

LA-Maintained Schools & Academies

There are approximately 22,000 **schools** in England. **68% of secondary schoolsⁱ and 31% of primary schoolsⁱⁱ are now academies** rather than LA-maintained schools. This report aims to provide multiple views of school performance for different school types using Ofsted inspection data.

This report includes analysis of school inspection performance from the following perspectives:

- Using the current Ofsted methodology
- Using the old Ofsted methodology
- Using a normalised Ofsted methodology over time.
- Comparing the change in Ofsted grades of schools that remained LA-maintained to those that became Academies.

This report makes use of data published by Ofsted, and includes **inspections from 2005 onwards and published before 28th February 2019** unless explicitly stated otherwise. The **primary data source** for the counts and percentages in this report is "**Management information – state-funded schools – as at 28 Feb 2019**"ⁱⁱⁱ.

In June 2018 Ofsted introduced a significant methodology change, outlined in "**Changes to Ofsted's statistical reporting of inspection outcomes for state-funded schools: main findings**"^{iv}. The new methodology is to include the predecessor grades of **all** schools in their analysis to provide a "*more comprehensive view of the sector*". This change will have the most noticeable effect on sponsor-led academies where previous analysis has treated them as a new provision with no previous inspection grade. The predecessor grades for schools that have not yet been inspected in their current form, will be reported in a new category, "Not inspected in current form", under the new methodology.

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1. Analysis using Ofsted's methodology

Using Ofsted's published data as at 28th February 2019, the **overall grade distribution** by school type is shown below (**Fig 1**). **LA-maintained schools have the highest percentage of Good or Outstanding schools with 89%, this is 4% higher than academies with 85% Good or Outstanding.** Free schools have a *Good or Outstanding* percentage of 86%. If the two academy routes are considered separately, then converter academies can be seen to be have a *Good or Outstanding* percentage that is the same as LA-maintained schools (89%), while the *Good or Outstanding* percentage of sponsored academies is much lower (72%).

	LA-maintained Schools *	Academies **	Sponsored Academies	Converter Academies ***	Free Schools ****	Not Inspected in current form *****
<i>Total Inspected</i>	12,866	7,042	1,469	5,573	243	731
<i>Outstanding or Good</i>	89% (11488)	85% (5994)	72% (1054)	89% (4940)	86% (210)	14% (104)
<i>Outstanding</i>	19% (2411)	23% (1590)	9% (137)	26% (1453)	30% (74)	0% (2)
<i>Good</i>	71% (9077)	63% (4404)	62% (917)	63% (3487)	56% (136)	14% (102)
<i>Requires Improvement</i>	10% (1230)	13% (894)	23% (344)	10% (550)	11% (26)	27% (198)
<i>Inadequate</i>	1% (148)	2% (154)	5% (71)	1% (83)	3% (7)	59% (429)
<i>Not Inspected</i>	15	46	37	9	129	0

FIG 1 NOTES:

The figures in the table include Ofsted inspections carried out and published on or before 28th February 2019 (as published in Ofsted monthly statistics).

- * Limited to community schools, community special schools, foundation schools, foundation special schools, voluntary aided and voluntary controlled schools.
- ** Includes converter, special converter, special sponsor-led and sponsor-led. Excludes alternative provision, free schools, studio schools and UTC.
- *** Includes converter and special converter. Excludes alternative provision.
- **** Excludes alternative provision.
- ***** Any school whose most recent inspection is inherited from a predecessor school with a different URN. Converter academies that fall under this criteria are still included in the Converter Academies column & are not included here.

This section uses the methodology implemented by Ofsted in June 2018. This methodology introduced a new '*School Type*' category, under which the predecessor grades of all schools are group together, with the exception of converter academies. The majority of schools that would be affected by the methodology change to include predecessor grades for all schools, are sponsor-led academies. This means the methodology change has not affected the distribution of grades for sponsor-led academies, or other school types, compared to the previous Ofsted methodology. This is explored further in [Section 2](#).

Comparing the performance of LA-maintained schools and academies from this perspective is affected by a number of factors.

Firstly, the Ofsted inspection framework **changes over time** and it changed substantially in September 2012^v and again in September 2015 with the introduction of the Common Inspection Framework^{vi}. This means **at different points in time a different set of judgement factors were used to assess schools** and therefore longitudinal analysis using inspections can be affected by these changes.

Secondly, **when schools move from LA-maintained to academy status, the appearance of both cohorts is affected.**

For example, when a *Good* or *Outstanding* LA-maintained school converts to an academy, **the LA-maintained statistics will appear weaker** from then on. **The academy statistics will appear stronger**, because **Ofsted retain the predecessor grades of converter academies**. In fact, 66% of *Outstanding* converter academies attained their grade while classed as *LA-maintained*, as did 61% of *Good* converter academies^{vii}.

When an LA-maintained school that is *Inadequate* or *Requires Improvement* becomes a sponsored academy, **the LA-maintained picture will look stronger**. However, **the academy picture does not appear weaker**, because **Ofsted excludes the predecessor grades of sponsored academies**.

Thirdly, Ofsted has reduced the inspection frequency of *Good* and *Outstanding* schools relative to lower-performing schools. This may have resulted in the inflation of the proportion of *Good* and *Outstanding* schools in aggregated figures, as explained by Sean Coughlan of the BBC^{viii} and explored by Warwick Mansell, writing for NAHT^{ix}.

This is most likely to affect the statistics of converter academies and LA-maintained schools, as these have a higher proportion of *Good* and *Outstanding* schools (i.e. are inspected less frequently and thus less likely to be relegated to a lower grade).

1.1. Analysis using Ofsted’s methodology with a focus on Primary schools

This section will look at the distribution of Ofsted grades amongst Primary schools as determined by Ofsted. Again we use data published by Ofsted by the 28th February 2019, and the following analysis suffers the same issues outlined in the previous section ([Section 1](#)).

When the phase of school is restricted to Primary schools, the distribution is as shown in the table in [Fig 2](#). The percentage of **LA-maintained schools receiving Good or Outstanding from Ofsted is 90%**, one percentage point higher than in the ‘All Schools’ view. Meanwhile the number of **Academies achieving Good or Outstanding is 87%**, three percentage points lower than LA-maintained school. If academies are considered as two separate types, the *Good* or *Outstanding* percentage for **sponsor-led academies and converter academies is 74% and 90% respectively**. Free Primary schools have a *Good* or *Outstanding* percentage of 90% which is higher than the ‘All schools’ percentage.

	LA-maintained Schools *	Academies **	Sponsored Academies	Converter Academies ***	Free Schools ****	Not Inspected in current form *****
<i>Total Inspected</i>	11,368	4,676	906	3,770	111	516
Outstanding or Good	90% (10223)	87% (4055)	74% (673)	90% (3382)	90% (100)	16% (82)
<i>Outstanding</i>	18% (2022)	20% (922)	8% (69)	23% (853)	37% (41)	0% (2)
<i>Good</i>	72% (8201)	67% (3133)	67% (604)	67% (2529)	53% (59)	16% (80)
<i>Requires Improvement</i>	9% (1049)	12% (556)	23% (204)	9% (352)	10% (11)	25% (130)
<i>Inadequate</i>	1% (96)	1% (65)	3% (29)	1% (36)	0% (0)	59% (304)
<i>Not Inspected</i>	14	33	28	5	57	0

FIG 2 NOTES:

The figures in the table include Ofsted inspections carried out and published on or before 28th February 2019 (as published in Ofsted monthly statistics).

- * Limited to community schools, community special schools, foundation schools, foundation special schools, voluntary aided and voluntary controlled schools.
- ** Includes converter, special converter, special sponsor-led and sponsor-led. Excludes alternative provision, free schools, studio schools and UTC.
- *** Includes converter and special converter. Excludes alternative provision.
- **** Excludes alternative provision.
- ***** Any school whose most recent inspection is inherited from a predecessor school with a different URN. Converter academies that fall under this criteria are still included in the Converter Academies column & are not included here.

1.2. Analysis using Ofsted’s methodology with a focus on Secondary schools

This section will look at the distribution of Ofsted grades amongst Secondary schools as determined by Ofsted. Again we use data published by Ofsted by the 28th February 2019, and the following analysis suffers the same issues outlined in the previous section ([Section 1](#)).

When the phase of school is restricted to Secondary schools, the distribution is as shown in the table in [Fig 3](#). The percentage of **LA-maintained schools receiving Good or Outstanding from Ofsted is 77%**, 12 percentage points lower than in the ‘All Schools’ view. Meanwhile the number of **Academies achieving Good or Outstanding is 81%**, four percentage points higher than LA-maintained school. If academies are considered as two separate types, the *Good or Outstanding* percentage for **sponsor-led academies and converter academies is 67% and 85% respectively**. Free Primary schools have a *Good or Outstanding* percentage of 82% which is higher than the ‘All schools’ percentage.

	LA-maintained Schools *	Academies **	Sponsored Academies	Converter Academies ***	Free Schools ****	Not Inspected in current form *****
<i>Total Inspected</i>	845	2,099	533	1,566	113	188
<i>Outstanding or Good</i>	77% (648)	81% (1691)	67% (358)	85% (1333)	82% (93)	9% (17)
<i>Outstanding</i>	16% (139)	26% (552)	12% (65)	31% (487)	27% (30)	0% (0)
<i>Good</i>	60% (509)	54% (1139)	55% (293)	54% (846)	56% (63)	9% (17)
<i>Requires Improvement</i>	19% (159)	15% (323)	25% (135)	12% (188)	12% (14)	33% (62)
<i>Inadequate</i>	4% (38)	4% (85)	8% (40)	3% (45)	5% (6)	58% (109)
<i>Not Inspected</i>	1	8	6	2	57	0

FIG 3 NOTES:

The figures in the table include Ofsted inspections carried out and published on or before 28th February 2019 (as published in Ofsted monthly statistics).

- * Limited to community schools, community special schools, foundation schools, foundation special schools, voluntary aided and voluntary controlled schools.
- ** Includes converter, special converter, special sponsor-led and sponsor-led. Excludes alternative provision, free schools, studio schools and UTC.
- *** Includes converter and special converter. Excludes alternative provision.
- **** Excludes alternative provision.
- ***** Any school whose most recent inspection is inherited from a predecessor school with a different URN. Converter academies that fall under this criteria are still included in the Converter Academies column & are not included here.

2. Comparing Ofsted Methodologies

Section 1 of this report used the methodology introduced by Ofsted in June 2018. This section will compare the difference in the distribution of Ofsted grades by school type between the new and old Ofsted methodologies. We will then look at how re-categorising schools in Ofsted’s “Not inspected in current form” group affects the distribution of Ofsted grades by school type.

2.1. New vs Old Ofsted methodologies

Using the previous Ofsted methodology (before June 2018), the predecessor grades of all schools who had not academised via the converter route, were ignored. This meant that the *new* schools were given a *blank slate* by Ofsted. The distribution of Ofsted grades by school type under this methodology is shown in **Fig. 4** for the February 2019 Ofsted data.

	LA-maintained Schools *	Academies **	Sponsored Academies	Converter Academies ***	Free Schools ****
<i>Total Inspected</i>	12,866	7,042	1,469	5,573	243
<i>Outstanding or Good</i>	89% (11488)	85% (5994)	72% (1054)	89% (4940)	86% (210)
<i>Outstanding</i>	19% (2411)	23% (1590)	9% (137)	26% (1453)	30% (74)
<i>Good</i>	71% (9077)	63% (4404)	62% (917)	63% (3487)	56% (136)
<i>Requires Improvement</i>	10% (1230)	13% (894)	23% (344)	10% (550)	11% (26)
<i>Inadequate</i>	1% (148)	2% (154)	5% (71)	1% (83)	3% (7)
<i>Not Inspected</i>	17	769	760	9	135

FIG 4 NOTES:

The figures in the table include Ofsted inspections carried out and published on or before 28th February 2019 (as published in Ofsted monthly statistics).

- * Limited to community schools, community special schools, foundation schools, foundation special schools, voluntary aided and voluntary controlled schools.
- ** Includes converter, special converter, special sponsor-led and sponsor-led. Excludes alternative provision, free schools, studio schools and UTC.
- *** Includes converter and special converter. Excludes alternative provision.
- **** Excludes alternative provision.

The first thing to note about this view of the data is the **increased number of *Not Inspected* schools, most prominent in the sponsor-led and all academies groupings**. The percentage of schools with *Good* or *Outstanding* Ofsted grades are unchanged between the two methodologies for all school type groups. This is because the newly included predecessor grades, considered under the new Ofsted methodology, are reported under the *Not inspected in current form* group. This means the effect of including predecessor grades for all schools is not seen in the distribution of Ofsted grades under the new methodology.

2.2. Including predecessor grades for all schools with that school's school type

This section presents the distribution of Ofsted grades by school type after including the predecessor grades for all school type groups. Differing from the official Ofsted methodology, introduced in June 2018, we will not be presenting the newly included predecessor grade in the new *Not inspected in current form* grouping, but will be including the predecessor grade against the successor school's school type grouping. This mirrors the methodology Ofsted currently use for converter academies, and applies it to all school types.

This view on the distribution, shown in [Fig. 5](#), aims to provide a more equal view, as all schools are treated in the same way, when considering inheritance of predecessor Ofsted grades. Looking at the data in this way does not change the percentage of ***Good* or *Outstanding* LA-maintained schools or Converter academies**, both of which **remain at 89%**. Free Schools drop by one percentage point from 86% to 85%. **The sponsor-led academies group see the most substantial difference, dropping 19 percentage points** from 72%, under the current Ofsted methodology, to 53%. This subsequently lowers the *Good* or *Outstanding* percentage for the all academies grouping by 7 percentage points to 78%. This means that when **comparing LA-Maintained schools to academies the difference in the proportion of *Good* or *Outstanding* schools is now 11 percentage points** rather than 4.

As previously stated in [Section 1](#), it should be noted that comparing LA-maintained school to academies there are additional factors to take into consideration.

	LA-maintained Schools *	Academies **	Sponsored Academies	Converter Academies ***	Free Schools ****
<i>Total Inspected</i>	12,868	7,768	2,195	5,573	249
<i>Outstanding or Good</i>	89% (11490)	78% (6094)	53% (1154)	89% (4940)	85% (212)
<i>Outstanding</i>	19% (2411)	20% (1592)	6% (139)	26% (1453)	30% (74)
<i>Good</i>	71% (9079)	58% (4502)	46% (1015)	63% (3487)	55% (138)
<i>Requires Improvement</i>	10% (1230)	14% (1091)	25% (541)	10% (550)	11% (28)
<i>Inadequate</i>	1% (148)	8% (583)	23% (500)	1% (83)	4% (9)
<i>Not Inspected</i>	15	43	34	9	129

FIG 5 NOTES:

The figures in the table include Ofsted inspections carried out and published on or before 28th February 2019 (as published in Ofsted monthly statistics).

- * Limited to community schools, community special schools, foundation schools, foundation special schools, voluntary aided and voluntary controlled schools.
- ** Includes converter, special converter, special sponsor-led and sponsor-led. Excludes alternative provision, free schools, studio schools and UTC.
- *** Includes converter and special converter. Excludes alternative provision.
- **** Excludes alternative provision.

We would welcome further comments about the merits of this view of the grade distribution, as they result in a large gap when comparing academies to LA-maintained schools (Fig 5).

Publications that compare LA-maintained schools to academies should be clear as to how they are presenting grades obtained prior to academisation or under a different URN.

3. The proportion of *Good* and *Outstanding* schools over time

This section will use the methodology previously used in [Section 2.2](#). This methodology is being used as it broadly follows the methodology currently used by Ofsted (as of June 2018), while modifying it to better include predecessor grades within the distribution by school types. The chart and table below ([Fig. 6 & 7](#)) use this methodology across the last three years, to compare the proportion of schools with Good and Outstanding grades. At the time of analysis, Ofsted had published inspections up to the end of February 2019 ([Management Information – schools – as at 28 February 2019](#)). To remain consistent across the three years, the equivalent views of the data in February 2017* and February 2018** are used.

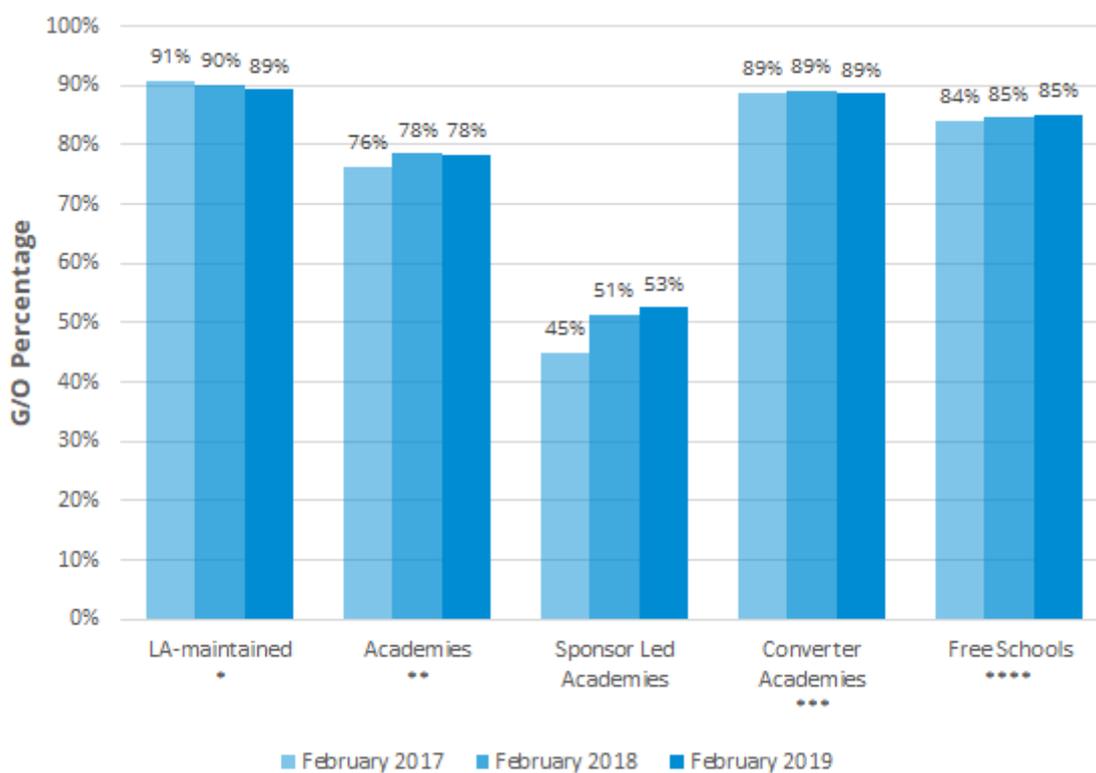


FIG 6 NOTES: The figures in the table include inspections carried out and published on or before 28th February 2019 (as published in Ofsted monthly statistics).

G/O Proportion Good and Outstanding

- * Limited to community schools, community special schools, foundation schools, foundation special schools, voluntary aided and voluntary controlled schools.
- ** Includes converter, special converter, special sponsor-led and sponsor-led. Excludes alternative provision, free schools, studio schools and UTC.
- *** Includes converter and special converter. Excludes alternative provision.
- **** Excludes alternative provision.

	LA-Maintained Schools *	Academies **	Sponsored Academies	Converter Academies ***	Free Schools ****
G/O Feb. 2019	89% ↓ 1pp.	78% - 0pp.	53% ↑ 2pp.	89% - 0pp.	85% - 0pp.
G/O Feb. 2018	90% ↓ 1pp.	78% ↑ 2pp.	51% ↑ 6pp.	89% - 0pp.	85% ↑ 1pp.
G/O Feb. 2017	91%	76%	45%	89%	84%

FIG 7 NOTES: The figures in the table include inspections carried out and published on or before 28th February 2019 (as published in Ofsted monthly statistics).

G/O Proportion *Good* and *Outstanding*

pp. Percentage points

- * Limited to community schools, community special schools, foundation schools, foundation special schools, voluntary aided and voluntary controlled schools.
- ** Includes converter, special converter, special sponsor-led and sponsor-led. Excludes alternative provision, free schools, studio schools and UTC.
- *** Includes converter and special converter. Excludes alternative provision.
- **** Excludes alternative provision.

The proportion of **LA-maintained** schools graded *Good* and *Outstanding* has **decline by two percentage points** since 2017, compared to an increase of **two percentage points for academies**.

Sponsored-led academies have seen the greatest increase with an 8 percentage point improvement. While converter academies have seen no change, and Free Schools have improved by one percentage point.

The figures displayed in **Fig 6 & 7**, agree well with recent results published by Ofsted which showed the percentage of state-funded schools judged to be good or outstanding has fallen 2% from a peak of 87% as of 31 August 2017 to 85% as of 31 December 2018^{xii}. This is most notably seen in the LA-Maintained schools trend. The drop in the proportion of *Good* or *Outstanding* LA maintained schools, can be attributed to several factors: Of the 13,419 schools which were judged *Good* or *Outstanding* in February 2017, 53 have closed and 1,512 have academised, while 872 remain as LA-maintained schools.

Of those that remain LA-maintained schools, 93% are rated as *Requires Improvement* and 7% are rated as *Inadequate*. The majority of schools that academised have not yet been inspected as an academy. As a result, 89% keep their *Good* or *Outstanding* grade courtesy of inheriting that grade from their predecessor LA-maintained school. This means that of the LA-Maintained cohort of schools that are no longer LA-maintained *Good* or *Outstanding* schools, 53% is due to academisation. The drop in the proportion *Good* or *Outstanding* LA-Maintained schools can also be linked to only 488 of their 1,337 (36%) *Requires Improvement* or *Inadequate* schools, remaining LA-maintained and attaining a *Good* or *Outstanding* Grade.

These numbers are affected by the factors discussed in [Section 1](#), concerning the comparison of LA-maintained schools and academies.

4. Comparison of LA-maintained schools that academised and those that didn't

This section of the report will look at how schools Ofsted grades have progressed between **February 2014 and February 2019**. We have gone back 5 years to ensure that we have a large enough sample size for comparison. We compare those that remained LA-maintained to those that academised. Again this section will use the methodology previously used in [Section 2.2](#).

LA Maintained Schools *				Academies (All) **			
		Feb '19				Feb '19	
		O / G	R / I			O / G	R / I
Feb '14	O / G	90%	10%	Feb '14	O / G	81%	19%
	n = 10,486	9,400	1,086		n = 2,808	2,275	533
Feb '14	R / I	88%	12%	Feb '14	R / I	59%	41%
	n = 2,328	2,048	280		n = 1,225	723	502

Academies (Inspected as academy) **				Academies (Inherited grade) **			
		Feb '19				Feb '19	
		O / G	R / I			O / G	R / I
Feb '14	O / G	81%	19%	Feb '14	O / G	81%	19%
	n = 799	651	158		n = 2,009	1,624	385
Feb '14	R / I	64%	36%	Feb '14	R / I	55%	45%
	n = 515	330	185		n = 710	393	317

FIG 8 NOTES: The figures in the table include inspections carried out and published on or before 28th February 2019 (as published in Ofsted monthly statistics). All schools within the analysis presented in the tables were LA-Maintained* in February 2014.

- * Limited to community schools, community special schools, foundation schools, foundation special schools, voluntary aided and voluntary controlled schools.
- ** Schools which were LA-maintained as of Feb 2014 that by Feb 2019 had academised to converter, special converter, special sponsor-led or sponsor-led academies. Excludes alternative provision, free schools, studio schools and UTC.

Fig. 8 displays a summary of how LA-maintained schools in February 2014 have progressed by 2019. An LA-maintained schools with a *Good* or *Outstanding* grade in February 2014 is more likely to have maintained a *Good* or *Outstanding* grade than a school that has academised. Schools that were *Requires*

Improvement or *Inadequate* in February 2014, are also more likely to have become *Good* or *Outstanding*, if they remained LA-maintained compared to academies. It should be noted, however, that the proportions for LA-maintained schools are affected by *Requires Improvement* and *Inadequate* schools being more likely to academise. This means the proportion of *Good* and *Outstanding* schools in February 2019, which were *Requires Improvement* or *Inadequate* in February 2014 may be lower. This can be considered further by combining the values in the *LA Maintained Schools* and *Academies (inherited grade)* tables of [Fig. 8](#), this then considers all LA-maintained school-based inspections together. In this view the percentage of *Requires Improvement* and *Inadequate* school becoming *Good* or *Outstanding* becomes 80%, which remains higher the proportion of schools that have academised and have been inspected as an academy.

4.1. Comparison of Outstanding LA-maintained schools in February 2014

In February 2014, **2,895 LA-maintained schools held an *Outstanding* Overall grade**. By February 2019, 2,311 school remain LA-maintained while 556 are now academies. **Fig. 9** below shows the distribution of Ofsted grades of these schools by February 2019 grouped by school type. Of those schools which remained LA-maintained, 1,800 are still considered *Outstanding*, while a further 395 are rated as *Good*. 103 LA-maintained schools are rated as *Requires Improvement* and 13 as *Inadequate*.

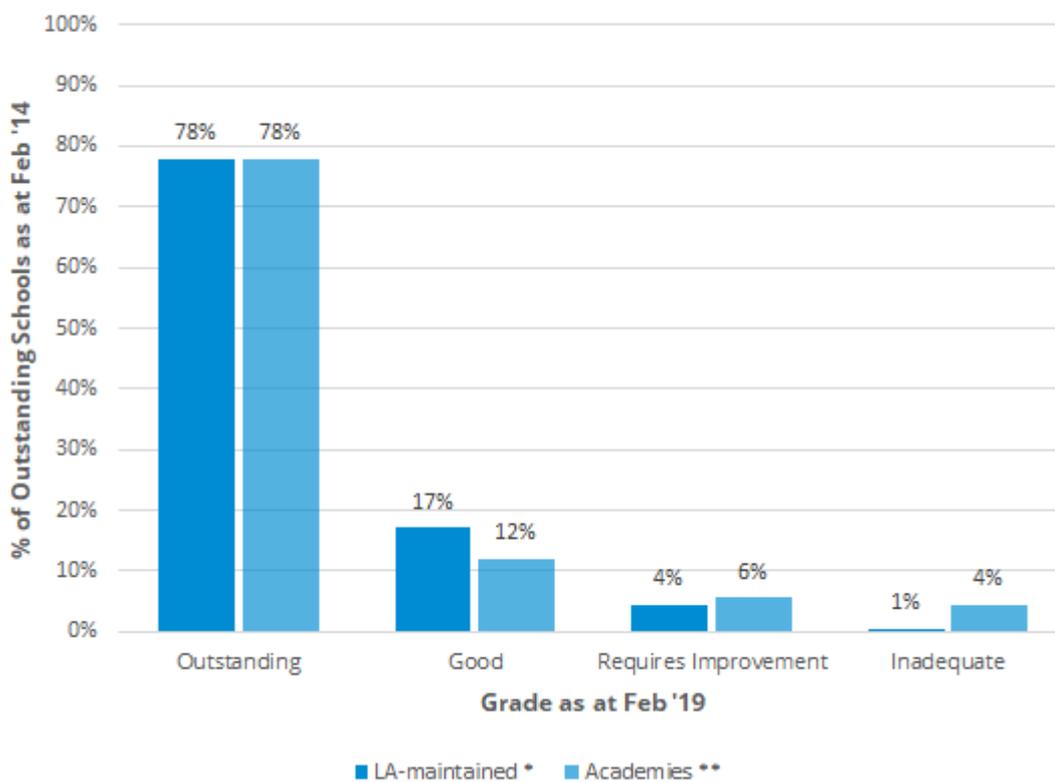


FIG 9 NOTES: The figures in the table include inspections carried out and published on or before 28th February 2019 (as published in Ofsted monthly statistics).

- * Limited to community schools, community special schools, foundation schools, foundation special schools, voluntary aided and voluntary controlled schools.
- ** Includes converter, special converter, special sponsor-led and sponsor-led. Excludes alternative provision, free schools, studio schools and UTC.

Of the 556 now academised schools, 433 are considered *Outstanding*, while a further 67 are rated as *Good*. 31 academies are rated as *Requires Improvement* and 25 as *Inadequate*.

However, some academies within the analysis presented in **Fig. 9** have inherited their Ofsted grade from a predecessor school. In a minority of cases this predecessor may also be an academy, but for the majority the inspection will be inherited from an LA-maintained school. **Fig. 10** displays the how the academy

Ofsted grades split, when considering inheritance of grades. 96% of *Outstanding* academies inherited their Ofsted grade from a non-academy predecessor, as did 52% of *Good* academies. 100% of *Inadequate* academies, are listed as *Inadequate*, due to an inherited grade.

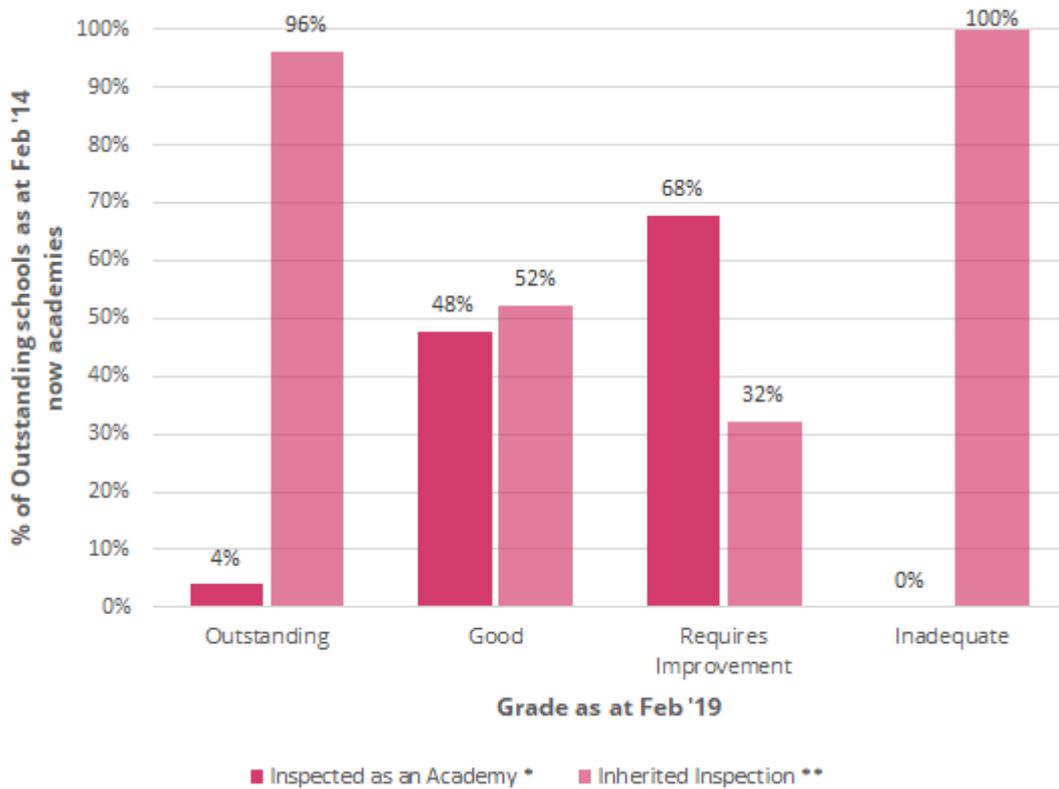


FIG 10 NOTES: The figures in the table include inspections carried out and published on or before 28th February 2019 (as published in Ofsted monthly statistics).

- * Academies whose most recent inspection was of the current academy or a predecessor academy.
- ** Academies whose most recent inspection was of a predecessor non-academy school.

4.2. Comparison of Good LA-maintained schools in February 2014

In February 2014, **10,569 LA-maintained schools held a Good Overall grade**. By February 2019, 8,175 are still LA-maintained while 2,252 are now academies. **Fig. 11** below shows the distribution of Ofsted grades for each school type in February 2019. For LA-maintained schools 6,661 are still considered *Good*, while a further 544 are rated as *Outstanding*. 886 LA-maintained schools are rated as *Requires Improvement* and 84 as *Inadequate*.

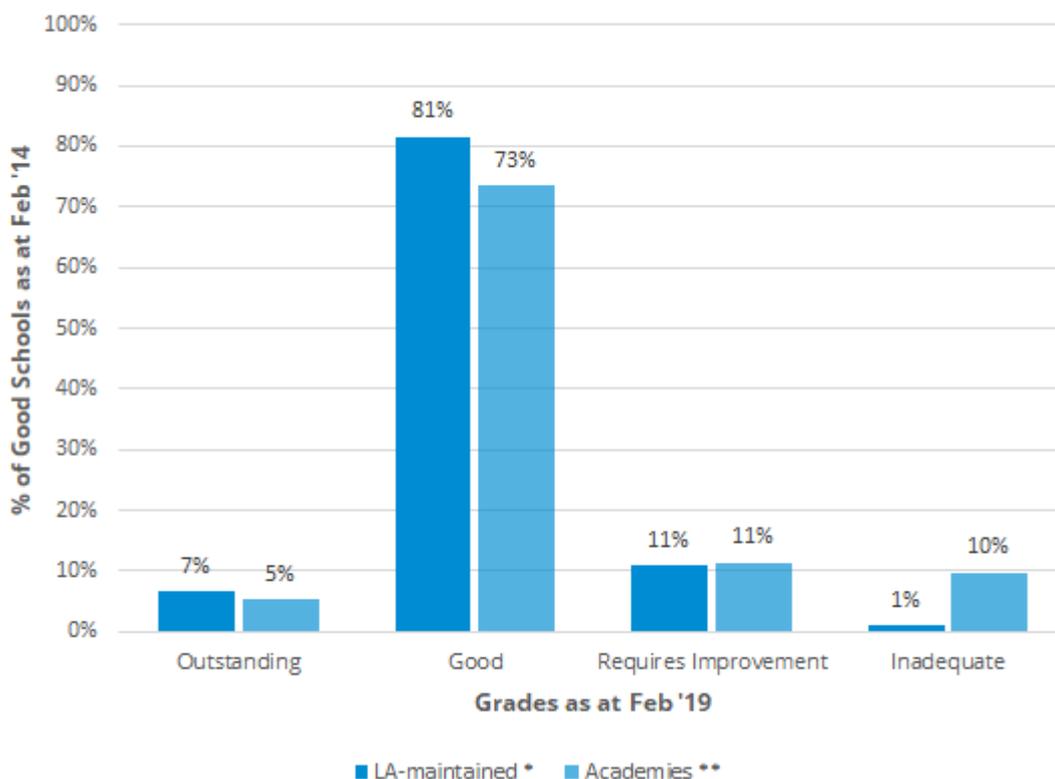


FIG 11 NOTES: The figures in the table include inspections carried out and published on or before 28th February 2019 (as published in Ofsted monthly statistics).

- * Limited to community schools, community special schools, foundation schools, foundation special schools, voluntary aided and voluntary controlled schools.
- ** Includes converter, special converter, special sponsor-led and sponsor-led. Excludes alternative provision, free schools, studio schools and UTC.

Of the 2,252 now academised schools, 120 are considered *Outstanding*, while a further 1,655 are rated as *Good*. 257 academies are rated as *Requires Improvement* and 220 as *Inadequate*.

However, some academies within the analysis presented in **Fig. 11** have inherited their Ofsted grade from a predecessor school. In a minority of cases this predecessor may also be an academy, but for the majority the inspection is inherited from an LA-maintained school. **Fig. 12** displays the how the academy Ofsted

grades split, when considering inheritance of grades. 68% of *Outstanding* academies inherited their Ofsted grade from a non-academy predecessor, as did 66% of *Good* academies. 90% of *Inadequate* academies, are listed as *Inadequate*, due to an inherited grade.

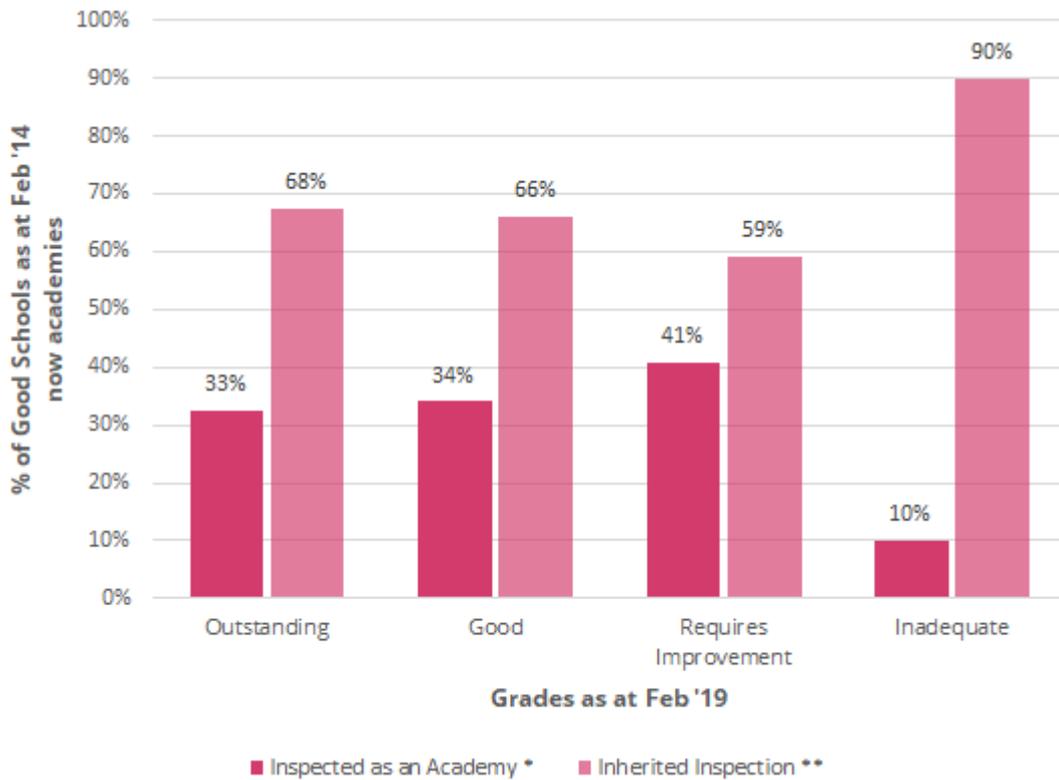


FIG 12 NOTES: The figures in the table include inspections carried out and published on or before 28th February 2019 (as published in Ofsted monthly statistics).

- * Academies whose most recent inspection was of the current academy or a predecessor academy.
- ** Academies whose most recent inspection was of a predecessor non-academy school.

4.3. Comparison of Requires Improvement LA-maintained schools in February 2014

In February 2014, **3,287 LA-maintained schools held a Requires Improvement Overall grade**. By February 2019, 2,176 are still LA-maintained while 952 are now academies. **Fig. 13** below shows the distribution of Ofsted grades for each school type in February 2019. For LA-maintained schools 1,870 are now considered *Good*, while a further 61 are rated as *Outstanding*. 202 LA-maintained schools are still rated as *Requires Improvement* and 43 as *Inadequate*.

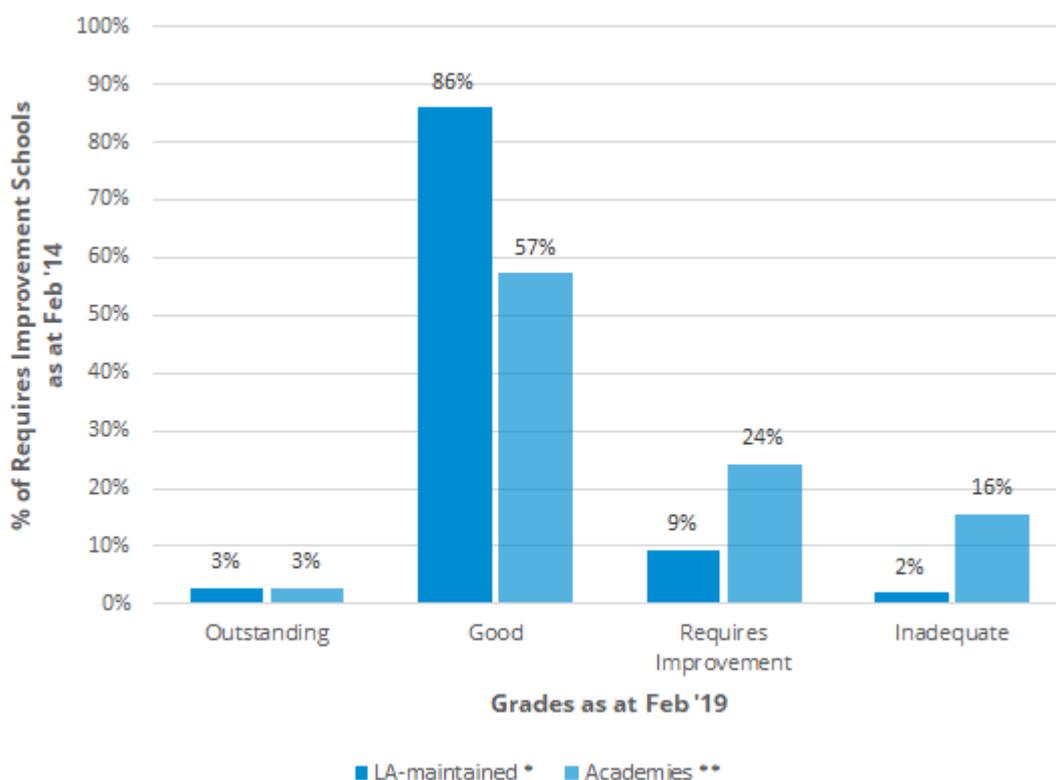


FIG 13 NOTES: The figures in the table include inspections carried out and published on or before 28th February 2019 (as published in Ofsted monthly statistics).

- * Limited to community schools, community special schools, foundation schools, foundation special schools, voluntary aided and voluntary controlled schools.
- ** Includes converter, special converter, special sponsor-led and sponsor-led. Excludes alternative provision, free schools, studio schools and UTC.

Of the 952 now academised schools, 27 are considered *Outstanding*, while 545 are rated as *Good*. 231 academies are rated as *Requires Improvement* and 149 as *Inadequate*.

However, some academies within the analysis presented in **Fig. 13** have inherited their Ofsted grade from a predecessor school. In a minority of cases this predecessor may also be an academy, but for the majority the inspection will be inherited from an LA-maintained school. **Fig. 14** displays how the academy Ofsted

grades split, when considering inheritance of grades. 59% of *Outstanding* academies inherited their Ofsted grade from a non-academy predecessor, as did 65% of *Good* academies. 87% of *Inadequate* academies, are listed as *Inadequate*, due to an inherited grade.

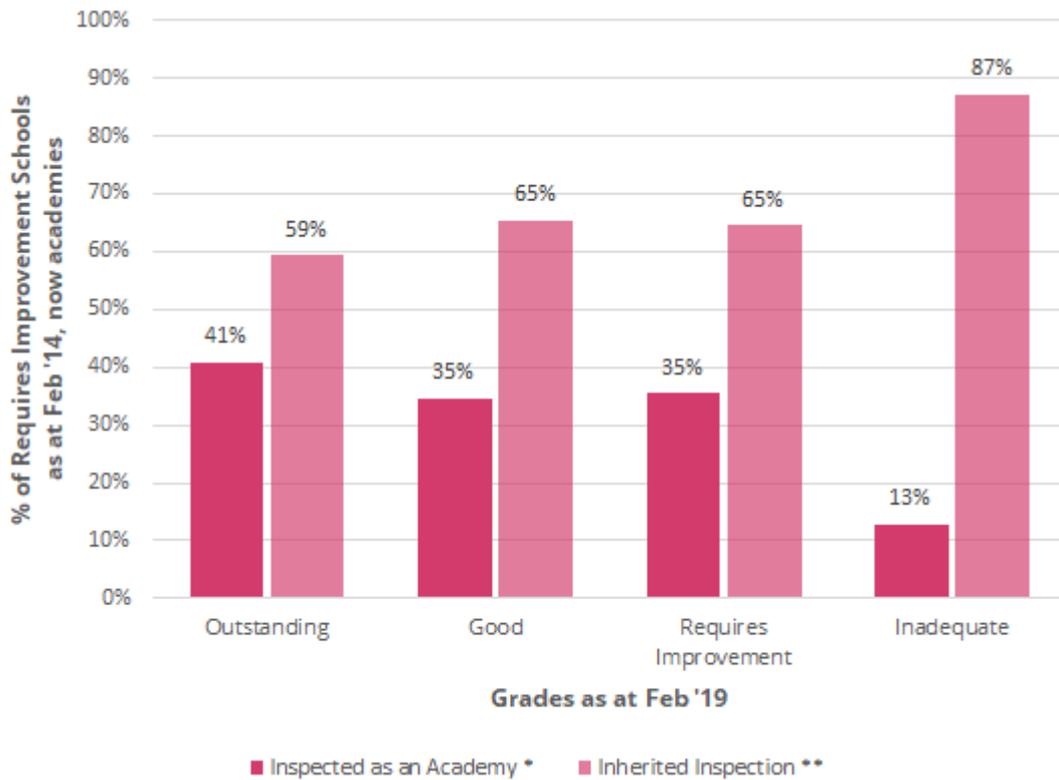


FIG 14 NOTES: The figures in the table include inspections carried out and published on or before 28th February 2019 (as published in Ofsted monthly statistics).

- * Academies whose most recent inspection was of the current academy or a predecessor academy.
- ** Academies whose most recent inspection was of a predecessor non-academy school.

4.4. Comparison of Inadequate LA-maintained schools in February 2014

In February 2014, **468 LA-maintained schools held an *Inadequate Overall grade***. By February 2019, 152 are still LA-maintained while 273 are now academies. **Fig. 15** below shows the distribution of Ofsted grades for each school type in February 2019. For LA-maintained school two are now considered *Outstanding*, while a further 115 are rated as *Good*. 27 LA-maintained schools are rated as *Requires Improvement* and eight are still rated as *Inadequate*.

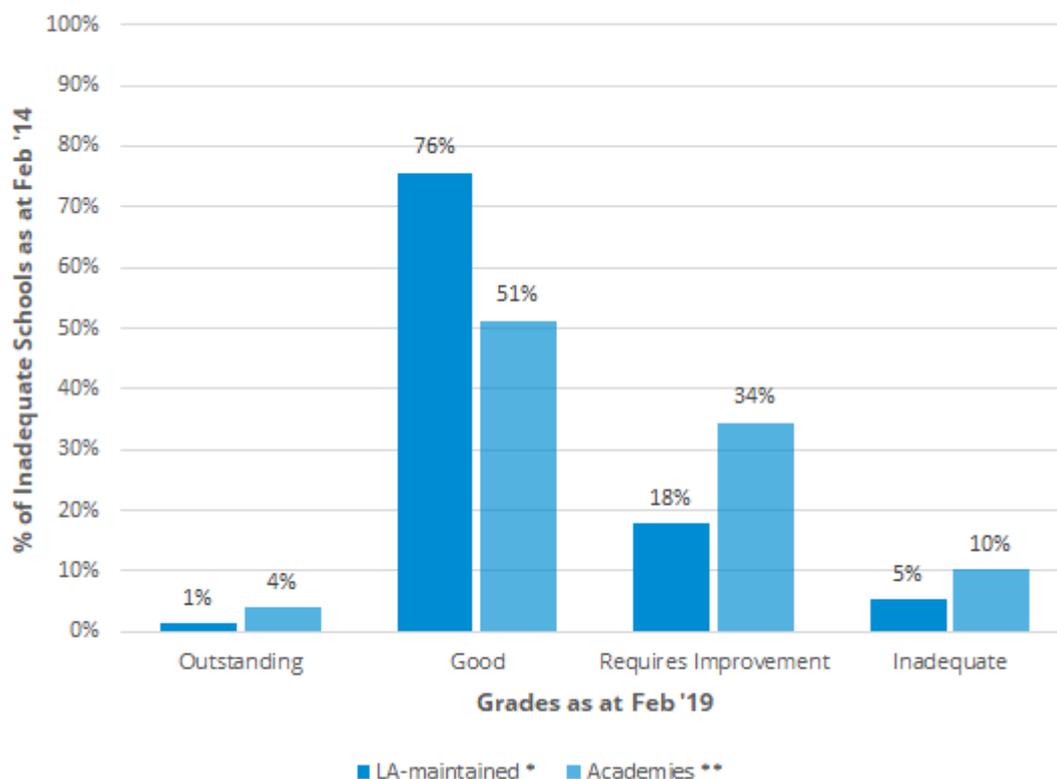


FIG 15 NOTES: The figures in the table include inspections carried out and published on or before 28th February 2019 (as published in Ofsted monthly statistics).

- * Limited to community schools, community special schools, foundation schools, foundation special schools, voluntary aided and voluntary controlled schools.
- ** Includes converter, special converter, special sponsor-led and sponsor-led. Excludes alternative provision, free schools, studio schools and UTC.

Of the 273 now academised schools, 11 are considered *Outstanding*, while a further 140 are rated as *Good*. 94 academies are rated as *Requires Improvement* and 28 as *Inadequate*.

However, some academies within the analysis presented in **Fig. 15** have inherited their Ofsted grade from a predecessor school. In a minority of cases this predecessor may also be an academy, but for the majority the inspection will be inherited from an LA-maintained school. **Fig. 16** displays the how the academy Ofsted

grades split, when considering inheritance of grades. 100% of *Outstanding* academies achieved this grade as academies, as did 85% of *Good* academies. 43% of *Inadequate* academies, are listed as *Inadequate*, due to an inherited grade.

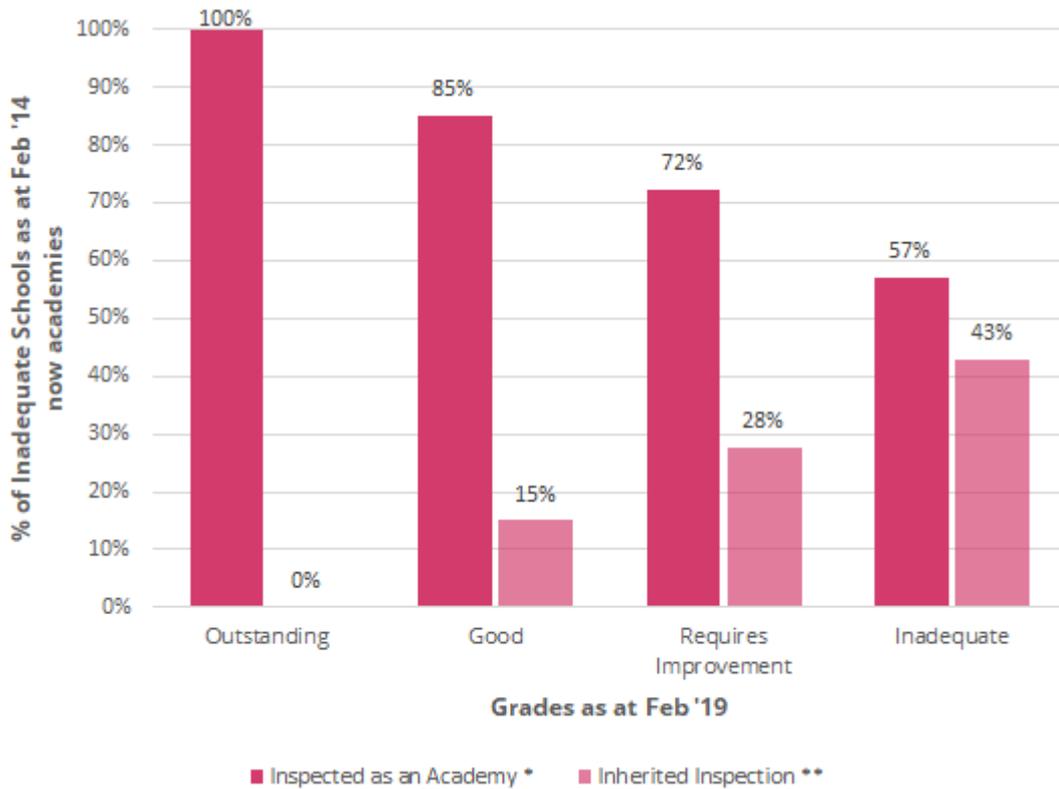


FIG 16 NOTES: The figures in the table include inspections carried out and published on or before 28th February 2019 (as published in Ofsted monthly statistics).

- * Academies whose most recent inspection was of the current academy or a predecessor academy.
- ** Academies whose most recent inspection was of a predecessor non-academy school.

5. Analysis of the time taken to improve a school from *Inadequate* to *Good*

This section of the report will **consider the number of inspections taken for a school to progress from *Inadequate* to *Good* or *Outstanding***, and if the school has remained LA-maintained during that time or if it academised. For this analysis we use February 2014 as a starting point and consider schools who were, at that time, LA-maintained and judged to be *Inadequate*.

Of the 468 LA-maintained schools that were inspected as *Inadequate* in 2014 152 remained LA-maintained by February 2019. Of these, **117 schools achieve a *Good* or *Outstanding* Ofsted grade** in the intervening time. Of the 117 schools to achieve *Good* or *Outstanding* and been *inadequate* in 2014, **58% where graded as *Good* or *Outstanding* at their next Ofsted inspection** while **39% required two Ofsted inspections** before being graded as *Good* or *Outstanding* and **3% required three Ofsted inspections**.

273 of the *Inadequate* LA-maintained schools in 2014 have academised by February 2019, 241 of which are sponsor-led academies and 32 are converter academies. 154 schools have been inspected since opening as academies, with **116 being inspected as *Good* or *Outstanding*. 93 of the academies achieved this at their first inspection since academisation**. While 23 academies **required two Ofsted inspections** before being graded as *Good* or *Outstanding*.

We do not include schools that achieved *Good* or *Outstanding* before academising in this section.

It should be noted, that the average time for re-inspection of schools that remain LA-maintained is **one year and six months**, while the average time between a school re-opening as an academy and their first inspection is **two years and ten months**. Therefore academies have almost twice the amount of time to improve before being re-inspected, than LA-maintained schools.

Further analysis

In addition to this short report, interested parties can contact watchsted@angelsolutions.co.uk for more information.

Footnotes

- i. 2291 out of 3391 Secondary schools are now academies.
- ii. 5221 out of 16775 Primary schools are now academies.
- iii. https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/784867/Management_information_-_schools_-_Table1_28_Feb_2019.csv
- iv. https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/719084/Changes_to_Ofsted_statistical_reporting_of_school_inspections_June_2018.pdf
- v. The Ofsted framework also changed in September 2015, however there is insufficient data to concentrate on only the common inspection framework.
- vi. <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/common-inspection-framework-education-skills-and-early-years-from-september-2015>
- vii. Considering inspections published up to the 28th February 2019 (as published in Ofsted monthly statistics) there are 1,453 *Outstanding* converter academies. 968 of those *Outstanding* converter academies attained their grade as an LA-maintained school. There were 3,487 *Good* converter academies, 2,145 of those were attained as an LA-maintained school.
- viii. <http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/education-30319949>
- ix. <http://www.naht.org.uk/welcome/news-and-media/blogs/warwick-mansell/digging-beneath-the-surface-of-ofsted-record-rise-claim/>
- x. https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/687409/Management_information_-_schools_-_Table1_28_February_2018.csv
- xi. https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/601391/External_ML_Schools_-_20170228_-_CSV.CSV
- xii. <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/state-funded-schools-inspections-and-outcomes-as-at-31-december-2018/state-funded-schools-inspections-and-outcomes-as-at-31-december-2018#schools-at-their-most-recent-inspection>
- xiii. Considering inspections published up to the 28th February 2019 (as published in Ofsted monthly statistics) there are 1,453 *Outstanding* converter academies. 968 of those *Outstanding* converter academies attained their grade as an LA-maintained school. There were 3,487 *Good* converter academies, 2,145 of those were attained as an LA-maintained school.