

To all professionals involved in Initial Teacher Education (ITE) for primary schools in England.

This is a summary with key quotations on early reading from the Consultation Document published by Ofsted in January 2020. You have until 3 April 2020 to respond. The framework will then be published in summer 2020. The full consultation document is on

<https://www.gov.uk/government/consultations/initial-teacher-education-inspection-framework-and-handbook-2020-inspecting-the-quality-of-teacher-education>

[Initial teacher education inspection framework and handbook

Framework and handbook for inspecting initial teacher education partnerships in England under section 18B of the Education Act 1994 and Education and Inspections Act 2006 (Ofsted)

The first part of the document is the framework, the handbook is the second part. Reference no: 200002 The framework will be published in summer 2020]

This is a summary of the key points relevant to early reading from the consultation document.

NB All are quotations.

29. The arrangements for inspecting ITE from September 2020 are very different from those in the previous framework. The inspection will have more responsibility for focusing on areas that have the greatest impact on a trainee's education and development, and the overall impact on a trainee's education. Page 8.

36.We recognise the importance of partnerships' autonomy to choose their own curriculum approaches. If leaders are able to show that they have built a curriculum with appropriate coverage, content, structure and sequencing, then inspectors will assess the partnership's curriculum favourably.

.....Page 9.

58.For inspections of primary partnerships, inspectors will focus on early reading/phonics and the foundation subjects as a whole. Other subject areas may be agreed as a focus with the partnership leaders Page 16.

Evaluating different approaches to teacher education

91. Ofsted does NOT advocate that any particular teaching approach should be used exclusively with trainees....

92. The ITE framework focuses on factors that both research and inspection evidence indicate contribute most strongly to high-quality education and training.....Page 22.

Reaching a judgement of good, requires improvement or inadequate (page 35 onwards)

(Outstanding (1) Good (2) Requires improvement (3) Inadequate (4)

Under Outstanding comments are general. However,

Good (2) Page 39.

- For primary phase, training will ensure that trainees learn to teach early reading using systematic synthetic phonics as outlined in the ITT core content framework and that trainees are not taught to use competing approaches to early reading that are not supported by the most up-to-date evidence...

Informed by up-to-date evidence.

- The ITE curriculum is designed to equip trainees with up-to-date research findings, for example as outlined for primary and secondary phase trainees in the ITT core content framework. Page 40.

Requires improvement (3) page 44

- Primary training does not ensure that trainees only learn to teach early reading using systematic synthetic phonics.

Inadequate (4) Designed around subject and phase (page 44)

- Primary training does not ensure that trainees only learn to teach early reading using systematic synthetic phonics.

Leadership and management (page 46 and 47)

169. Inspectors must consider how effectively leaders and managers ensure that overall partnership provision prepares trainees to teach subject(s) well, including...In the primary phase

thorough training in the teaching of systematic synthetic phonics, early number work and handwriting, including focused practice in school placements, based on up-to-date research.

a thorough analysis of improvements in trainees' practice, for example in securing good behaviour, in teaching reading using systematic synthetic phonics...

Inadequate (page 53)

- For early years and primary programmes, mentors do not support the teaching of systematic synthetic phonics. Some trainees are being poorly prepared to teach systematic synthetic phonics after the completion of their course.

Evaluating the quality and effectiveness of training in subject/specialist areas of the ITE curriculum (page 56)

- whether trainees, 'if teaching early reading, demonstrate a clear understanding of systematic synthetic phonics' by the end of their training....

NB There are eight references to systematic synthetic phonics as required for early reading in the consultation document but to no methods for other subjects.

Margaret M Clark 6 February 2020