

Analysis of Ofsted Inspection Outcomes by School Type

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



1 Contents

1	Contents.....	2
2	Introduction.....	4
3	Recent history of the school inspections	5
4	Data sources	7
4.1	Inspection data.....	7
4.2	Academy mapping data.....	7
5	Scope, definitions, and methodologies.....	9
6	Distribution of inspection grades by school type.....	12
6.1	Primary and secondary schools.....	12
6.1.1	With grade inheritance	12
6.1.2	Without grade inheritance.....	13
6.2	Primary schools	15
6.2.1	With grade inheritance	15
6.2.2	Without grade inheritance.....	17
6.3	Secondary schools	18
6.3.1	With grade inheritance	18
6.3.2	Without grade inheritance.....	20
7	Proportion of schools achieving a good or outstanding inspection by school type over time	22
7.1	Primary and secondary schools.....	22
7.1.1	With grade inheritance	22

7.1.2	Without grade inheritance.....	23
7.2	Primary schools.....	25
7.2.1	With grade inheritance.....	25
7.2.2	Without grade inheritance.....	26
7.3	Secondary schools.....	27
7.3.1	With grade inheritance.....	27
7.3.2	Without grade inheritance.....	29
8	Impact of academisation on inspection outcomes.....	31
8.1	Schools which remained LA-maintained.....	31
8.2	Schools which academised, with grade inheritance.....	32
8.3	Schools which academised, without grade inheritance.....	34
8.4	Schools which were already academies, with grade inheritance.....	36
8.5	Schools which were already academies, without grade inheritance.....	37
9	Comparing inspection outcomes from specific grade starting points of LA-maintained schools and academies.....	41
9.1	Outstanding schools as of August 2018.....	41
9.2	Good schools as of August 2018.....	42
9.3	Requires improvement schools as of August 2018.....	43
9.4	Inadequate schools as of August 2018.....	45
10	Endnotes.....	47

2 Introduction

Various metrics can be employed to assess the performance of different types of schools. One comprehensive measure is the Ofsted inspection grade, which consolidates aspects such as leadership, behaviour, and quality of education into a single rating: Outstanding, Good, Requires Improvement, or Inadequate.

This report will compare Local Authority (LA)-maintained schools, academies, and free schools using the overall Ofsted inspection grade as the primary benchmark.

Our analysis will be structured as follows:

1. We will first present the distribution of schools across each inspection grade by school type, further broken down by phase of education. We will also discuss the influence of grade inheritance on the distribution patterns of academies and free schools.
2. Subsequently, we will examine trends in the proportion of schools achieving a Good or Outstanding grade by school type, considering the phase of education and the impact of grade inheritance.
3. We will then investigate the effects of academisation and grade inheritance on inspection grades compared to LA-maintained schools during the same time frame.
4. Lastly, we will analyse the changes in inspection grades for schools that initially shared the same rating, highlighting the outcomes with and without considering grade inheritance.

3 Recent history of the school inspections

Although Ofsted inspections have a much longer history, this report focuses on the period starting from 2018. In June 2018, Ofsted significantly changed its statistical methodologyⁱ. From then on, all academies were to inherit the inspection grade of their predecessor schools, where applicable. While converted academies already followed this approach, sponsored academies were previously treated as new provisions and deemed ungraded until their subsequent inspection.

Consequently, our longitudinal analysis employs August 2018 as a baseline to ensure a more representative comparison of grades over time.

It is worth noting that, unlike our report, Ofsted's aggregated statistics categorise sponsored academies that have not undergone an inspection since becoming academised under a separate "not inspected in current form" group, distinct from those that have been inspectedⁱⁱ.

In September 2019, the Education Inspection Framework (EIF) replaced the Common Inspection Framework (CIF), which had been in effect since September 2015ⁱⁱⁱ. The EIF shifted its focus towards the quality of teaching and the curriculum^{iv}. However, six months after its introduction, Ofsted suspended all inspections from March 2020 due to the COVID-19 pandemic^v.

Inspections did not resume until April 2021, 13 months later. Over the 2021 summer term, Ofsted conducted a small scale of inspections^{vi}, with a typical programme starting in the subsequent autumn term. As a result, although the EIF has been the active framework for a considerable period, as of January 2023 schools inspected under its criteria are a minority, 43 per cent.

Since the resumption of inspections following the pandemic, the government has requested that Ofsted inspect every school between September 2021 and the end of the

2024/25 academic year^{vii}. This directive includes schools graded Outstanding, typically exempt from inspection. As a result, all schools will undergo evaluation during this period, ensuring a comprehensive assessment under the current framework.

4 Data sources

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

4.1 Inspection data

Ofsted has consistently published monthly management information and quarterly official statistics for public access, and this report utilises both sources. For our analysis, we obtained each school's most recent inspection grade from the management information as of 31 January 2023. The relevant data can be found at:

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

For historical data on the latest inspection grades per school, we relied on the official statistics dated 31 August 2018 to 2022.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/maintained-schools-and-academies-inspections-and-outcomes-official-statistics>

These combined data sources provide a comprehensive view of schools' inspection outcomes over the specified period.

4.2 Academy mapping data

When a school undergoes academisation or other less common changes, such as amalgamation, its Unique Reference Number (URN) is altered. The URN serves as the school's identifier.

The Department for Education (DfE) provides successor and predecessor school link data through the Get Information About Schools (GIAS) website. This data can be accessed at the following location:

<https://www.get-information-schools.service.gov.uk/Downloads>

For our analysis, we have processed the links as of 31 January 2023 to determine the current URN, where changes have occurred.

It should be noted that in some instances, multiple predecessor schools are linked to a single successor school. In such cases, the successor school does not inherit an inspection grade. Our mapping is limited to schools with a one-to-one relationship between predecessor and successor to ensure a clear and accurate data comparison.

5 Scope, definitions, and methodologies

This report primarily focuses on mainstream, state-funded schools in England that provide primary or secondary education, or both in the case of all-through schools (which we treat as secondary phase schools).

The scope of our study is further limited to schools categorised by Ofsted as one of the types presented in Figure 1.

Type Group	Type	Count	% of all schools	% of group
LA-maintained	TOTAL	10,666	53%	-
	Community School	5,867	29%	55%
	Foundation School	685	3%	6%
	Voluntary Aided School	2,500	12%	23%
	Voluntary Controlled School	1,614	8%	15%
Academy	TOTAL	8,980	44%	-
	Academy Converter	6,517	32%	73%
	Academy Sponsor Led	2,463	12%	27%
Free School	TOTAL	550	3%	-
	Free School	483	2%	88%
	Studio School	21	0%	4%
	University Technical College	46	0%	8%

Figure 1: The distribution of schools by type

According to Ofsted's January management information dataset, 20,196 schools fall within the scope of our analysis. LA-maintained schools make up the majority, although the number of academies is increasing. As of January 2023, 30 per cent of open academies have been established since 1 January 2018.

The distribution of school types shifts significantly when school phases are considered, as demonstrated in Figure 2 and Figure 3.

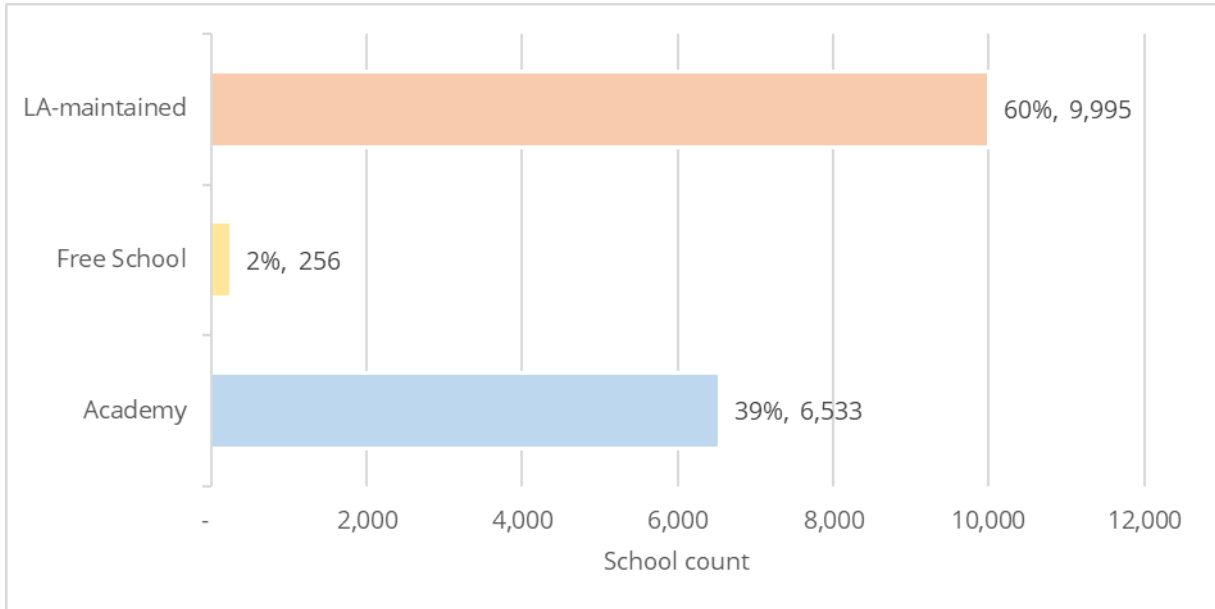


Figure 2: The distribution of primary schools by type group

As shown in Figure 2, most primary schools (60 per cent) are LA-maintained, while 39 per cent are academies, and only 1 per cent are free schools.

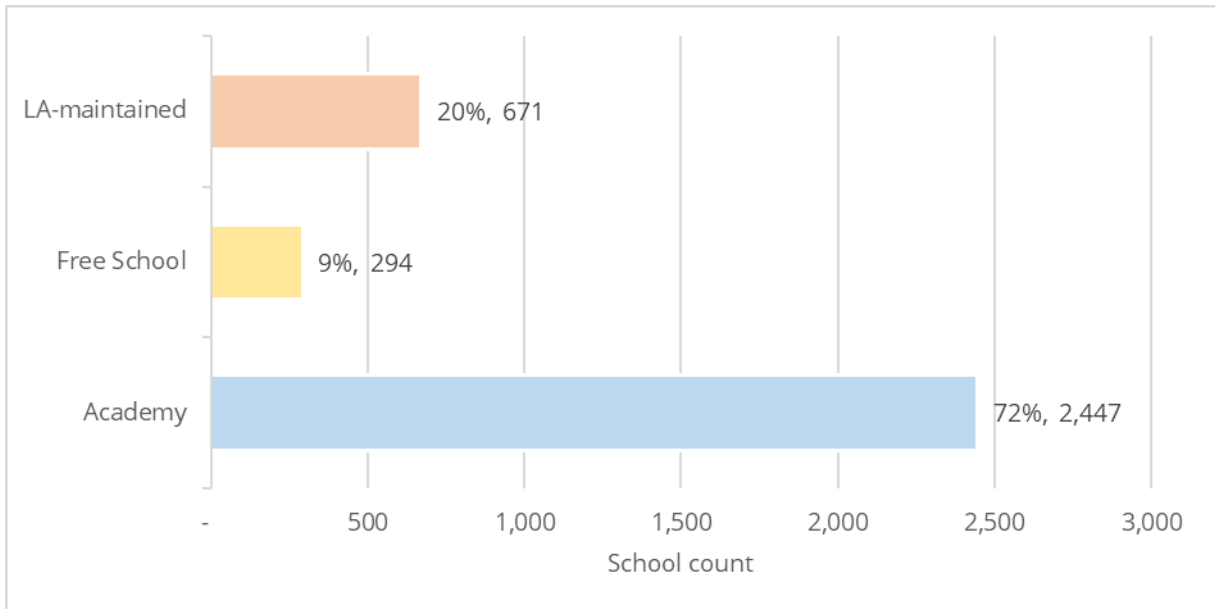


Figure 3: The distribution of secondary schools by type group

Conversely, Figure 3 reveals that most secondary schools are academies (72 per cent), with 20 per cent being LA-maintained and 9 per cent being free schools.

Please note that throughout this report, we round all percentages to the nearest whole number. Consequently, summed percentages may not always total 100 due to rounding.

6 Distribution of inspection grades by school type

In this chapter, we study the distribution of schools when grouped by their latest inspection grade and their type as of 31 January 2023. We also look at grade inheritance and phase's impact on the distribution.

6.1 Primary and secondary schools

In Figure 4 and Figure 5 all in-scope primary and secondary schools are included in the analysis.

6.1.1 With grade inheritance

Figure 4 allows grade inheritance: an academy or free school not yet inspected since changing type inherits their inspection grade from their predecessor, where possible.

It also displays in the "not inspected" column new schools and schools with multiple predecessors with no attributable latest inspection grade. These schools are discounted from the grade distribution percentages but are displayed for completeness.

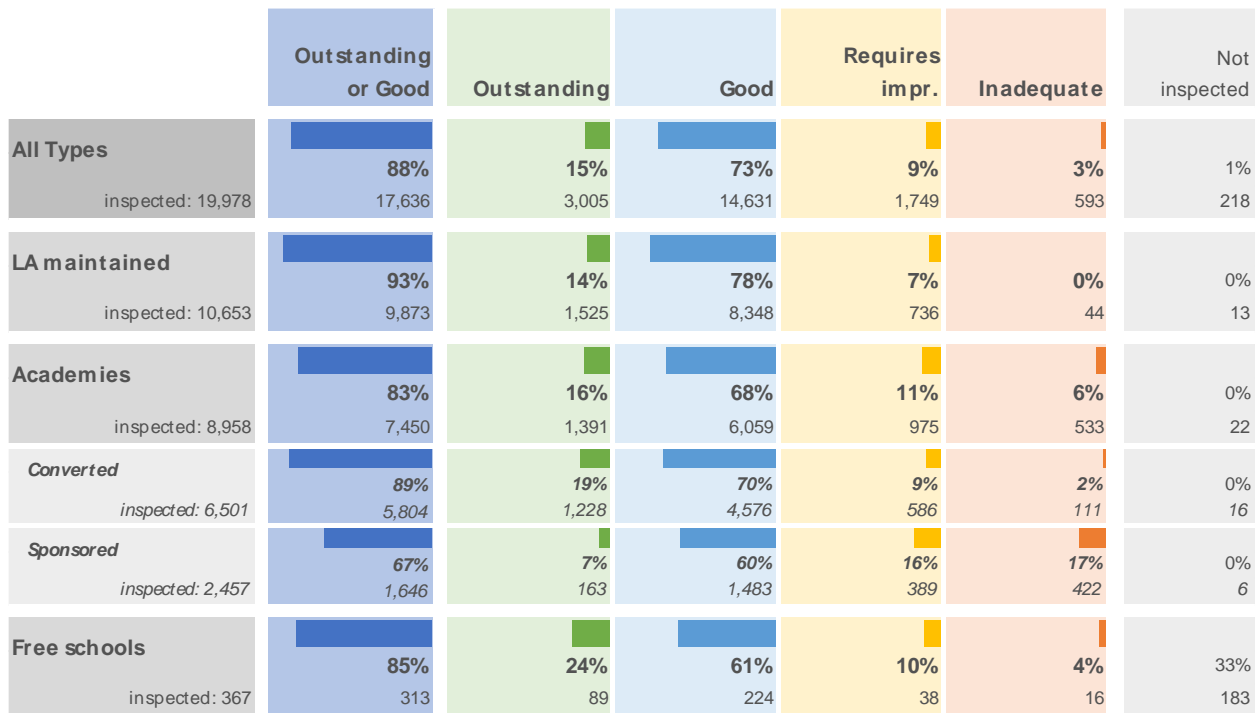


Figure 4: The distribution of primary and secondary schools by type and inspection grade (with grade inheritance) as of January 2023

LA-maintained schools have the highest percentage of schools with a good or outstanding grade as of 31 January 2023, with 93 per cent.

Eighty-three per cent of all academies, regardless of route, hold a good or outstanding grade, ten percentage points lower than LA-maintained schools.

Converter academies perform better than sponsored academies, although neither outperforms LA-maintained schools. Eighty-nine per cent of converter academies and 67 per cent of sponsored academies hold a good or outstanding grade.

Sponsored academies are the worst-performing type group in this analysis, and grade inheritance significantly contributes to the relatively low percentage of good or better schools since LA-maintained schools that receive an inadequate grade are typically subject to sponsored academisation.

Eighty-five per cent of free schools hold a good or outstanding grade but note that one-third of free schools are yet to be inspected.

6.1.2 Without grade inheritance

Figure 5 shows the distribution of schools by latest inspection and school type as of 31 January 2023 but removes the bias of grade inheritance by filtering out schools that were not inspected since changing type.

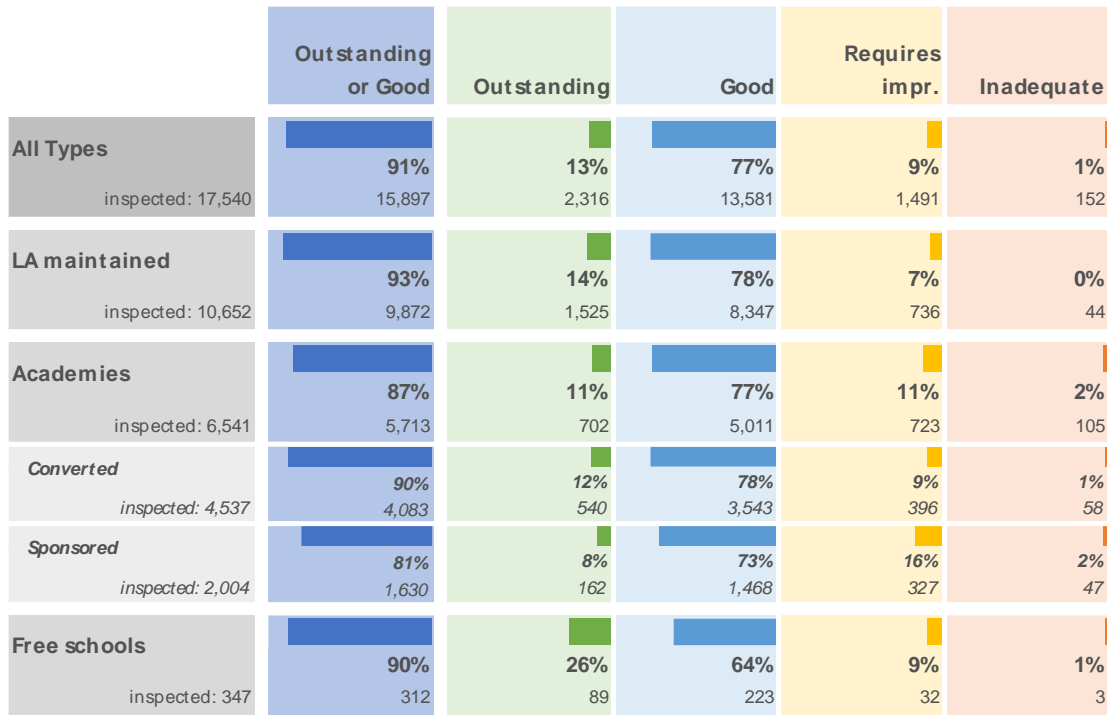


Figure 5: The distribution of primary and secondary schools by type and inspection grade (without grade inheritance) as of January 2023

There is one LA-maintained school with an inherited grade after it changed religious character but remained LA-maintained. No percentage figures are affected by discounting this school.

However, academy and free school values are affected since 27 per cent of all academies inherit their grade – 30 per cent of converter academies and 18 per cent of sponsored academies – and 5 per cent of free schools.

Without grade inheritance, the percentage of all academies with a good or outstanding grade increases by four percentage points, from 83 to 87 per cent. However, the percentage of outstanding schools drops by five percentage points, from 16 to 11 per cent.

Converter academies benefit most from outstanding grade inheritance. Without it, the percentage of outstanding schools drops by seven points, from 19 to 12 per cent. Fifty-

six per cent of outstanding converter academies are yet to be inspected since academising.

Sponsor-led academies show the most significant increase in schools holding a good or better grade once inheritance is discounted, with a rise of 14 percentage points, from 67 to 81 per cent. It also reduces the percentage of schools with an inadequate grade from 17 per cent to 2.

Free schools increase their percentage of good or outstanding schools by five percentage points after discounting grade inheritance.

6.2 Primary schools

In the following two figures, we limit the scope to schools Ofsted categorises as offering a primary phase education.

6.2.1 With grade inheritance

In Figure 6, we allow for grade inheritance.

As mentioned earlier, one LA-maintained school inherited their grade due to a change in religious character; a primary school.

Thirty-two per cent of all academies have inherited their grade as of 31 January 2023: 36 per cent of converter academies and 20 per cent of sponsored academies.

Two per cent of free schools have inherited their inspection grade.

	Outstanding or Good	Outstanding	Good	Requires impr.	Inadequate	Not inspected
All Types inspected: 16,650	90% 14,959	15% 2,446	75% 12,513	8% 1,303	2% 388	1% 134
LA maintained inspected: 9,982	93% 9,283	14% 1,436	79% 7,847	7% 660	0% 39	0% 13
Academies inspected: 6,515	85% 5,535	15% 960	70% 4,575	10% 633	5% 347	0% 18
Converted inspected: 4,848	91% 4,403	18% 860	73% 3,543	8% 401	1% 44	0% 13
Sponsored inspected: 1,667	68% 1,132	6% 100	62% 1,032	14% 232	18% 303	0% 5
Free schools inspected: 153	92% 141	33% 50	59% 91	7% 10	1% 2	40% 103

Figure 6: The distribution of primary schools by type and inspection grade (with grade inheritance) as of January 2023

With grade inheritance allowed, LA-maintained schools are the best-performing school type offering primary education, with 93 per cent holding a good or better grade.

Thirty-three per cent of free schools hold 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 per cent of all inspected primary schools – and the high proportion of primary phase free schools yet to be inspected, 40 per cent.

Of all primary phase academies, 85 per cent hold an outstanding or good grade, eight percentage points lower than LA-maintained schools. Furthermore, when broken down by route, neither converted nor sponsored academies, with 91 per cent and 68 per cent, respectively, hold a higher proportion than LA-maintained schools.

Converter academies, however, have a higher percentage of schools with outstanding grades than LA-maintained schools: 18 per cent compared to 14 per cent. But, as is shown in Figure 7, half of that percentage is gifted via grade inheritance.

Sponsored academies are the school type with the lowest percentage of good or outstanding schools, 68 per cent, and the highest percentage of inadequate schools, 18 per cent. Although, as is shown in Figure 7, most of those inadequate grades come via inheritance.

6.2.2 Without grade inheritance

In Figure 7, while the focus remains on primary schools, the grade inheritance bias has been removed. This discounts nearly one-third, 32 per cent, of all academies yet to be inspected since academising.

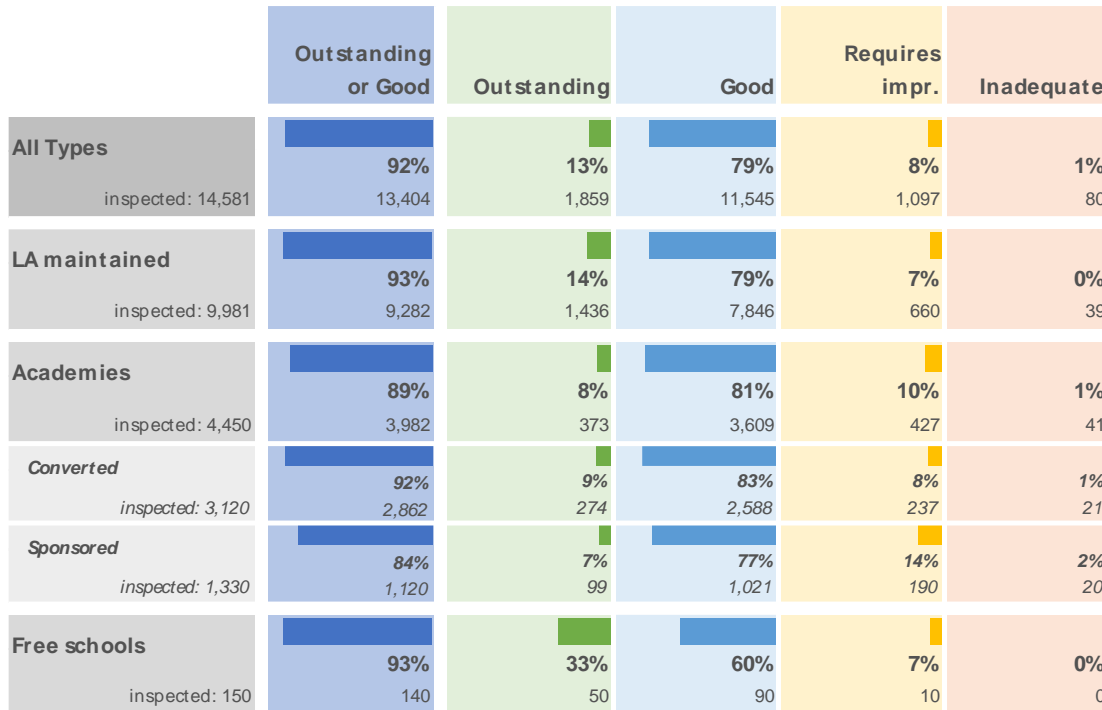


Figure 7: The distribution of primary schools by type and inspection grade (without grade inheritance) as of January 2023

LA-maintained percentages are unaffected by the discounting of one school with an inherited grade.

Meanwhile, the percentage of all academies with a good or better grade increases by four percentage points, from 85 to 89 per cent. Most of that improvement comes from

sponsored academies, where the percentage leaps from 68 to 84 per cent, or 16 percentage points.

Also, with sponsored academies, while the percentage of requires improvement schools remains the same, at 14 per cent, the percentage of inadequate schools drops from 18 per cent to just 2 per cent. Although note that 93 per cent of schools with an inherited inadequate grade are yet to be inspected again since academising.

For good and better grades, converter academies improve by just one percentage point, from 91 to 92 per cent. As mentioned, the percentage of outstanding schools drops significantly after removing grade inheritance, from 18 per cent to 9, a fall of 9 percentage points and five percentage points lower than LA-maintained schools.

Free schools have a good or better percentage identical to LA-maintained schools, with 93 per cent, but a much higher percentage of outstanding schools, with 33 per cent.

6.3 Secondary schools

With Figure 8 and Figure 9, we change the scope to schools Ofsted qualifies as providing a secondary phase education, including all-through schools.

6.3.1 With grade inheritance

In Figure 8, we allow for grade inheritance. The degree of grade inheritance in secondary schools is less prevalent than in primary schools.

Fourteen per cent of all secondary phase academies have an inherited grade: 14 per cent of converter academies, and 15 per cent of sponsored academies.

Eight per cent of secondary free schools have an inherited grade.

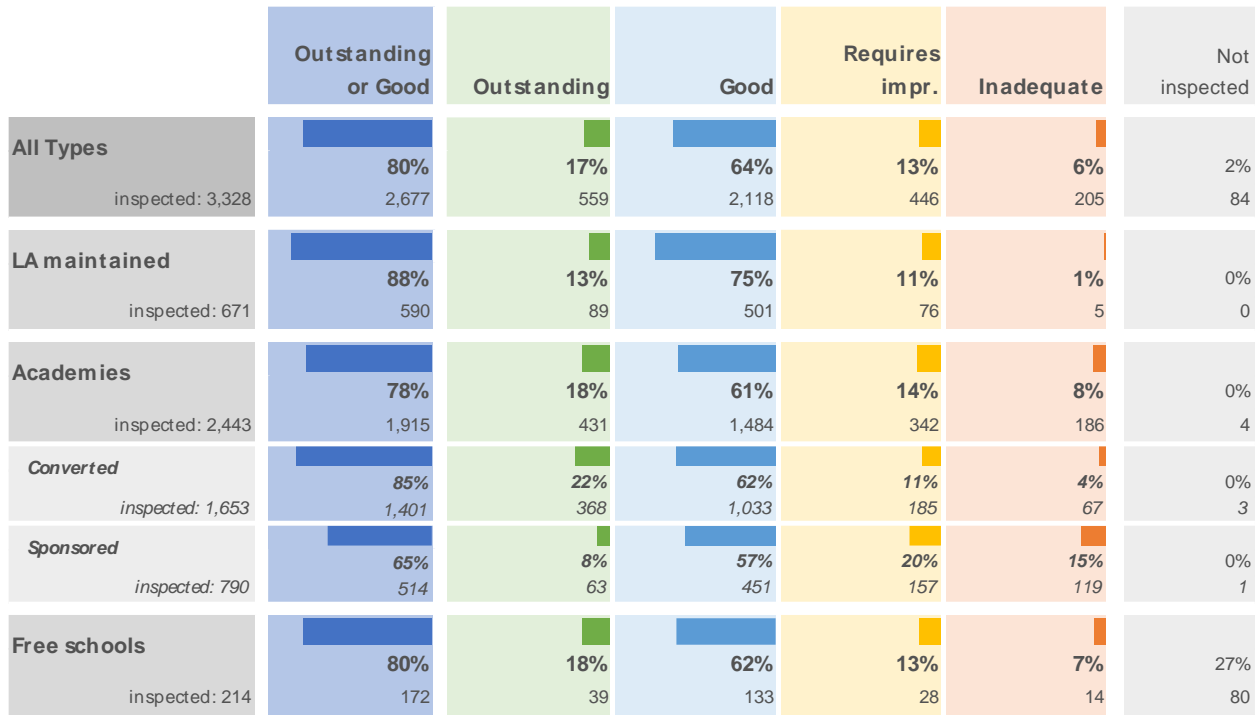


Figure 8: The distribution of secondary schools by type and inspection grade (with grade inheritance) as of January 2023

The percentage of outstanding or good schools is lower for all school types in the secondary phase compared to the primary phase. While 90 per cent of primary schools of all types have a good or outstanding grade when grade inheritance is applied, only 80 per cent of secondary schools meet the same standard.

There is a five percentage point gap between LA-maintained primary and secondary schools with a good or better grade, with 93 and 88 per cent, respectively. That gap is wider for all academies at seven percentage points, 85 per cent for primary and 78 per cent for secondary schools. Free schools have the widest gap between primary and secondary with 12 percentage points, 92 per cent for primary and 80 per cent for secondary schools.

LA-maintained schools are the best-performing school type when compared using the good or better percentage metric with 88 per cent. Seventy-eight per cent of all academies achieve this standard, ten percentage points lower than LA-maintained

schools. Converter academies have 85 per cent, and sponsored academies, the worst performing type, have 65 per cent. Free schools have 80 per cent.

However, academies have a higher proportion of schools holding an outstanding grade compared to LA-maintained schools, 18 per cent compared to 13 per cent. Similarly, free schools also have 18 per cent outstanding.

6.3.2 Without grade inheritance

In Figure 9, we keep our focus on secondary schools but remove the grade inheritance bias. This discounts 14 per cent of academies and 8 per cent of free schools from the analysis since they are yet to be inspected under their new type.

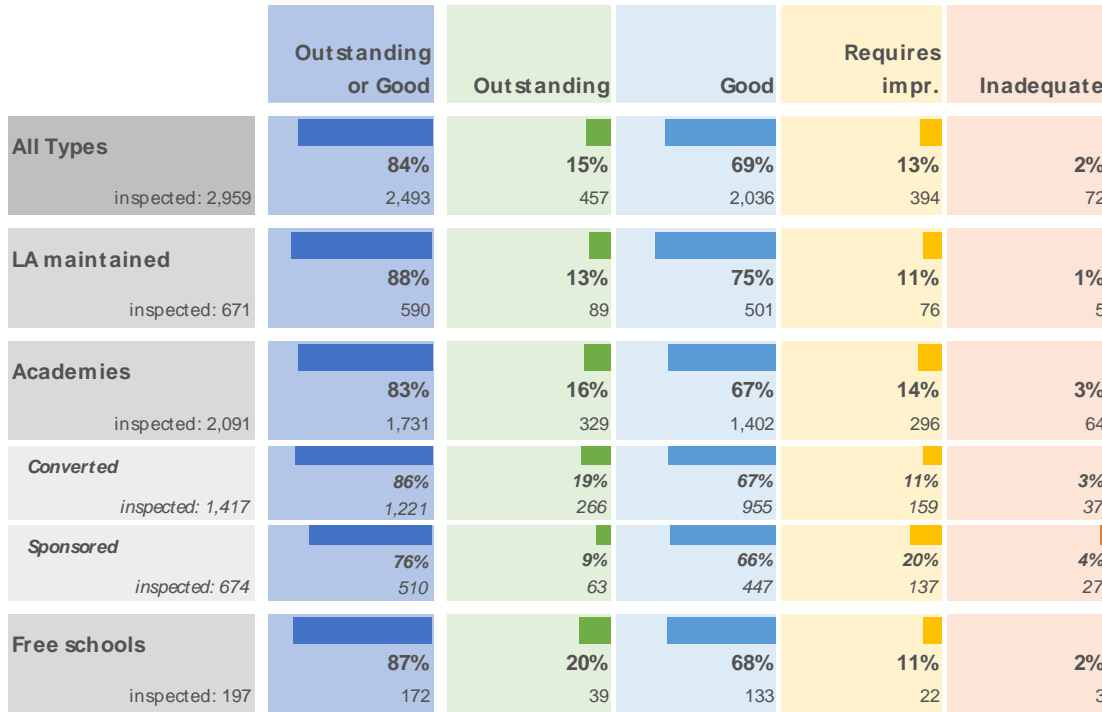


Figure 9: The distribution of secondary schools by type and inspection grade (without grade inheritance) as of January 2023

When we compare the gaps between primary and secondary for each school type in terms of the percentage of schools with a good or outstanding grade, this time without grade inheritance, each school type has a lower percentage in the secondary phase.

All academies fall by six percentage points (from 89 to 83 per cent), as do converter academies (from 92 to 86 per cent) and free schools (from 93 to 87 per cent). Sponsored academies have the widest gap with eight percentage points, from 84 per cent to 76 per cent. LA-maintained schools, unaffected at the secondary phase by grade inheritance, keep their five percentage point gap (93 to 88 per cent), the smallest drop of all school types.

LA-maintained schools are also the best performing secondary phase type group for good or outstanding graded schools, with 88 per cent. They are one percentage point higher than free schools, two percentage points higher than converter academies, five percentage points higher than all academies, and 12 percentage points higher than sponsored academies.

However, there are school types with a higher percentage of outstanding schools than the 13 per cent of LA-maintained schools. Free schools are the highest with 20 per cent, converted academies are 19 per cent, and all academies are 16 per cent.

7 Proportion of schools achieving a good or outstanding inspection by school type over time

In this chapter, we study the proportion of inspected schools with good or outstanding grades over time by school type.

Apart from the latest snapshot, which is dated 31 January 2023, the others are from 31 August each year to 2018 in the case of analysis with grade inheritance, and 2019 when the analysis excludes grade inheritance due to insufficient data in the 2018 dataset that does not allow us to determine conclusively if the latest grade was inherited.

7.1 Primary and secondary schools

Figure 10 and Figure 11 do not filter by phase; they include primary and secondary schools in their analysis.

7.1.1 With grade inheritance

In Figure 10, we allow grade inheritance.

The amount of grade inheritance fluctuates with each snapshot but shows a general downward trend.

For example, in August 2019, 40 per cent of all academies inherited their inspection grade. Inheritance reduced to 36 per cent by August 2020 but increased to 39 per cent by August 2021. By August 2022, this had declined to 30 per cent; by January 2023, it had reduced again to 27 per cent.

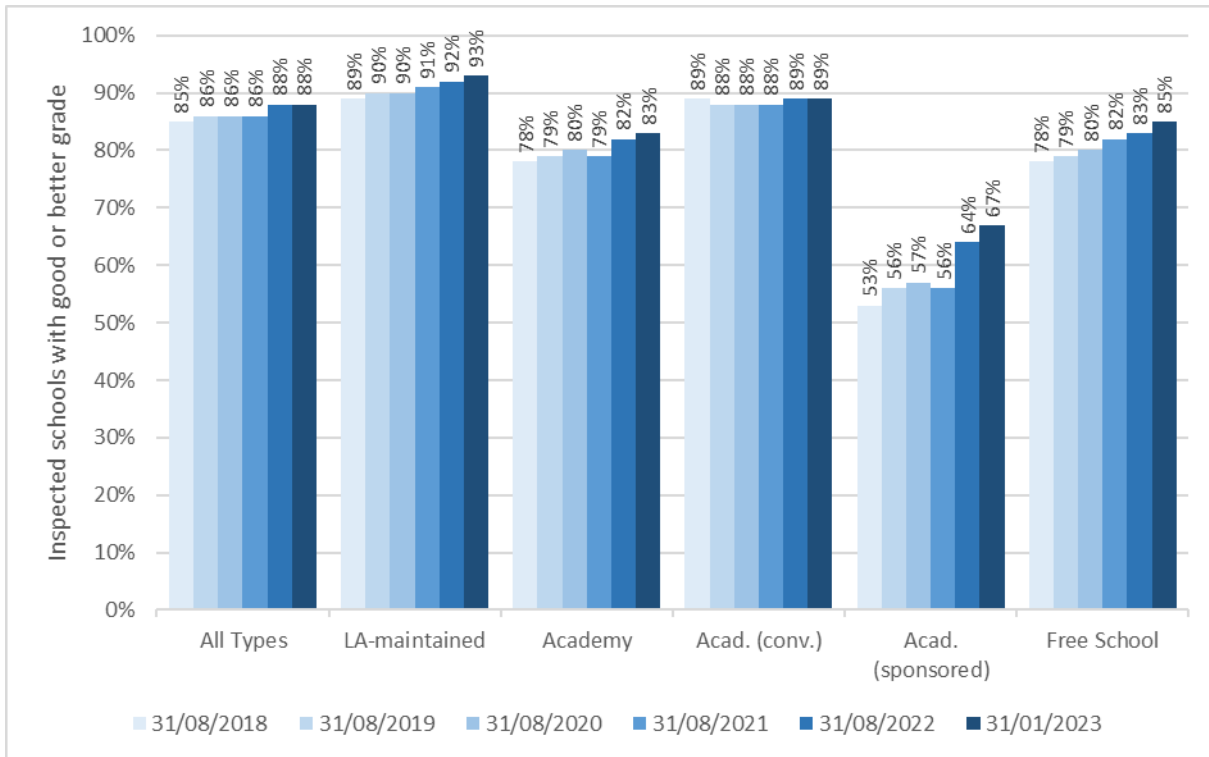


Figure 10: The proportion of schools achieving good or outstanding grades over time by school type

To varying degrees, every school type group, except converter academies, increased the percentage of good or outstanding schools since August 2018.

Sponsored academies have risen significantly, by 14 percentage points, from 53 to 67 per cent.

Free schools are the next highest climber with a rise of seven points from 78 to 85 per cent.

LA-maintained schools have risen from 89 per cent to 93, an increase of 4 percentage points.

7.1.2 Without grade inheritance

In Figure 11, we remove the bias applied by grade inheritance. Consequentially we lose the August 2018 snapshot where there is insufficient data to ascertain whether the grade is inherited, and therefore the earliest snapshot is 31 August 2019.

The percentage of schools of all types discounted from each snapshot varies from 17 per cent in August 2021 to 12 per cent in January 2023. However, these numbers differ significantly by type.

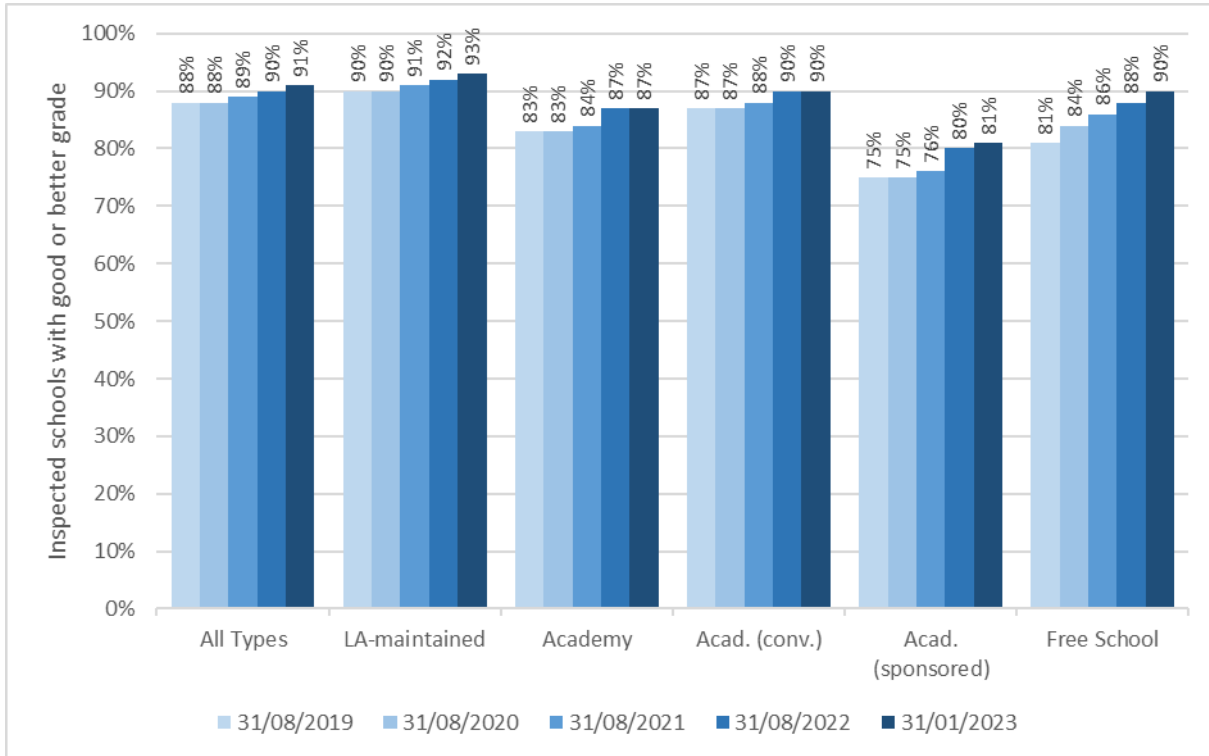


Figure 11: The proportion of schools achieving good or outstanding grades over time by school type, without grade inheritance

Since grade inheritance has minimal impact on LA-maintained schools, we see no percentage change. Between August 2019 and January 2023, they increase the percentage of good or outstanding schools by 3 points, from 90 to 93 per cent.

All academies, regardless of route, in the same period increased by 4 points, from 83 to 87 per cent. When we study the improvement by each academy route, we see a gain of three points by converters (from 87 to 90 per cent) and six points by sponsored academies (from 75 to 81 per cent).

The most significant increase is by free schools with a starting percentage of 81 per cent and a finishing at 90 per cent for a gain of 9 points.

7.2 Primary schools

In Figure 12 and Figure 13, we limit the scope to primary schools.

7.2.1 With grade inheritance

In Figure 12, grade inheritance is allowed.

While we're uncertain about the extent of grade inheritance in August 2018, 46 per cent of all primary phase academies inherited their grade in the August 2019 snapshot. By January 2023, this has reduced to 32 per cent.

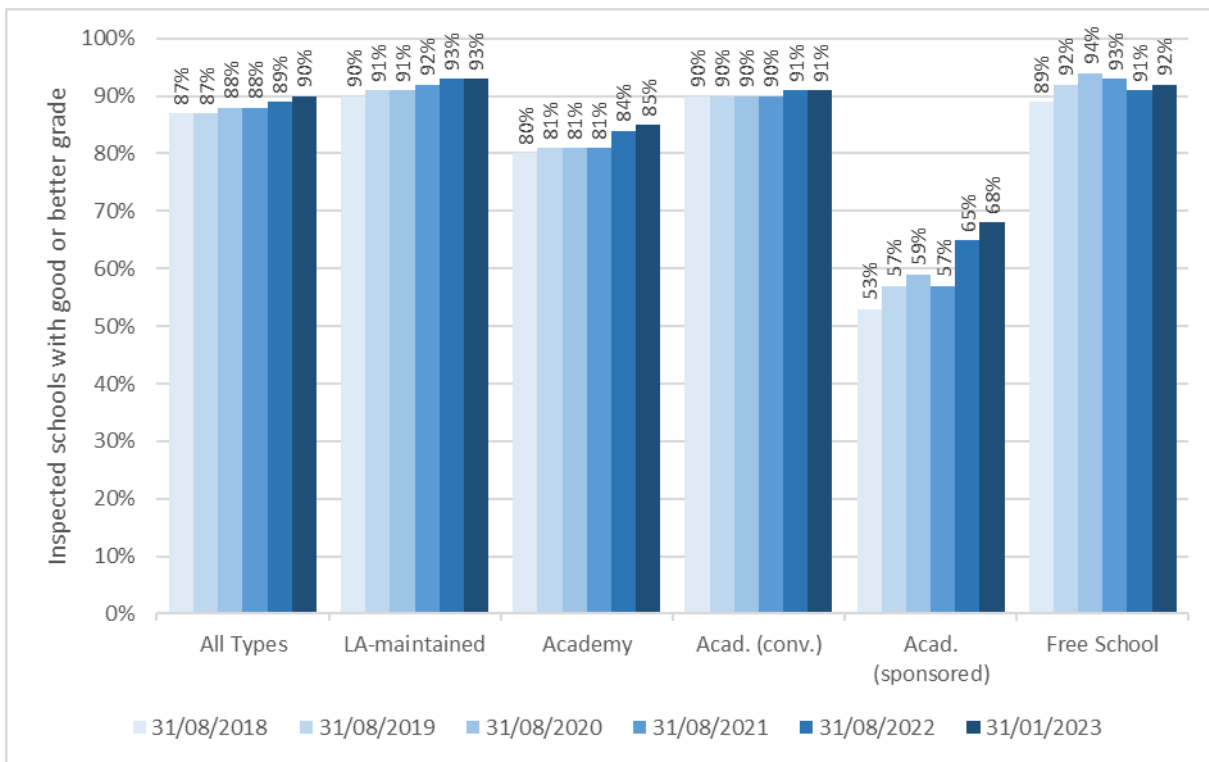


Figure 12: The proportion of primary schools achieving good or outstanding grades over time by school type

With grade inheritance, all primary phase schools show improvement between August 2018 and January 2023.

The type with the most significant improvement is sponsored academies which rose by 15 percentage points from 53 to 68 per cent. In the same period, converter academies improved by just one percentage point, from 90 to 91 per cent.

LA-maintained schools improved by 3 points, from 90 to 93 per cent.

By the end of the period, free schools had risen by three percentage points, from 89 to 92 per cent, yet they peaked at 94 per cent in August 2020 before falling to 92 per cent by January 2023.

7.2.2 Without grade inheritance

In Figure 13, we remove the grade inheritance bias.

The school type with the highest level of discounting due to removing grade inheritance is converter academies. Fifty-one per cent of academy converters held an inherited grade in August 2019. Inheritance has since reduced to 36 per cent by January 2023.

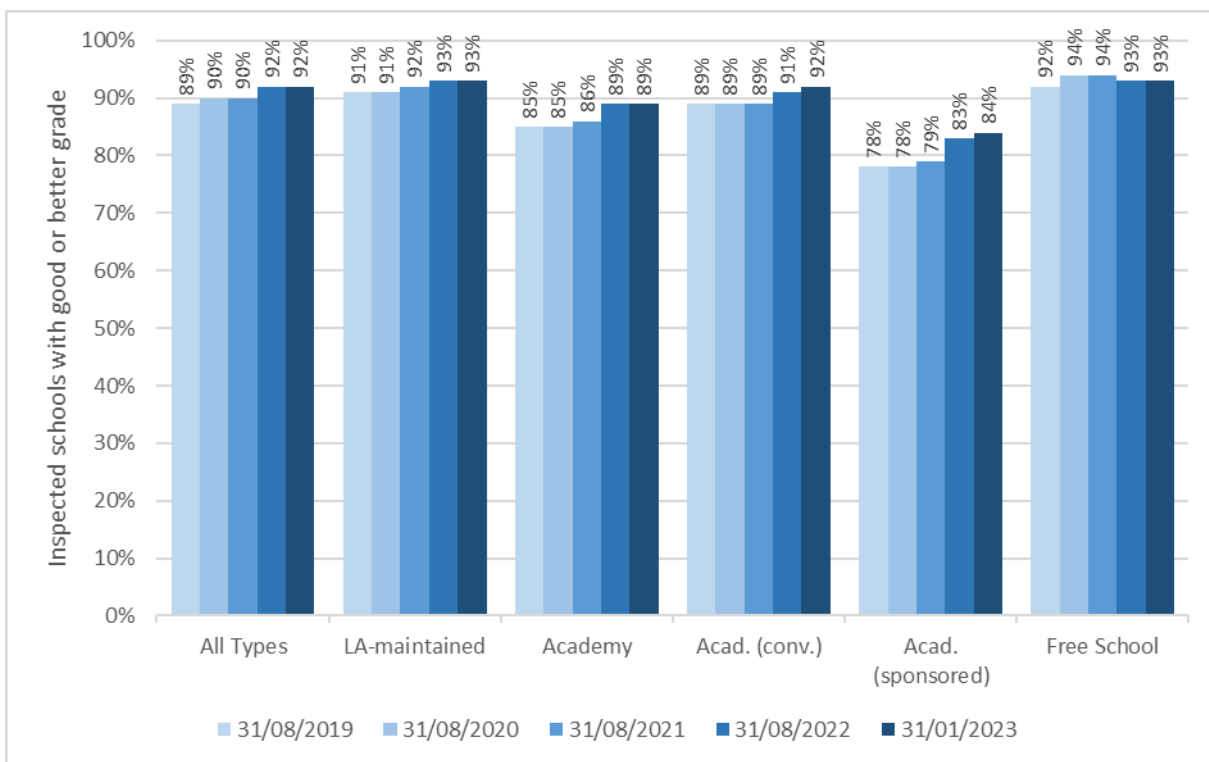


Figure 13: The proportion of primary schools achieving good or outstanding grades over time by school type, without grade inheritance

All school types have increased the percentage of schools with a good or better inspection grade by at least 1 per cent.

Sponsored academies have seen the most considerable rise, with a gain of six points from 78 per cent in August 2019 to 84 per cent in January 2023.

Converter academies have risen by three percentage points from 89 to 92 per cent, and LA-maintained schools have increased by 2 points from 91 to 93 per cent.

Free schools account for the slightest improvement, by one per cent between August 2019 and January 2023, from 92 to 93 per cent, although they peaked at 94 per cent in August 2020 and August 2021.

7.3 Secondary schools

In Figure 14 and Figure 15, we limit the scope to secondary phase schools, including all-through schools.

7.3.1 With grade inheritance

In Figure 14, we account for grade inheritance.

The degree of grade inheritance is lower for secondary schools than for primary schools. In August 2019, 24 per cent of all secondary academies inherited their inspection grade (this was 46 per cent of primary academies), this reduced to 22 per cent in August 2020, climbed to 24 per cent in August 2021, fell to 18 per cent in August 2022, and fell again to 14 per cent by January 2023.

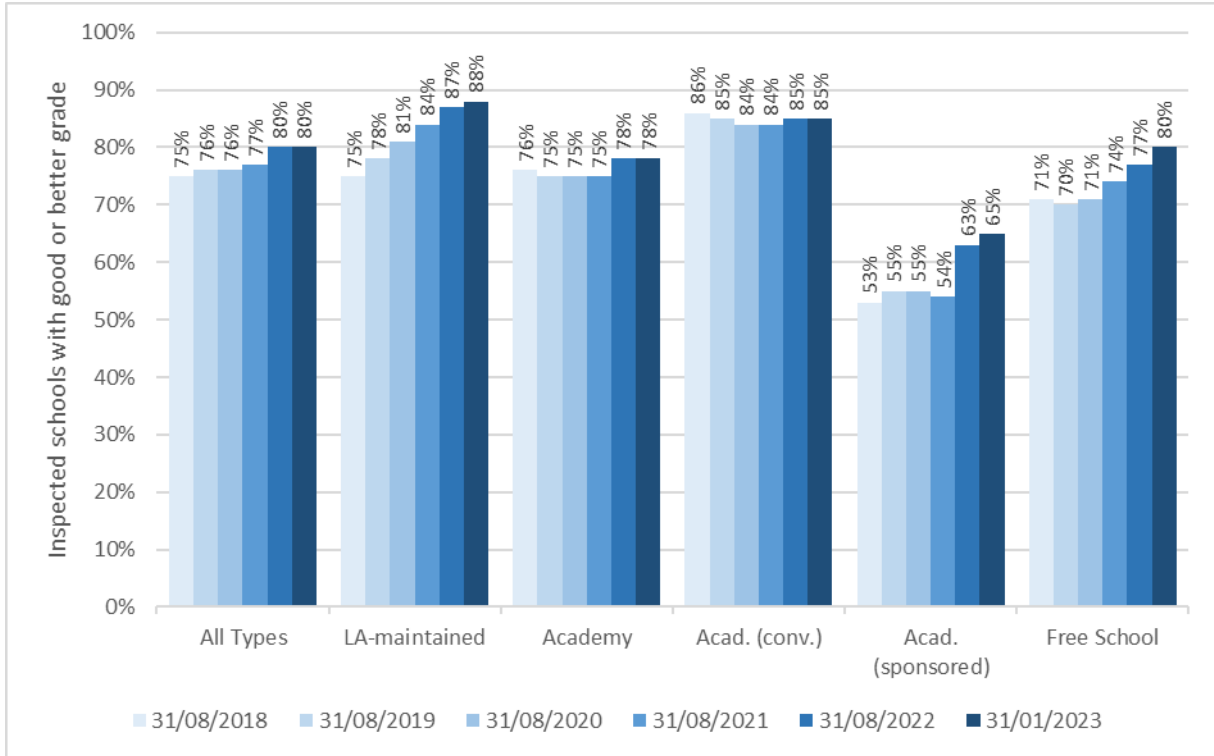


Figure 14: The proportion of secondary schools achieving good or outstanding grades over time by school type

The degree of improvement is greater for secondary than for primary schools. With primary schools, the difference in the percentage of schools with a good or outstanding grade between August 2018 and January 2023 was 3 points, albeit from a higher starting point of 87 per cent compared to 75 per cent. For secondary schools, the increase is five percentage points.

Converter academies show a one percentage point decrease, from 86 per cent in August 2018 to 85 per cent in January 2023. They are the only school type with a drop in percentage.

Other school types show an increase: LA-maintained schools increased by 13 points, from 75 per cent to 88. Sponsored academies increased by 12 points, from 53 per cent to 65 per cent, with a significant jump of 9 points between August 2021 and August 2022. Free schools rose by 9 points, from 71 per cent to 80.

7.3.2 Without grade inheritance

In Figure 15, we remove the grade inheritance bias.

The statistics for academies are impacted most by removing grade inheritance. To give an example of the impact on Figure 15: We discount 547 of the 1,766 academies (24 per cent) from the August 2019 snapshot, and by January 2023, we ignore 352 of 2,091 (14 per cent).

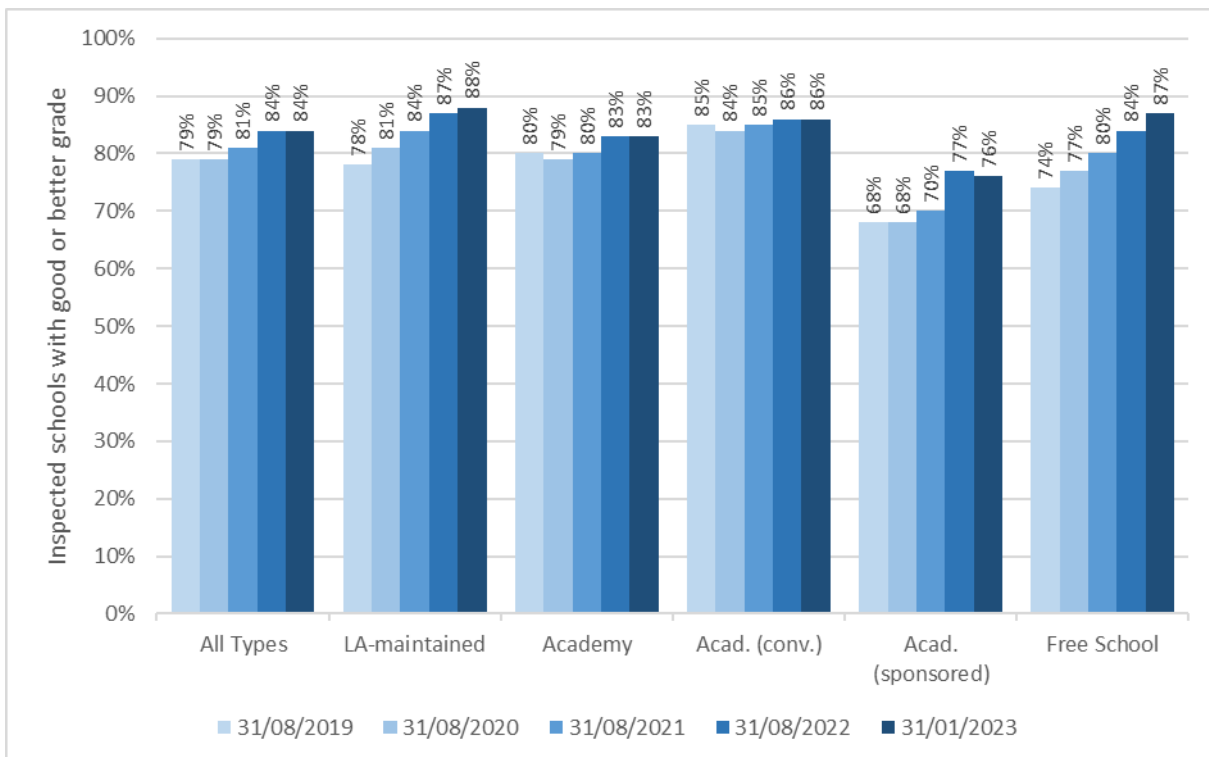


Figure 15: The proportion of secondary schools achieving good or outstanding grades over time by school type, without grade inheritance

As was the case with grade inheritance in place, the amount of improvement by secondary schools is greater than primary schools: for all schools, primary schools improved by three percentage points while secondary schools have improved by 5, again from a lower starting point, however, of 79 per cent compared to 89.

Free schools have seen the highest rate of improvement, rising by 13 percentage points from 74 to 87 per cent. Next, LA-maintained schools have improved from 78 per cent to 88, an increase of 10 points. Sponsored academies have risen by 8 points, from 68 to 76

per cent. Converter academies have the lowest amount of improvement: 1 percentage point, from 85 to 86 per cent.

8 Impact of academisation on inspection outcomes

In this chapter, we compare the latest inspection grades at two points, August 2018 and January 2023, based on the school types at those same points in time. We also study the impact of inspection grade inheritance on these values.

8.1 Schools which remained LA-maintained

In Figure 16, we focus on LA-maintained schools as of August 2018 and have remained such by January 2023.

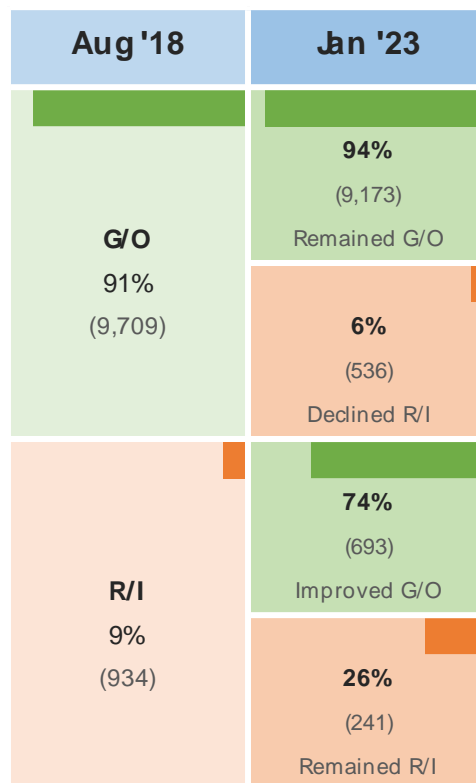


Figure 16: The inspection grade categories as of August 2018 and January 2023 of schools which were LA-maintained at both times

On 31 August 2018, 10,643 schools were LA-maintained, held an inspection grade on that date, and remained LA-maintained until January 2023.

At the start point, August 2018, 91 per cent of these schools held a good or outstanding grade (G/O). The other 9 per cent had a requires improvement or inadequate grade (R/I).

Of the schools with a good or outstanding grade in August 2018, 94 per cent remained good or outstanding by January 2023. Six per cent dropped to a requires improvement or inadequate grade by then.

Meanwhile, of the schools with a requires improvement or inadequate grade at the starting point, 74 per cent of them improved to a good or outstanding grade by January 2023. The remaining 26 per cent still hold a requires improvement or worse grade.

By January 2023, the number of in-scope LA-maintained schools with good or outstanding grades rose by 157, from 9,708 to 9,865. Consequentially, while 91 per cent of the LA-maintained schools were good or outstanding in August 2018, 93 per cent were so by January 2023.

8.2 Schools which academised with grade inheritance

In Figure 17, we study the 1,912 schools which were LA-maintained in August 2018 but academised by January 2023 we've been able to map. Grade inheritance is applied to the January 2023 latest inspection grades.

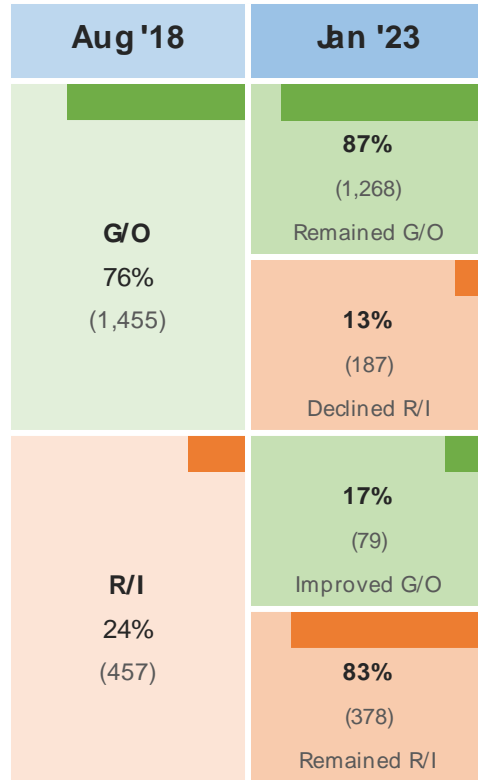


Figure 17: The inspection grade categories as of August 2018 and January 2023 of schools which were LA-maintained at the former and an academy at the latter

As of August 2018, 76 per cent of the LA-maintained schools that later became academies held a good or outstanding grade, by January 2023, and now as academies, 87 per cent of those schools remained good or better, seven percentage points fewer than those that remained LA-maintained. 13 per cent declined to a requires improvement or inadequate grade.

Of the 24 per cent that started with a requires improvement grade or worse, only 17 per cent improved to a good or better standard, 57 points less than schools that remained LA-maintained. The majority, 83 per cent, remained inadequate or requires improvement.

Consequentially, while 76 per cent of schools were good or outstanding in August 2018 when they were LA-maintained, this percentage dropped by six points to 70 per cent by January 2023 after 108 schools moved from a good or better grade to a requires

improvement or worse grade. For comparison, schools which remained LA-maintained rose from 91 to 93 per cent.

8.3 Schools which academised without grade inheritance

In Figure 188, we repeat the exercise from Figure 17 in comparing schools which were LA-maintained in August 2018 and academised by January 2023, but we remove the grade inheritance bias. We, therefore, remove schools which have not been inspected by January 2023 since academising.

However, after applying this filter, the drastic reduction in applicable schools is worth noting: from 1,912 in Figure 17 to 114 here, just six per cent of the schools from Figure 18, making this analysis unsuitable for drawing solid conclusions.

The reasons for these low numbers are two-fold: Firstly, before 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. Secondly, the COVID-19 pandemic paused inspections in March 2020, restarting on a small scale in April 2021 and at a more regular pace from September 2021.

The government has asked Ofsted to inspect all schools, regardless of typical inspection timeframes, before the autumn term of 2025. Therefore, we expect a fuller picture to emerge over the coming months and years.

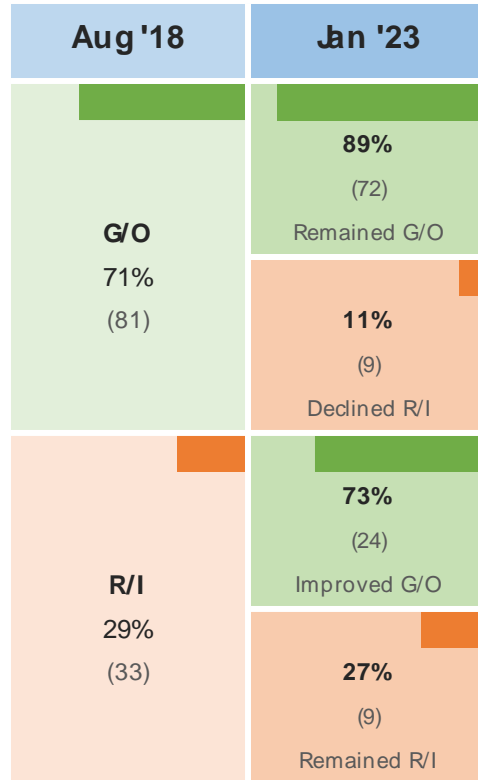


Figure 18: The inspection grade categories as of August 2018 and January 2023 of schools which were LA-maintained and academised by the latter, without grade inheritance

Of our limited data, 71 per cent of schools started as LA-maintained with a good or better grade. Eighty-nine per cent of those schools, following inspection after academising, maintained a good or outstanding grade, five percentage points fewer than schools that remained LA-maintained.

Meanwhile, of the 29 per cent of schools which started with a requires improvement or inadequate grade as of August 2018 as an LA-maintained school, 73 per cent rose to a good or outstanding grade, 1 point less than schools that remained LA-maintained.

Overall, by January 2023, the percentage of schools with a good or outstanding grade rose from 71 per cent in August 2018 to 84 per cent in January 2023.

8.4 Schools which were already academies with grade inheritance

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 by August 2018.

Figure 19 does this and comprises 6,994 schools already an academy as of August 2018, held an inspection grade at that time (inherited or earned) and mapped to an academy in the January 2023 data.

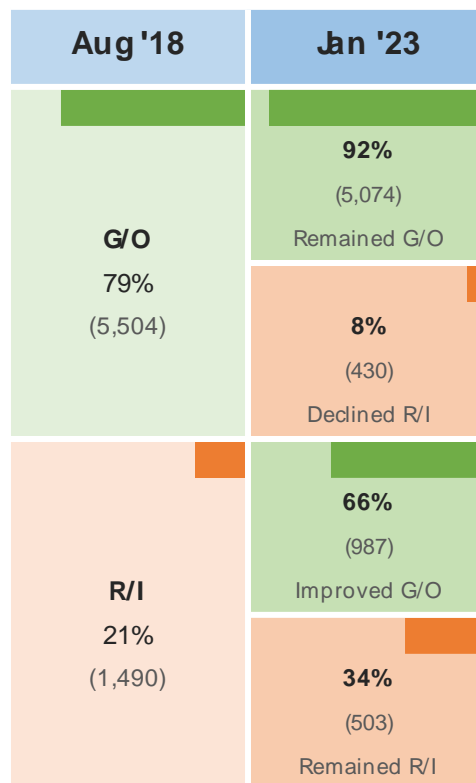


Figure 19: The inspection grade categories as of August 2018 and January 2023 of schools which were academised at both times

Seventy-nine per cent of these academies started with a good or outstanding grade in August 2018. By January 2023, 92 per cent remained good or outstanding, two percentage points lower than LA-maintained schools. The remaining 8 per cent of academies dropped to a requires improvement or inadequate grade.

Meanwhile, 21 per cent of academies had a requires improvement or inadequate grade as of August 2018. By January 2023, 66 per cent of those schools had managed to improve that grade to good or better. LA-maintained schools managed to elevate the grade of 74 per cent of their schools that started from the same position, eight percentage points more.

Thirty-four per cent of academies remained with a requires improvement or inadequate grade by January 2023.

Overall, the number of academies with good or outstanding grades increased by 557 from August 2018 to January 2023, a rise of eight points from 79 to 87 per cent.

8.5 Schools which were already academies without grade inheritance

In Figure 20, to stop the bias of grade inheritance, we have discounted academies that inherit their January 2023 inspection grade, causing 615 academies to be discounted and leaving 91 per cent of academies from Figure 19.

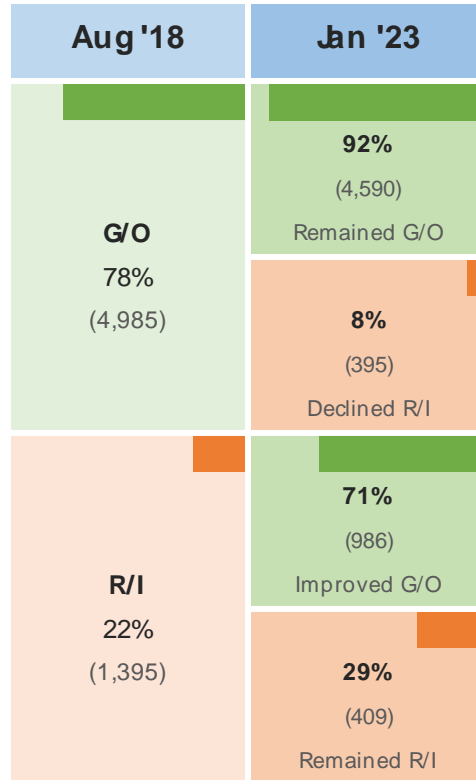


Figure 20: The inspection grade categories as of August 2018 and January 2023 of schools which were academised at both times, without grade inheritance in January 2023

As of August 2018, 78 per cent of academies held the latest inspection grade of good or outstanding. Note that inspection grades from this time are still subject to grade inheritance. Ninety-two per cent of these academies still held a good or better grade by January 2023. That is two percentage points less than LA-maintained schools. The remaining 8 per cent declined to requires improvement or inadequate.

The other 22 per cent started with an inadequate or requires improvement grade. Seventy-one per cent were able to improve the latest inspection grade to good or outstanding, three percentage points lower than LA-maintained schools, which managed to improve the grade of 74 per cent of schools from the same starting point.

Overall, the number of academies with a good or outstanding grade increased by 591, from 78 to 87 per cent, a rise of 9 points.

In Figure 21, we have removed grade inheritance not only from January 2023 but also from the starting point. Due to insufficient information in the August 2018 data, we have changed the starting point to August 2019, where the information exists.

Therefore in Figure 21, there are 4,607 academies with no grade inheritance bias; the included academies have been inspected since academising and before August 2019.

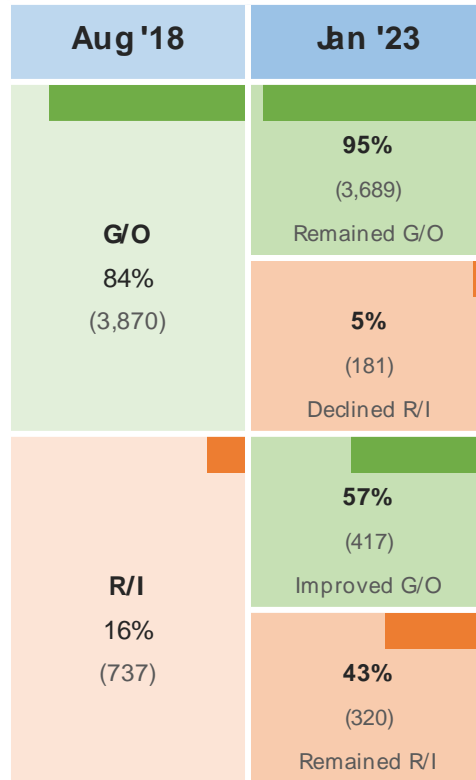


Figure 21: The inspection grade categories as of August 2019 and January 2023 of schools which were academised at both points and without grade inheritance at both points

Eighty-four per cent of academies started with a good or outstanding grade in August 2019. Ninety-five per cent of these academies have remained good or better by January 2023, one percentage point higher than the equivalent value for LA-maintained schools. The remaining 5 per cent have dropped to a requires improvement or inadequate grade. Sixteen per cent of academies started with a requires improvement or inadequate grade. Fifty-seven per cent improved by January 2023 to a good or outstanding grade, 17

percentage points lower than LA-maintained schools who managed to convert 73 per cent of schools from the same starting point.

Overall the percentage of good or outstanding schools increased by five percentage points, from 84 to 89 per cent, after a net gain of 236 schools improving their inspection outcome.

9 Comparing inspection outcomes from specific grade starting points of LA-maintained schools and academies

In the following analysis, we study the distribution of inspection grades as of January 2023 for schools that shared the same inspection grade as of August 2018, grouping by school type.

The schools were their type at both points in time. For example, for the LA-maintained series, the included schools were LA-maintained as of August 2018 and January 2023. Schools that academised during this period are discounted from this analysis.

Each chart displays two values for academies: the first with grade inheritance applied to the January 2023 grade and the second which discounts academies with inherited grades. The latter gives the fairest comparison between academies and LA-maintained schools.

Due to the August 2018 data limitations, grade inheritance is always applied to the starting point grade.

9.1 Outstanding schools as of August 2018

In Figure 22, we study schools with outstanding grades as of August 2018 and did not change type by January 2023.

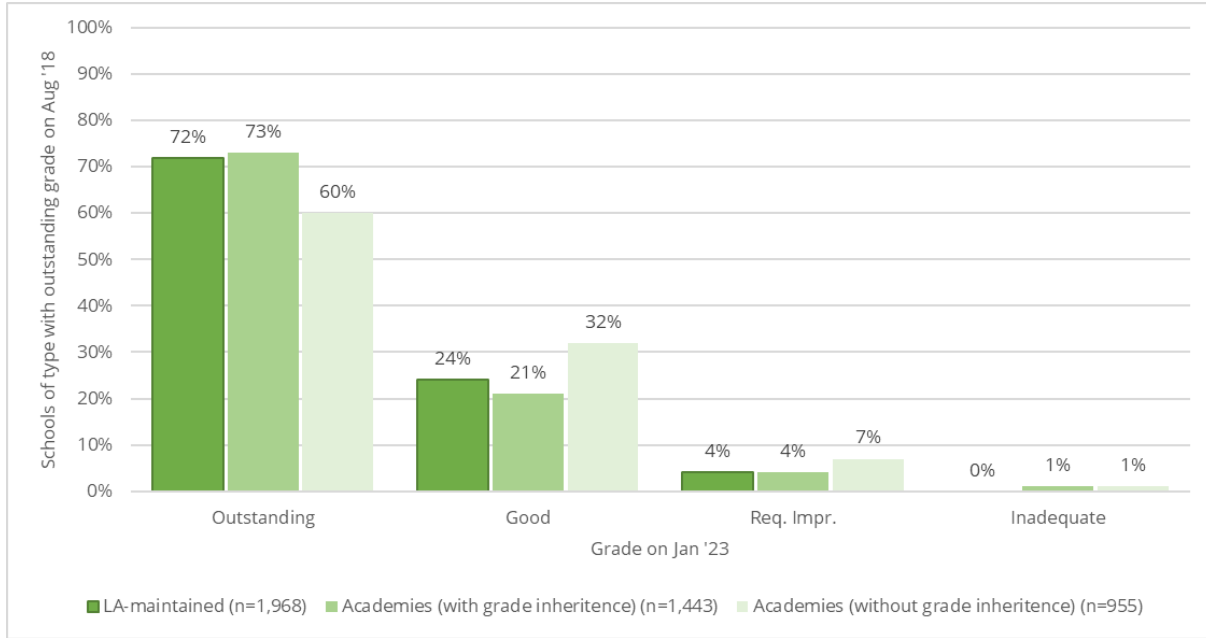


Figure 22: Latest inspection grade for schools with an outstanding grade as of August 2018, by school type

The number of LA-maintained schools in August 2018 with outstanding grades and still LA-maintained in January 2023 was 1,968. Seventy-two per cent of those schools still held an outstanding grade by January 2023.

With grade inheritance applied, 73 per cent of the in-scope 1,443 academies remained outstanding by January 2023, reducing to 60 per cent once grade inheritance is disapplied and we remove over 480 academies from scope, a drop of 13 percentage points, and 12 percentage points lower than LA-maintained schools.

Twenty-eight per cent of LA-maintained schools fell by at least one grade, 24 per cent to good, 4 per cent to requires improvement, and 0 per cent to inadequate, compared with 27 per cent for academies with grade inheritance, and rises to 40 per cent for academies without grade inheritance, the latter is 12 percentage points higher than LA-maintained schools.

9.2 Good schools as of August 2018

In Figure 23, we study schools with good inspection grades as of August 2018.

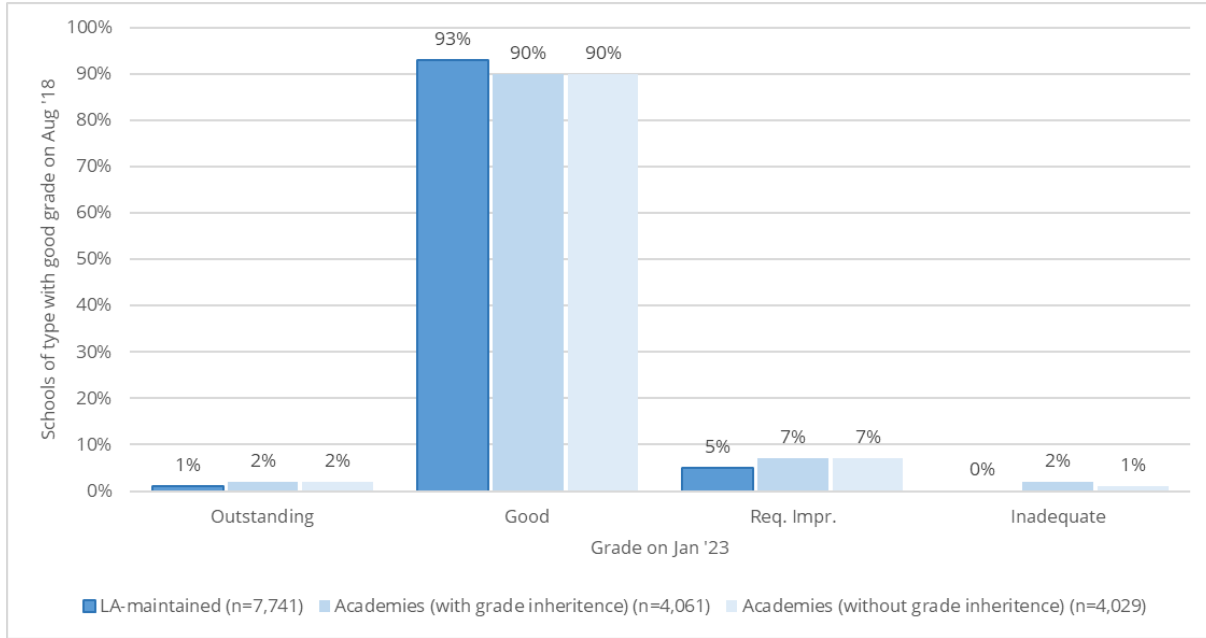


Figure 23: Latest inspection grade for schools with a good grade as of August 2018, by school type

LA-maintained schools had the highest percentage of schools maintaining a good grade by January 2023, with 93 per cent, three percentage points higher than academies (both with and without grade inheritance) at 90 per cent.

Academies were able to make a slightly higher percentage of schools rise to outstanding compared to LA-maintained schools: 2 per cent compared to 1 per cent.

However, there is a higher incidence of academies declining by at least 1 grade compared to LA-maintained schools. Six per cent of LA-maintained schools dropped (after rounded percentages are handled), nine per cent of academies with grade inheritance declined, and eight per cent without grade inheritance did so.

9.3 Requires improvement schools as of August 2018

In Figure 24, we study schools which held a requires improvement grade as of August 2018.

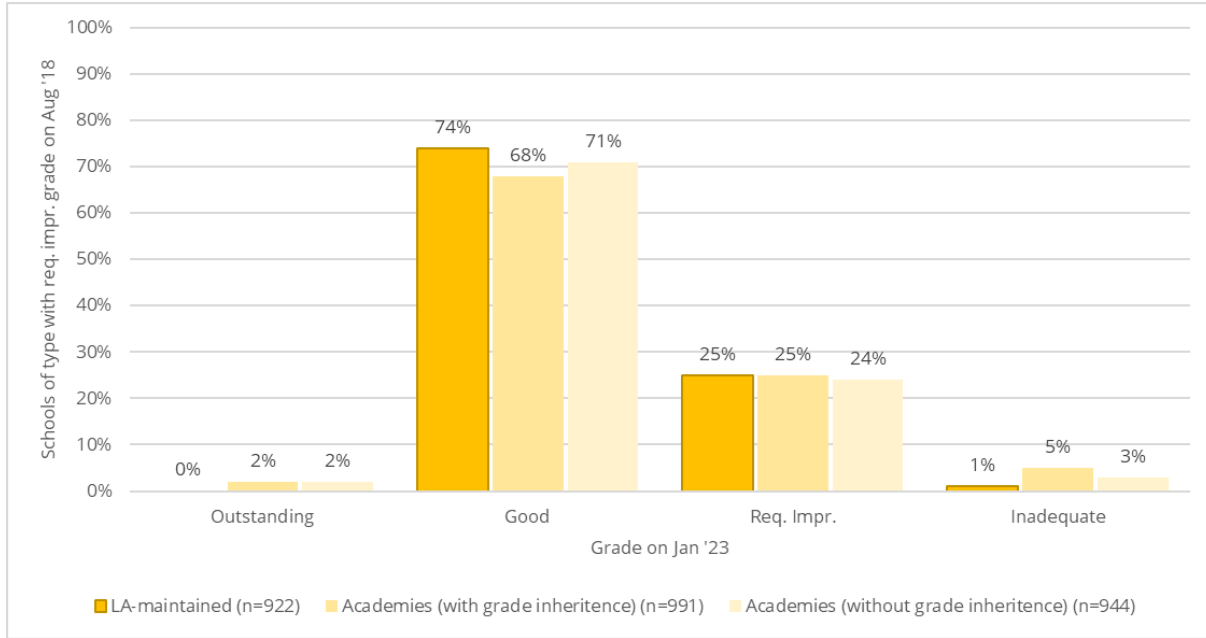


Figure 24: Latest inspection grade for schools with a requires improvement grade as of August 2018, by school type

The percentage of schools maintaining a requires improvement grade between August 2018 and January 2023 is relatively consistent across the three analysed school groups: LA-maintained schools and academies with grade inheritance have 25 per cent, and academies without grade inheritance drop slightly to 24 per cent.

LA-maintained schools have had the most success in converting their schools to an improved good grade, with 74 per cent, followed by academies without grade inheritance at 71 per cent and academies with grade inheritance at 68 per cent.

However, the three LA-maintained schools that managed to improve by two grades to outstanding were insufficient to register one per cent. In contrast, two per cent of academies (both with and without grade inheritance) managed to rise to this level.

Academies did have a higher incidence of schools dropping to an inadequate grade than LA-maintained schools. Five per cent of academies with grade inheritance and three per cent without grade inheritance, compared to one per cent of LA-maintained schools.

9.4 Inadequate schools as of August 2018

In Figure 25, we compare the outcomes of schools with inadequate grades as of August 2018.

Notably, only 12 LA-maintained schools are included in this analysis, typically due to enforced academisation of LA-maintained schools graded as inadequate. 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.

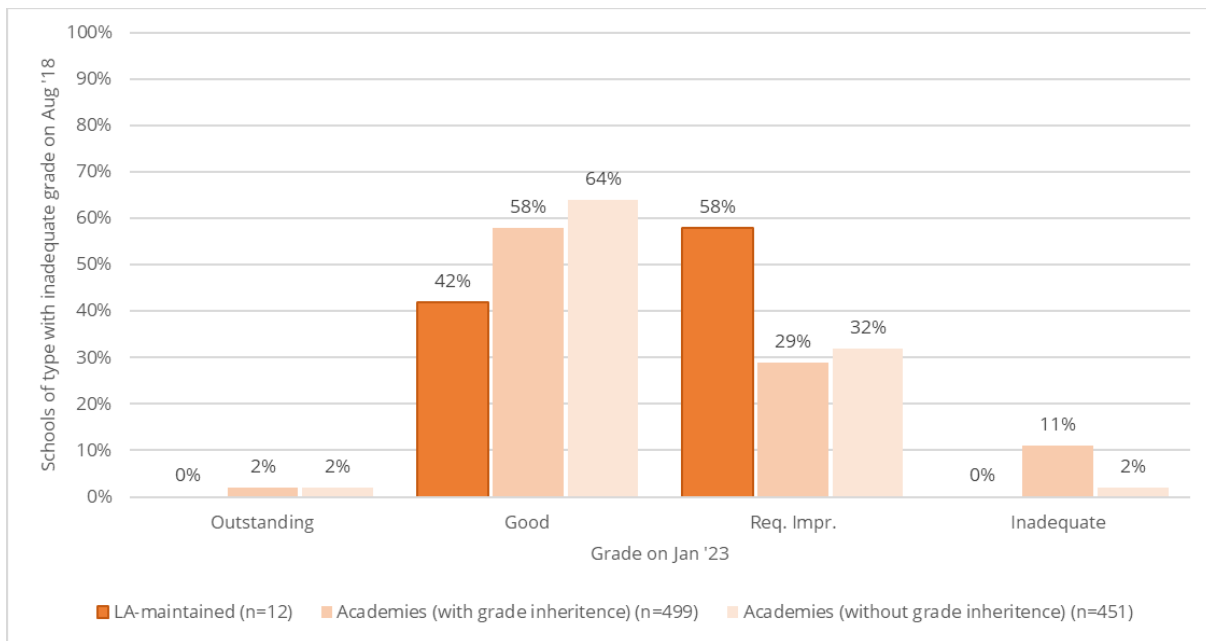


Figure 25: Latest inspection grade for schools with an inadequate grade as of August 2018, by school type

Of the few LA-maintained schools, all managed to improve their grade by at least 1 step: 58 per cent climbed to a requires improvement grade, and 42 per cent further still to a good grade. However, this small dataset makes it insufficient to draw good comparisons.

Academies have a more representative dataset; 499 schools with grade inheritance and 451 once grade inheritance is disallowed.

Eleven per cent of academies maintain an inadequate grade when grade inheritance is allowed. The figure drops to 2 per cent when we remove grade inheritance.

Thirty-two per cent of academies without grade inheritance have climbed one grade to requires improvement, three percentage points more than academies with grade inheritance.

However, most academies have climbed two grades to good: 58 per cent of academies with grade inheritance and 64 per cent without.

A small percentage, two per cent in each case, has risen by three grades, from inadequate to outstanding, for both academy routes.

10 Endnotes

ⁱ <https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/changes-to-ofsteds-statistical-reporting-of-inspection-outcomes-for-state-funded-schools-an-analysis-of-the-changes>

ⁱⁱ <https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/state-funded-schools-inspections-and-outcomes-as-at-31-august-2022>

ⁱⁱⁱ <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/common-inspection-framework-education-skills-and-early-years-from-september-2015>

^{iv} <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/education-inspection-framework>

^v <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/ofsted-suspends-all-routine-inspections>

^{vi} <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/education-inspections-in-the-summer-term>

^{vii} <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/ofsted-accelerates-inspections-for-schools-and-further-education-providers>