17 December 2018

Jim Cunningham MP
House of Commons
Westminster
SW1A 0AA

Dear Mr. Cunningham,

PARLIAMENTARY QUESTION NUMBER 202289:

To ask the Secretary of State for Education, what guidance (a) his Department and (b) Ofsted provide to schools on the regularity with which student progress should be assessed in (i) primary and (ii) secondary schools.

Your Parliamentary Question was passed to me, as Her Majesty's Chief Inspector, for response.

Under our current inspection framework, Ofsted considers pupil progress against the standards expected for their age, nationally and within the school’s curriculum. We also look at how effectively leaders monitor the progress of pupils and how effectively governors hold them to account for that. However, we do not set out any specific expectations as to how often progress should be assessed or how progress and performance information should be presented. These are decisions for schools, within the requirements set out by the Department for Education.

The recent report by the Teacher Workload Advisory Group, ‘Making data work’, recommended that school leaders should not have more than two or three data collection points a year, which should be used to inform clear actions. Ofsted has accepted, and supports, the recommendations of the group.

Ofsted will be releasing a consultation on its new inspection framework in January 2019.
I hope you find this information helpful.

Yours sincerely

Amanda Spielman

Amanda Spielman
Her Majesty’s Chief Inspector