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18 November 2024

Ms Sarah Hall MP
Member of Parliament for Warrington South
House of Commons
London
SW1A 0AA

Sir Martyn Oliver
His Majesty's Chief Inspector

Sent by email to: sarah.hall.mp@parliament.uk

Dear Ms Hall

PARLIAMENTARY QUESTION NUMBER 13151

To ask the Secretary of State for Education, what steps her Department is taking to ensure Ofsted inspections assess the steps schools take to ensure children's wellbeing on the school estate.

Your recent Parliamentary Question has been passed to me for response as His Majesty's Chief Inspector for Standards in Education, Children's Services and Skills.

Across all of the sectors we inspect and regulate, we put the safety and well-being of all children and learners at the heart of our work.

As set out in our 'School inspection handbook', inspectors evaluate how schools support pupils' personal development during inspections.¹ They look at how well a school develops pupils' understanding of how to keep themselves physically and mentally healthy, safeguarding risks (including online risks), issues of consent and what constitutes a healthy relationship (both online and offline), and sexual harassment and sexual violence. We also expect schools to provide effective pastoral support.

Earlier this year, we held the largest public consultation in our history, the Big Listen, to hear feedback about all aspects of our work from the professionals we work with, as well as from the parents, carers, children and learners we work for.

¹ 'School inspection handbook', Ofsted, September 2024;
<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/school-inspection-handbook-eif>.

We heard from children that they want us to prioritise their happiness and well-being in our inspections and, as we set out in our response to the Big Listen, we will report on how schools are supporting children's happiness and well-being in our new report cards.²

We will set out more details in due course when we consult on our new report cards in early 2025.

I hope you find this information helpful.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Sir Martyn Oliver". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Sir Martyn Oliver
His Majesty's Chief Inspector

² 'Ofsted Big Listen', Ofsted, September 2024; <https://www.gov.uk/government/consultations/ofsted-big-listen>.