

7 THE OUTCOMES OF INDIVIDUAL OFSTED SCHOOL INSPECTIONS FOR HEREFORDSHIRE SCHOOLS SINCE SEPTEMBER 2002

Report By: Head of Inspection, Advice and School Performance Service

Wards Affected

Countywide.

Purpose

1. To up-date the Committee on the outcomes of individual school inspections undertaken within Herefordshire by Ofsted in the current school year, 2002-2003.

Financial Implications

2. None.

Report

3. During the current school year, Ofsted will have inspected twenty-seven Herefordshire schools. For most schools, it will have been their second Ofsted inspection, occurring approximately four years after their first inspection in 1997/1998. At the time of writing this report, only Madley and Kingsland CE primary schools remain to be inspected during the summer term 2003.
4. An Ofsted inspection remains a very significant event for a school. The report is published and made available to parents, and distributed more widely via the Ofsted web-site across the internet. Many parents read the reports, alongside the relevant test and examination data, and use the information to help select the preferred school for their children.
5. Ofsted has the power to recognise and publicly praise the quality of education provided by a school. However, Ofsted can also label a school as '*underachieving*', as '*having serious weaknesses*' or as '*requiring special measures*'. Any such label can impact on the public reputation of a school and, in the case of *serious weaknesses* and *special measures*, rigorous monitoring is undertaken by HMI.
6. At the end of June 2003, Herefordshire had no schools in a negative Ofsted category. One school, Brookfield EBD Special School, had been placed in special measures in September 2002. That was an unexpected decision as the school had been open only for two terms and had many strengths. However, the school has now been removed from Special Measures after only two terms following follow-up visits by HMI. This is a very good outcome, and highly commendable for the school and for everyone associated with the required improvement work.

7. The attached Appendix I gives a summary for the schools inspected since September 1 2002, but only where the reports have been published. Overall they describe a positive picture about the quality of education offered by Herefordshire Schools and, in particular, highlight the high standard of leadership and management evident in many schools. Many of the reports are good, some are outstanding.
8. The full copies of the reports are available from the individual schools or via the Herefordshire education website www.education.herefordshire.gov.uk, or from the Ofsted web-site www.ofsted.gov.uk

RECOMMENDATION

The Committee are asked to note the report.

BACKGROUND PAPERS

- Attached