower than LA-maintained schools.

Considering each academy route separately, converted academies perform better, with 89% of schools holding a Good or Outstanding grade, compared to just 59% of sponsored academies, the worst-performing school type in this analysis.

Grade inheritance is a significant contributing factor to the relatively low percentage of sponsored academies achieving a Good or Outstanding grade since LA-maintained schools that receive an inadequate inspection grade are subject to sponsored academisation.

83% of free schools hold a Good or Outstanding grade. Note, more than one-third of all free schools are uninspected.

### 5.1.2. Without Grade inheritance

The table below shows the distribution of schools by latest inspection grade and school type as of 31 January 2022, but this time removes the bias of grade inheritance by limiting academies and free schools to those inspected since changing type.

	Outstanding or Good	Outstanding	Good	Requires impr.	Inadequate
<b>LA maintained</b> inspected: 11,000	92% 10,076	16% 1,742	76% 8,334	8% 878	<0.5% 46
<b>Academies</b> inspected: 5,486	85% 4,683	12% 635	74% 4,048	13% 737	1% 66
<b>Converted</b> inspected: 3,757	89% 3,329	13% 481	76% 2,848	11% 398	1% 30
<b>Sponsored</b> inspected: 1,729	78% 1,354	9% 154	69% 1,200	20% 339	2% 36
<b>Free schools</b> inspected: 316	88% 277	29% 92	59% 185	10% 33	2% 6

LA-maintained school values are unaffected as they have not changed school type. However, the academy and free school values are affected: 36% of all academies inherited their grade - 40% of converted academies and 28% of sponsored academies – as well as 5% of free schools.

Without grade inheritance, the percentage of all academies with a Good or Outstanding grade increases by five percentage points, from 80% to 85%. However, the percentage of Outstanding schools drops by five percentage points, from 17% to 12%.

Converted academies benefit most from Outstanding grade inheritance; without grade inheritance, the percentage of Outstanding schools drops by nine percentage points and leaves 64% of all Outstanding converted academies yet to retain this grade with a new inspection.

There is an improvement for sponsored academies across the board after removing grade inheritance: notably, the percentage of Good or Outstanding schools increases by 19 percentage points, from 59% to 78%, and the percentage of Inadequate schools drops by 20 percentage points, from 22% to 2%. The sole negative exception is that the proportion of schools with a Requires Improvement grade increases slightly by one percentage point, from 19% to 20%.

Free schools improve in every aspect, with the percentage of Good or Outstanding schools increasing by five percentage points, from 83% to 88%.

## 5.2. Primary Schools

### 5.2.1. With Grade Inheritance

	Outstanding or Good	Outstanding	Good	Requires impr.	Inadequate	Not inspected
<b>LA maintained</b> inspected: 10,298	92% 9,484	16% 1,629	76% 7,855	8% 780	<0.5% 34	<0.5% 15
<b>Academies</b> inspected: 6,211	82% 5,080	16% 998	66% 4,082	11% 711	7% 420	<0.5% 23
<b>Converted</b> inspected: 4,594	90% 4,127	20% 908	70% 3,219	9% 428	1% 39	<0.5% 14
<b>Sponsored</b> inspected: 1,617	59% 953	6% 90	53% 863	18% 283	24% 381	1% 9
<b>Free schools</b> inspected: 134	93% 125	38% 51	55% 74	5% 7	1% 2	44% 104

This table looks at the same distribution of schools by school type and latest inspection grade and uses the same dataset and grade inheritance methodology but is limited to schools Ofsted categorises as offering a primary phase education.

Free schools are the best performing school type offering primary education, with 93% of schools holding a Good or Outstanding grade and 38% holding an Outstanding grade, nearly double the proportion of any other school type. However, this needs to be caveated with the relatively small number of free schools – they make up less than 1% of all inspected primary schools – and the high proportion of uninspected primary free schools, 44%.

The next best performing school type is LA-maintained schools, with 92% holding a Good or Outstanding grade.

Of all primary academies, 82% hold a Good or Outstanding grade; ten percentage points fewer than LA-maintained schools. Neither academy route exceeds or matches the LA-maintained percentage either: 90% of converted academies hold a Good or Outstanding grade, two percentage points lower than LA-maintained schools, and 59% of sponsored academies, 33 percentage points lower.

Note that converted academies hold a higher percentage of Outstanding primary schools than LA-maintained primary schools, by four percentage points, 20% to 16% respectively.

### 5.2.2. Without Grade Inheritance

	Outstanding or Good	Outstanding	Good	Requires impr.	Inadequate
<b>LA maintained</b> inspected: 10,298	92% 9,484	16% 1,629	76% 7,855	8% 780	<0.5% 34
<b>Academies</b> inspected: 3,629	87% 3,150	9% 320	78% 2,830	12% 439	1% 40
<b>Converted</b> inspected: 2,495	90% 2,238	9% 231	80% 2,007	10% 240	1% 17
<b>Sponsored</b> inspected: 1,134	80% 912	8% 89	73% 823	18% 199	2% 23
<b>Free schools</b> inspected: 132	94% 124	39% 51	55% 73	5% 7	1% 1

With this table, the focus remains on primary schools, but we have removed the grade inheritance bias.

Since academising, 58% of all primary academies with a grade have received an inspection: 54% of converted academies and 70% of sponsored academies. The rest inherited the grade from their predecessor.

Only two primary free schools of the 134 that hold an inspection grade inherited that grade.

As a result, the percentage of all academies holding a Good or Outstanding grade increases by five percentage points, from 82% to 87%, mainly caused by the 21 percentage point increase for sponsored academies, from 59% to 80%.

Converted academies see a significant 11 percentage point drop in Outstanding primary schools after removing grade inheritance: from 20% to 9%.

### 5.3. Secondary Schools

#### 5.3.1. With Grade Inheritance

	Outstanding or Good	Outstanding	Good	Requires impr.	Inadequate	Not inspected
<b>LA maintained</b> inspected: 702	84% 592	16% 113	68% 479	14% 98	2% 12	<0.5% 0
<b>Academies</b> inspected: 2,413	77% 1,847	21% 508	55% 1,339	16% 377	8% 189	<0.5% 5
<b>Converted</b> inspected: 1,636	85% 1,396	27% 443	58% 953	12% 199	3% 41	<0.5% 2
<b>Sponsored</b> inspected: 777	58% 451	8% 65	50% 386	23% 178	19% 148	<0.5% 3
<b>Free schools</b> inspected: 202	76% 154	20% 41	56% 113	16% 32	8% 16	31% 89

This table focuses on secondary schools and applies grade inheritance.

Inspection grade outcomes for all school types are lower for secondary schools than primary schools.

There is an eight percentage point difference in Good or Outstanding primary and secondary LA-maintained schools: 92% for primary schools and 84% for secondary schools.

There is a five percentage point difference for all academies: 82% for primary schools and 77% for secondary schools. Broken down by academy route, there is a five percentage point difference for converted academies: 90% for primary schools and 85% for secondary schools, and one percentage point for sponsored academies: 59% for primary schools and 58% for secondary schools. The most significant differential is free schools with 17 percentage points: 93% for primary schools and 76% for secondary schools.

LA-maintained secondary schools are the best performing top-tier school group when compared using the percentage of schools holding a Good or Outstanding inspection grade: 84%, compared to 77% of academies and 76% of free schools.

Secondary converted academies outperform LA-maintained schools by one percentage point for schools with a Good or Outstanding latest inspection grade but by 11 percentage points for schools with an Outstanding grade.

Secondary sponsored academies are the worst-performing school type, with 58% of schools holding a Good or Outstanding grade and 19% holding an Inadequate grade.

### 5.3.2. Without Grade Inheritance

	Outstanding or Good	Outstanding	Good	Requires impr.	Inadequate
<b>LA maintained</b> inspected: 702	84% 592	16% 113	68% 479	14% 98	2% 12
<b>Academies</b> inspected: 1,857	83% 1,533	17% 315	66% 1,218	16% 298	1% 26
<b>Converted</b> inspected: 1,262	86% 1,091	20% 250	67% 841	13% 158	1% 13
<b>Sponsored</b> inspected: 595	74% 442	11% 65	63% 377	24% 140	2% 13
<b>Free schools</b> inspected: 184	83% 153	22% 41	61% 112	14% 26	3% 5

The table above shows secondary schools discounting those with an inherited inspection grade.

77% of all secondary academies with an inspection grade have received an inspection since academising, 19 percentage points higher than primary academies with 58%. The same is true for both academy routes: 77% of converted academies and the same percentage of sponsored academies.

91% of inspected secondary free schools have earned their grade via inspection rather than inheritance.

The percentage of all secondary academy schools holding a Good or Outstanding grade increases by six when grade inheritance is not applied: from 77% to 83%. However, the percentage of schools graded Outstanding drops by four percentage points, from 21% to 17%.

Without grade inheritance, the percentage of converted secondary academies with a Good or Outstanding grade increases by one point from 85% to 86%, but the percentage with an Outstanding grade drops by seven points, from 27% to 20%, although this is four points higher than LA-maintained schools with 16%.

Sponsored academies see the most considerable increase in schools with Good or Outstanding grades, rising 16 points from 58% to 74%, attributable mainly to the reduction in Inadequate schools by 17%, from 19% to 2%.



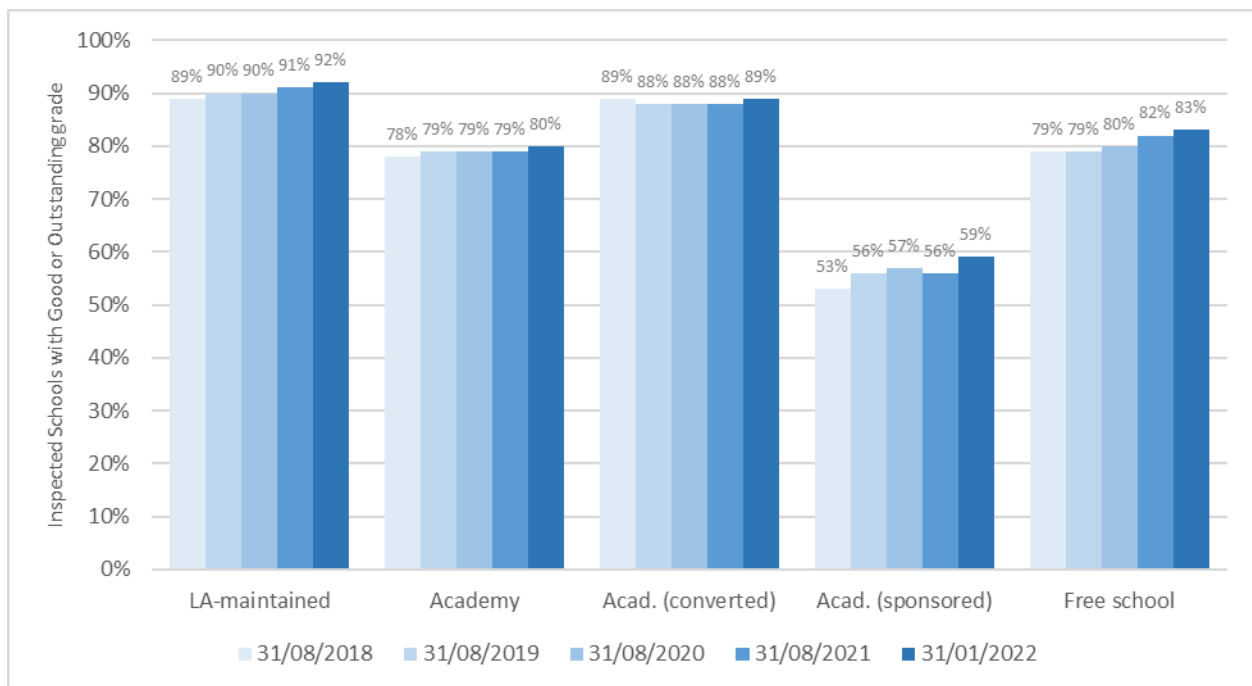
## 6. Proportion of Schools Achieving a Good or Outstanding Inspection by School Type Over Time

### 6.1. Primary and Secondary Schools Combined

#### 6.1.1. With Grade Inheritance

This chart below shows the proportion of inspected schools holding a Good or Outstanding grade (including via grade inheritance), by school type, at various points over the 41 months from August 2018 to January 2022.

The first four points in time are 12 months apart, on 31 August each year, just before the start of the academic year. The last point is five months after the prior, taken on 31 January 2022.



Across all school types, the proportion holding a Good or Outstanding grade has remained steady or increased.

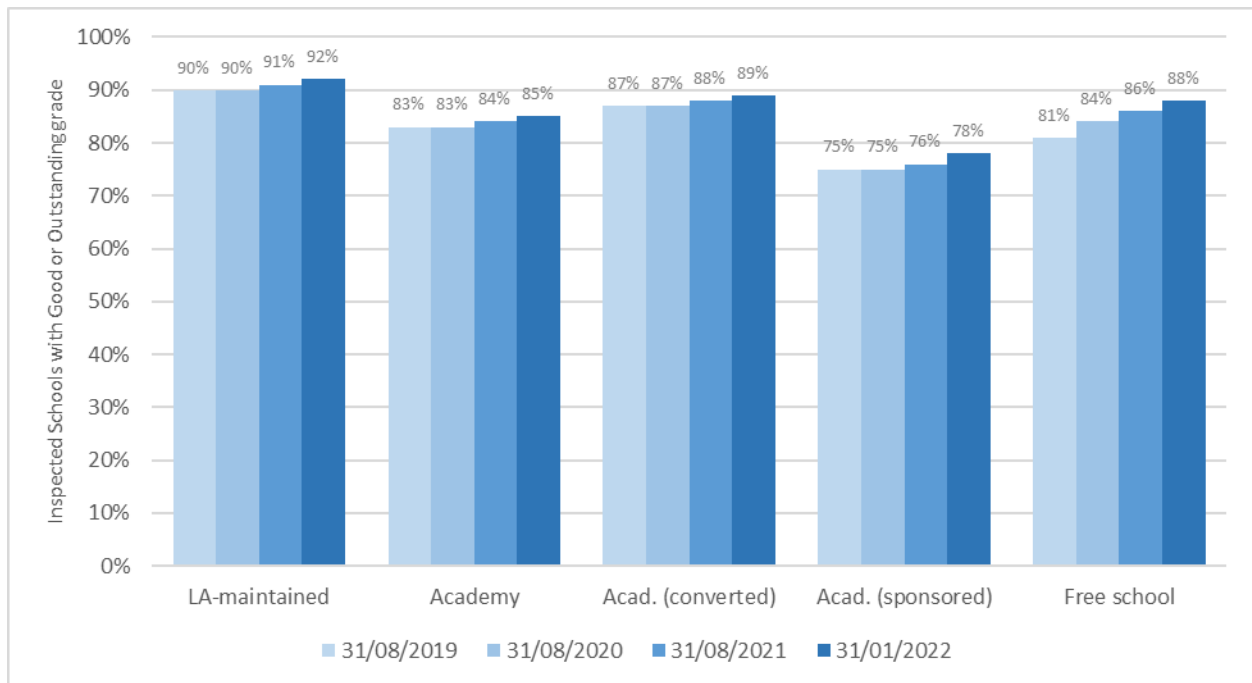
Comparing August 2018 to January 2022, there was no change in the percentage of converted academies with a Good or Outstanding grade at 89%, although that figure dipped to 88% during the intervening period. Converted academies were the only group not to increase over the studied period.

All academies increased by two percentage points, from 78% to 80%; LA-maintained schools increased their percentage by three points, from 89% to 92%; free schools increased by four, from 79% to 83%; and, raising the most, sponsored academies rose by six points, from 53% to 59%.

### 6.1.2. Without Grade Inheritance

The chart below repeats the process above, but with two differences:

- 1) We have removed schools that inherited their inspection grade from their predecessor from each point in time. In other words, each academy and free school has received an inspection since changing type.
- 2) We have omitted August 2018 due to insufficient data in the dataset; we cannot conclusively determine if the latest inspection grade was inherited.



Since grade inheritance does not impact LA-maintained schools, we see no change, as expected, and the upward trend over the 29 months is two percentage points, from 90% to 92%.

Between August 2019 and January 2022, the percentage of academies holding a Good or Outstanding grade rises by two points, from 83% to 85%. For comparison, there was an improvement of one percentage point in the same period with grade inheritance applied.

Converted academies improved by two percentage points, from 87% to 89%. This increase is one percentage point more than the equivalent trend from the same period with grade inheritance, but from a lower starting figure: 87% instead of 88%.

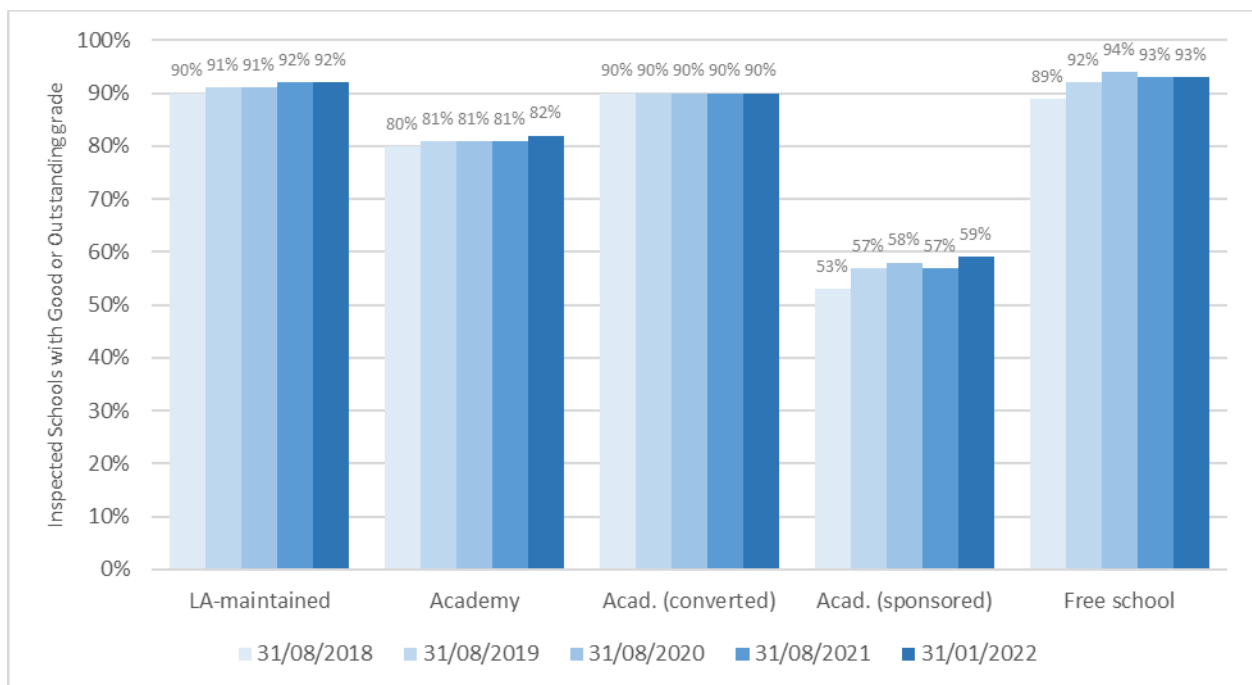
Although the proportion of sponsored academies with a Good or Outstanding grade is significantly higher when removing grade inheritance, the scale of improvement remains the same with a three percentage point increase during the 29 months compared with the same period with grade inheritance.

Free schools improve by seven percentage points, the highest increase of any school type during the period, three points more than the same period with grade inheritance. However, note the small number of inspected free schools. In January 2022, it would take just two free schools to change grades to impact the percentage value, compared to 27 academies or 55 LA-maintained schools.

## 6.2. Primary Schools

### 6.2.1. With Grade Inheritance

The chart below shows the percentage of inspected primary schools of each school type that held a published Good or Outstanding grade at various points in time across 41 months. The schools that have not been subject to inspection since changing type inherit their inspection grade from their predecessor.



Comparing the difference in percentages between August 2018 and January 2022, primary LA-maintained schools improved by two percentage points, from 90% to 92%. All primary academies also improved by two percentage points, albeit from a lower starting point, from 80% to 82%.

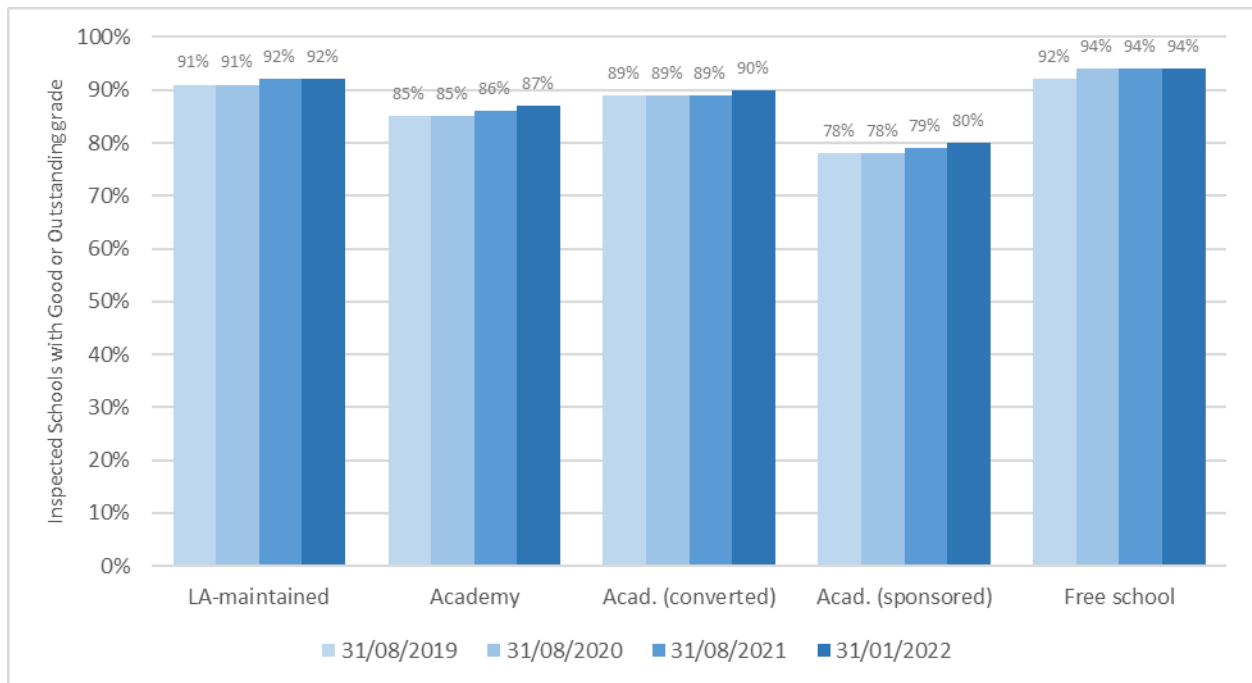
There was no change in percentage for converted academies, remaining stationary at 90% during the entire period, the only school type not to improve.

Sponsored academies have the lowest starting point and improved by six percentage points, starting at 53% and finishing at 59%, the most sizable increase by any school type, although there was a dip of one percentage point between August 2020 and August 2021.

Free schools improved by four percentage points across the whole period, from 89% to 93%, but peaked in August 2020 with 94%.

### 6.2.2. Without Grade Inheritance

The chart below shows the percentage of inspected primary schools, by school type, with a published Good or Outstanding grade at various points between 31 August 2019 to 31 January 2022. Schools do not inherit their inspection grade from their predecessor in this analysis; to be included, the school must have received an inspection in its own right.



When comparing the starting and ending percentages, all school types improved, but the amount of improvement is less than when grade inheritance is employed. No school type improves by any more than two percentage points.

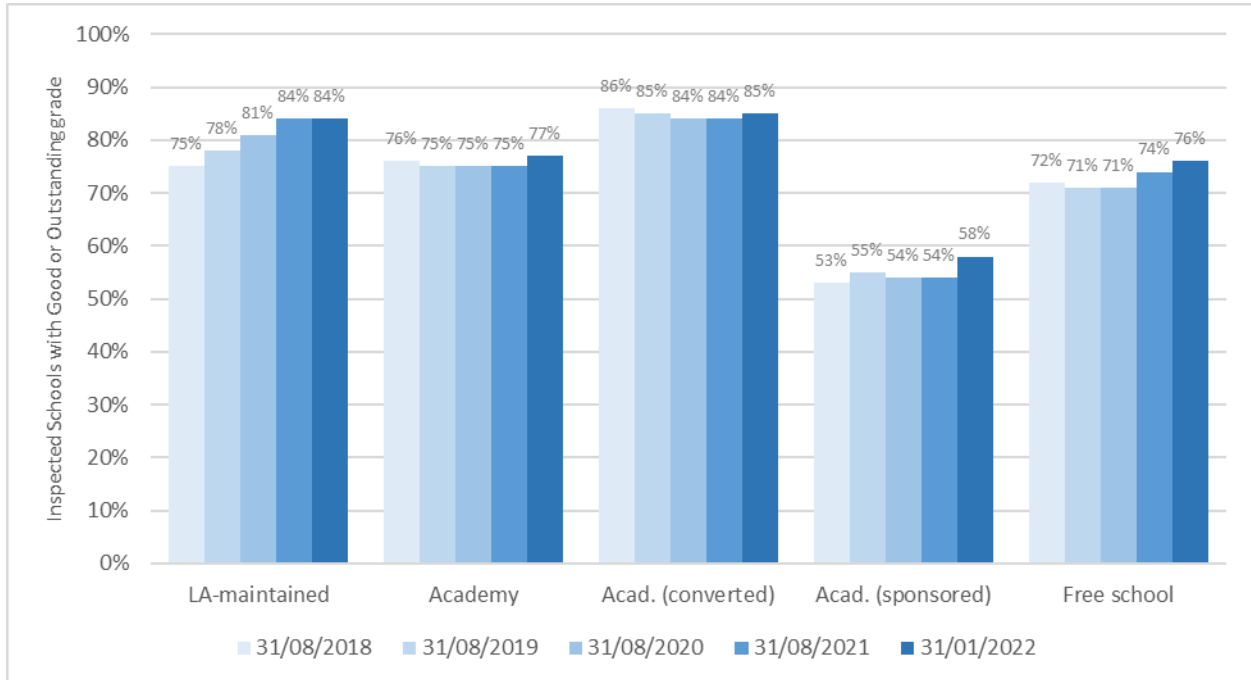
All academies (85% to 87%), sponsored academies (78% to 80%), and free schools (92% to 94%) all improved by two percentage points. Converted academies improved by one percentage point (89% to 90%).

LA-maintained schools are unaffected by grade inheritance and had a one percentage point improvement for the period.

### 6.3. Secondary Schools

#### 6.3.1. With Grade Inheritance

The chart below shows the percentage of inspected secondary schools that held a published Good or Outstanding grade at various points in time across 41 months, split by school type. Academies and free schools with a predecessor school that have not received an inspection since changing type are inheriting their inspection grade from their predecessor.



The percentage of inspected secondary LA-maintained schools holding a Good or Outstanding grade increased by nine percentage points between August 2018 and January 2022, from 75% to 84%, the most significant increase of any school type.

All academies increased by one percentage point, from 76% to 77%, over the same period. However, the intervening points in time recorded a one percentage point drop, to 75%, from the starting point of 76%, recovering by two percentage points between August 2021 and January 2022.

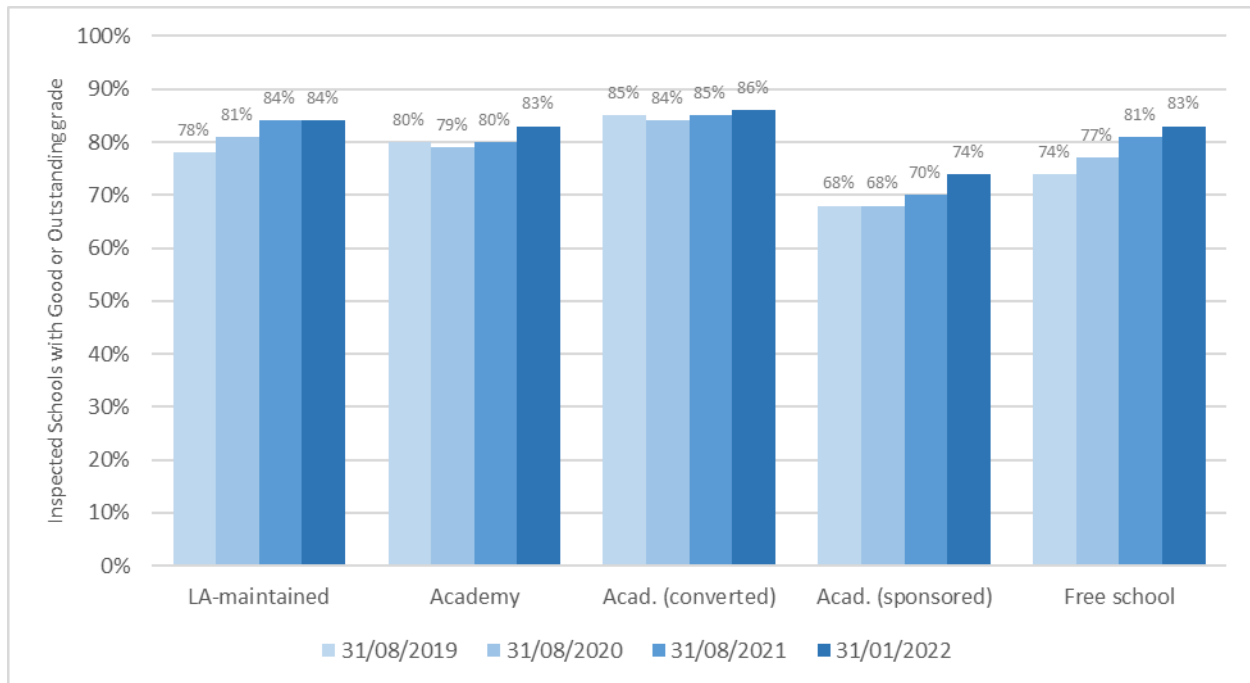
Converted academies are the only school type to decline over the period, by one percentage point from 86% to 85%, with a low point of 84% in August 2020 and August 2021.

With an increase of four percentage points between August 2021 and January 2022, sponsored academies rose five percentage points over the whole period, from 53% to 58%.

Across the period, free schools improved by four percentage points, from 72% to 76%, after dipping to 71% in August 2019 and August 2020.

### **6.3.2. Without Grade Inheritance**

The chart below shows the proportion of inspected secondary schools of each type that hold a published Good or Outstanding grade at various points across 29 months from 31 August 2019 to 31 January 2022. Schools do not inherit their inspection grade from their predecessor in this analysis; each school must have received an inspection in its own right.



LA-maintained schools are unaffected by grade inheritance and improved by six percentage points over the analysed period, from 78% to 84%.

All academies improved by three percentage points, from 80% to 83%. LA-maintained schools "overtake" academies during the period: They start with a lower percentage (78% vs 80%) and end with a higher percentage (84% vs 83%).

Converted academies improved by one percentage point across the whole period, from 85% to 86%, dipping to 84% in August 2020.

Sponsored academies improved by six percentage points, from 68% to 74%, with a four-point rise between August 2021 and January 2022.

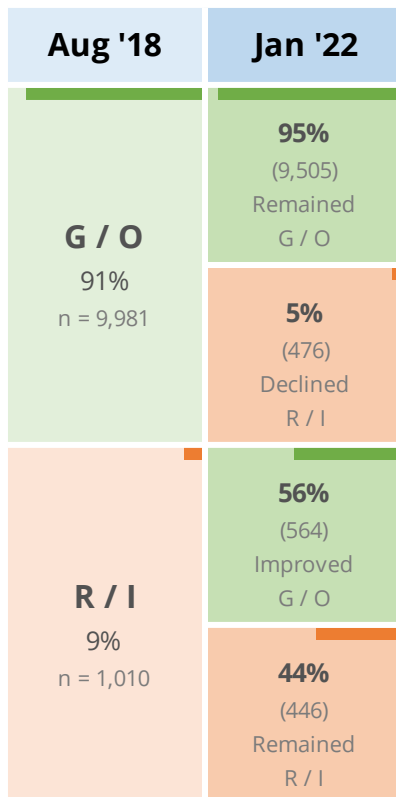
Free schools are the school type that improves by the most significant degree: nine percentage points, from 74% to 83%. However, with only 202 inspected secondary free schools in the January 2022 dataset, each school represents 0.49%, compared to each academy which represents 0.04%.

## 7. Impact of academisation on inspection outcomes

The tables below compare the latest inspection grade at two points in time, August 2018 and January 2022, based on the school types at those same points in time. We also study the impact of inspection grade inheritance on these values.

We map schools that were academised during the intervening period to their predecessor if only one existed.

### 7.1. Schools which remained LA-maintained



12,570 schools were LA-maintained on 31 August 2018, inspected by that date, and mappable to an LA-maintained school or academy in the 31 January 2022 data set. The vast majority have remained LA-maintained during that period: 10,991, or 87%.

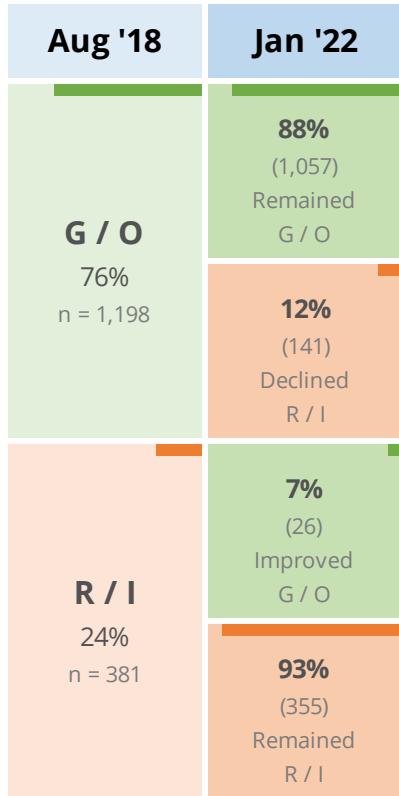
At the start point, August 2018, 91% held a Good (G) or Outstanding (O) grade, leaving 9% with a Requires Improvements (R) or Inadequate (I) grade.

Of the schools with a Good or Outstanding grade in August 2018, 95% remained Good or Outstanding by January 2022. 5% dropped to Requires Improvement or Inadequate.

Of the schools that started with a Requires Improvement or Inadequate grade, 56% improved to a Good or Outstanding grade by January 2022.

The raw number of LA-maintained schools with a Good or Outstanding grade increased by 88. So, while 91% of the LA-maintained schools were Good or Outstanding in August 2018, 92% were Good or Outstanding by January 2022.





### 7.2.Schools which academised

Of the schools in scope, 1,579 became an academy between August 2018 and January 2022, 13% of the original LA-maintained school cohort in those 41 months.

Of the schools that held a Good or Outstanding grade in August 2018, with grade inheritance, 88% still hold a Good or Outstanding grade in January 2022, 7 percentage points fewer than schools that remained LA-maintained. Meanwhile, 12% of schools dropped to a Requires Improvement or Inadequate grade.

Of the schools that started with a Requires Improvement or Inadequate grade, 7% converted that into a Good or Outstanding grade. In comparison, schools that remained LA-maintained converted 56%, 49 percentage points higher. However, since

grade inheritance is applied, a drop in grade could have occurred prior to academisation.

The other 93% of academised schools remain with a Requires Improvement or Inadequate grade.

In August 2018, before academising, the number of LA-maintained schools with a Good or Outstanding grade that would go on to academise was 1,198. In January 2022, 1,083 of those schools, 115 fewer, hold a Good or Outstanding grade, reducing the percentage from 76% to 69%, a fall of seven percentage points.

### 7.3. Schools which academised, without grade inheritance

Aug '18	Jan '22
<b>G / O</b> 96% n = 22	<b>82%</b> (18) Remained G / O
	<b>18%</b> (4) Declined R / I
<b>R / I</b> 4% n = 1	<b>100%</b> (1) Improved G / O
	<b>0%</b> (0) Remained R / I

We dispense with grade inheritance to reflect the impact of academisation on inspection outcomes more fairly. Without grade inheritance, we get a reflection of Ofsted's view of the academy, not its predecessor.

After applying a filter to the data to remove the academies which have not received an inspection since academising, we found the number of schools dropped drastically: Of the 1,579 schools that had academised since August 2018, only 23, or 1%, have received an inspection as an academy, making the analysis unsuitable for drawing solid conclusions.

The reasons for these low numbers are two-fold: Prior to September 2021, after academisation, schools were given up to three years of reprieve from inspection, with the inspection tending to occur in the third year. Additionally, due to the COVID-

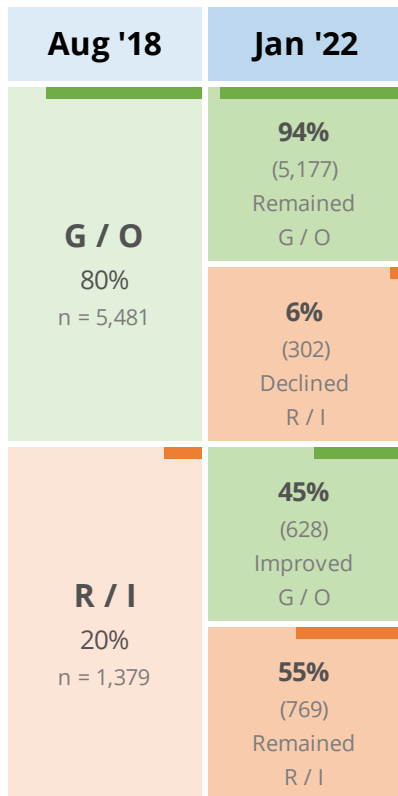
19 pandemic, inspections paused from March 2020, starting on a small scale from April 2021, and at a more regular pace from September 2021.

The 23 schools in this table received their inspection since the resumption of inspections in April 2021.

The government has asked Ofsted to inspect all schools before the autumn term in 2025. Therefore, we expect a fairer picture to emerge rapidly over the coming months and years.

With the limited dataset we have, 96% of the 23 academised schools inspected since academising had a starting grade of Good or Outstanding when they were an LA-maintained school in August 2018. 82% of that number continue to have a Good or Outstanding grade by January 22, with 18% dropping to a Requires Improvement or Inadequate grade. Only one school started with a Requires Improvement or Inadequate grade, and it improved to Good or Outstanding by the end of the period.

### 7.4. Schools which were already academies



While it does not reflect the immediate impact of academisation on inspection outcomes, we can analyse the direction of travel of inspection grades for schools already academised in August 2018.

In August 2018, 6,860 schools were already an academy that held an inspection grade (inherited or self-earned) and have been mapped to the January 2022 dataset.

Of these academies, 5,481 started with a Good or Outstanding grade in August 2018. By January 2022, 94% of them still held a Good or Outstanding grade, one percentage point lower than LA-maintained schools. The latest inspection outcome for the remaining 6% dropped to Requires Improvement or Inadequate.

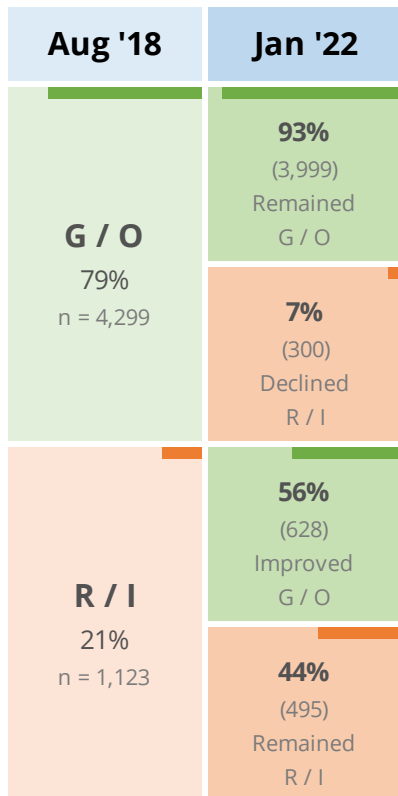
The other 1,379 academies started with a Requires Improvement or Inadequate inspection grade. Of those schools, 45% improved their inspection outcome by January 2022 to a Good or

Outstanding grade, 11 percentage points lower than LA-maintained schools in the same period, which improved 56% of Requires Improvement and Inadequate schools to a Good or Outstanding grade.

The remaining 55% of schools which started with a Requires Improvement or Inadequate grade still held such a grade in January 2022.

Overall, the number of in-scope academies holding a Good or Outstanding grade in January 2022 increased since August 2018 by 324: from 5,481 to 5,805 (80% to 85%), an increase of 5 percentage points.

### 7.5. Schools which were already academies, without grade inheritance



To stop the bias of grade inheritance, in this table, we have discounted academies where they inherit their January 2022 inspection grade from the predecessor school. 5,422 of the 6,860 academies from the previous section match these criteria.

Of these academies, 4,299 held a Good or Outstanding grade in August 2018. Note that the grades at this point are still subject to grade inheritance. 93% of which still held a Good or Outstanding grade in January 2022, two percentage points lower than schools that remained LA-maintained between the two points in time.

The other 7% of Good or Outstanding academies dropped to a Requires Improvement or Inadequate grade.

The remaining 1,123 academies started with a Requires Improvement or Inadequate grade as of August 2018. 56% of those academies improved their latest inspection outcome to

Good or Outstanding by January 2022, the same percentage LA-maintained schools improved by. The remaining 44% of academies with a Requires Improvement or Inadequate grade in August 2018 remained with such a grade by January 2022.

Overall, the number of academies that held a Good or Outstanding grade by January 2022 increased by 328 since August 2018, increasing by six percentage points, from 79% to 85%.

## 8. Comparing inspection outcomes from specific grade starting points of LA-maintained schools and academies

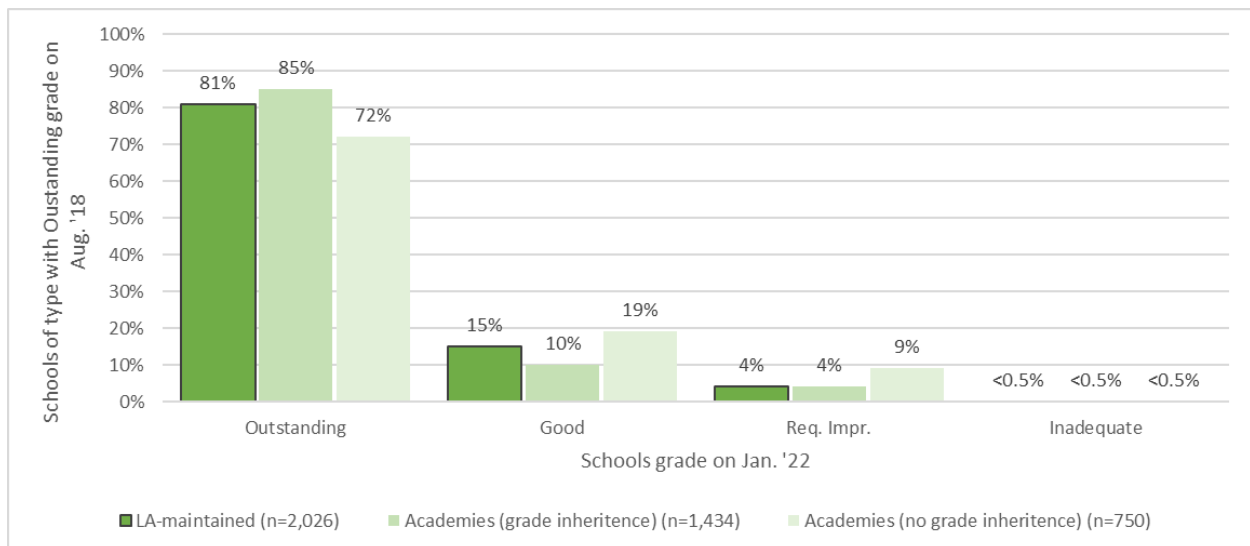
In the following analysis, we look at the distribution of inspection grades as of January 2022 for LA-maintained schools and academies with the same inspection grade in August 2018.

The schools were the type in focus at both times; for example, the school was LA-maintained in August 2018 and January 2022. We discount schools that academised during that period.

Each chart displays two values for academies: the first with grade inheritance applied and the second discounting schools with an inherited grade. The latter gives the fairest comparison between academies and LA-maintained schools.

We always apply grade inheritance to the August 2018 inspection grade for academies.

### 8.1. Outstanding schools as of August 2018



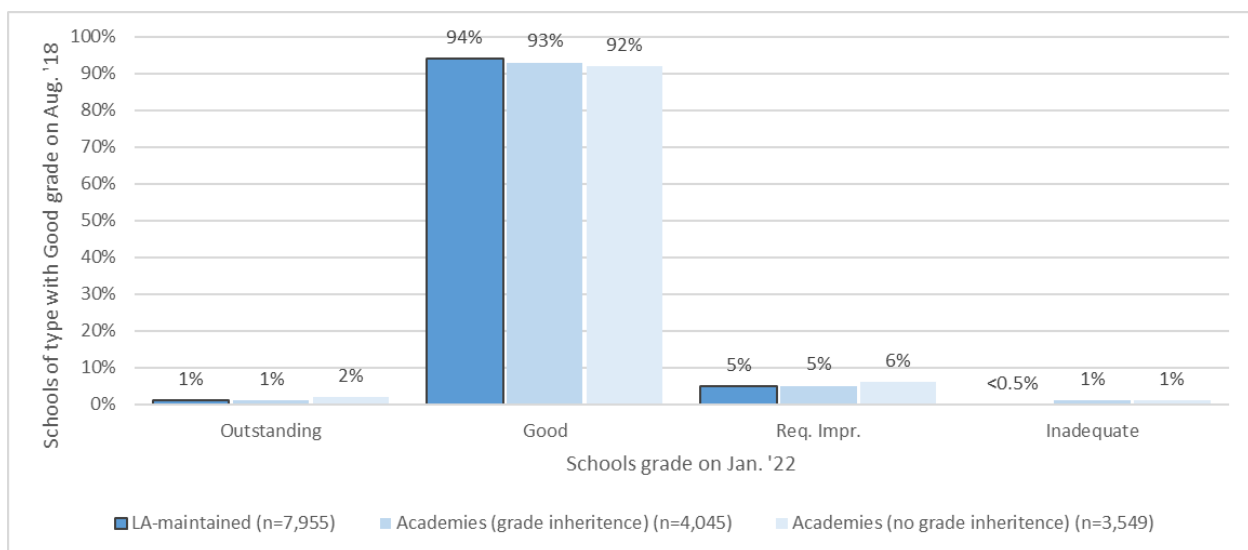
The number of LA-maintained schools held an Outstanding grade as of August 2018 was 2,026. 81% of those schools still held an Outstanding grade by January 2022.

While grade inheritance is applied, 85% of academies of the 1,434 who held an Outstanding grade as of August 2018 still held an Outstanding grade by January 2022, 4 percentage points more than LA-maintained schools. However, after discounting academies with an inherited grade and narrowing the scope to the 750 academies that have received an inspection in their current form, the value drops by 13 percentage points to 72%, nine percentage points lower than LA-maintained schools.

For LA-maintained schools, 19% of schools had a lower grade by January 2022 than the Outstanding they held in August 2018: 15% fell to Good, 4% to Requires Improvement, and a negligible number to Inadequate.

For academies, 14% of schools had a lower grade by January 2022 with the application of grade inheritance. However, this increases to 28% if we exclude schools inheriting their grade from their predecessor, nine percentage points higher than LA-maintained schools: 19% of academies dropped to Good, 9% to Requires Improvement, and a negligible number dropping to Inadequate.

## 8.2. Good schools as of August 2018



LA-maintained schools improved the inspection grade from Good to Outstanding between August 2018 and January 2022 for 1% of their 7,955 schools.

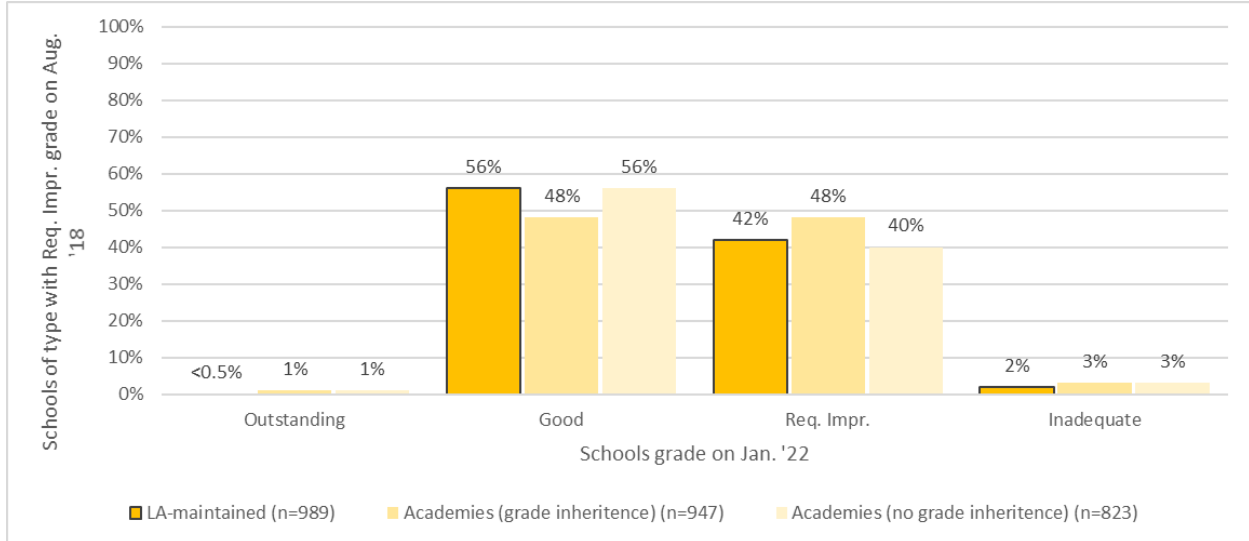
Of the 4,045 academies starting with a Good inspection grade, 1% improved their grade when grade inheritance was applied, increasing to 2% for the 3,549 academies that have received an inspection since academising.

94% of LA-maintained schools maintained their Good grade across the timeframe, more than both of the academy values: by one percentage point from academies with grade inheritance and two points from academies inspected in their own right.

5% of LA-maintained schools had a fall in inspection grade outcome from their starting position of Good between August 2018 and January 2022. The majority dropped to a Requires Improvement grade, with a negligible percentage dropping to an Inadequate grade.

Meanwhile, a higher percentage of academies dropped at least one grade during those 41 months: 6% of academies with grade inheritance and 7% of self-inspected academies.

### 8.3. Requires Improvement schools as of August 2018



989 LA-maintained schools held a Requires Improvement grade as of August 2018. 56% of those schools improved their grade by January 2022, the majority to a Good grade and a negligible percentage to Outstanding.

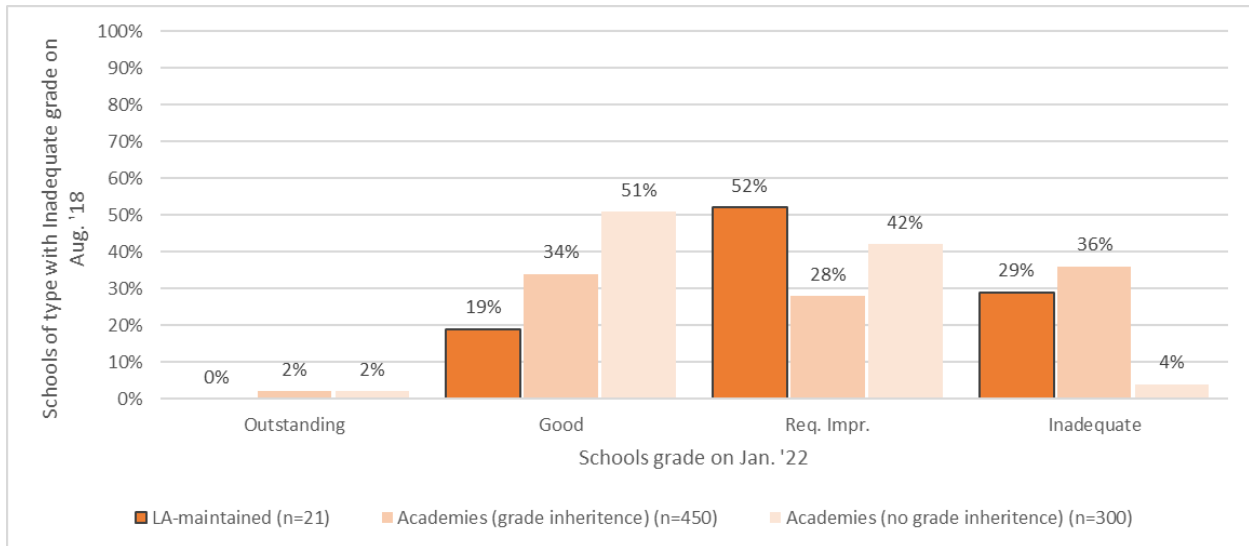
With grade inheritance allowed, 49% of the 947 academies improved their grade in the same period: 48% to a Good grade and 1% to an Outstanding grade, seven percentage points lower than LA-maintained schools.

When discounting academies with an inherited grade, 57% of the 823 in-scope academies improve their grade by January 2022: 56% to Good and 1% to Outstanding, one percentage point more than LA-maintained schools.

42% of LA-maintained schools see no change in their inspection grade at the two points in time. Academies are six percentage points higher when grade inheritance is applied, at 48%, and two points lower when academies without a self-earned inspection grade are discounted, at 40%.

LA-maintained schools have the lowest percentage of schools dropping to an Inadequate grade by January 2022, with 2%, one percentage point lower than academies, both with and without grade inheritance, at 3%.

### 8.4. Inadequate schools as of August 2018



Notably, within the dataset, only 21 LA-maintained schools had an Inadequate starting grade in August 2018, typically due to enforced academisation of LA-maintained schools graded as Inadequate due to an inspection. It is rare for LA-maintained schools to have the opportunity to prove they can recover from an Inadequate grade, making a comparison with academies difficult.

Of the small number of LA-maintained schools, 71% have improved their latest inspection grade of August 2018 by January 2022. The majority, 52%, reached Requires Improvement, and 19% reached Good. The remaining 29% of LA-maintained schools still hold an Inadequate grade.

The number of academies in this dataset is far more significant: 450 when grade inheritance is allowed and 300 when it is not.

When grade inheritance is allowed, 64% of schools have improved their grade by January 2022: 28% to Requires Improvement, 34% to Good, and 2% to Outstanding.

When disallowing grade inheritance, 95% of schools have improved their grade during the timeframe: 42% have improved to Requires Improvement, 51% to Good, and 2% to Outstanding.



## 9. Endnotes

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- <sup>i</sup> <https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/changes-to-ofsted-statistical-reporting-of-inspection-outcomes-for-state-funded-schools-an-analysis-of-the-changes>
- <sup>ii</sup> <https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/state-funded-schools-inspections-and-outcomes-as-at-31-august-2021>
- <sup>iii</sup> <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/common-inspection-framework-education-skills-and-early-years-from-september-2015>
- <sup>iv</sup> <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/education-inspection-framework>
- <sup>v</sup> <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/ofsted-suspends-all-routine-inspections>
- <sup>vi</sup> <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/education-inspections-in-the-summer-term>
- <sup>vii</sup> <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/ofsted-accelerates-inspections-for-schools-and-further-education-providers>