Dear colleagues,
This communication provides further details to update you about about the arrangements of Ofsted’s inspections of ITE partnerships during the autumn term 2019.

**ITE partnership contact details**
This communication has been sent to you as the identified provider’s representative for your ITE partnership. I would be grateful if you could pass this on to the relevant colleague if there has been a recent change and contact us with their details via the ite@ofsted.gov.uk mailbox. Thank you to colleagues who have recently contacted us about such changes.

**The final inspections of the current ITE framework**
As you will be aware, only a very small number of partnerships are being inspected during 2019. Inspections of these partnerships began in the summer term. During the summer period there have been no changes made to the inspection handbook. Stage 2 inspections of the autumn term 2019 are now underway. There will be no focused monitoring inspections of primary phonics and/or primary and secondary behaviour training this academic year.

**The development of the 2020 ITE inspection framework**
Ofsted is continuing to engage widely on the development of the new ITE framework for 2020. We are consulting with as many representative organisations within ITE as possible, including the Universities’ Council for the Education of Teachers (UCET), the National Association of School-Based Teacher Trainers (NASBTT) and the Education and Training Foundation (ETF).

The summer 2019 partnership newsletter explained that HMCI has commissioned a programme of research to inform the development of the next ITE framework. The research team, led by Alan Passingham and Adrian Lyons, HMI, have now completed visits to a balanced sample of partnerships across all eight Ofsted regions. The emerging findings of this research and final findings will be published on the following dates:

* 16 October 2019 – A commentary will be published by Her Majesty’s Chief Inspector. This will detail the findings from the first phase of our ITE curriculum research (completed in spring 2019) and explain how the findings have been used to develop the fieldwork in phase two (completed in summer 2019) of the study.
* January 2020 – The final findings from Ofsted’s research study into ITE training programmes will be published alongside the 2020 ITE framework consultation.

**ITE inspection framework piloting**
During the autumn term Ofsted will be piloting the draft ITE inspection criteria. We have developed this set of criteria by applying:

* the findings of Ofsted’s curriculum research
* the emerging findings from Ofsted’s research into ITE training programmes
* our evaluation of the current ITE framework
* feedback from sector feedback, including from UCET, NASBTT and ETF
* feedback from our HMI ITE workforce.

Thank you to those partnerships that have agreed to allow us to pilot the draft inspection framework. The feedback we receive from these pilots will directly shape the criteria and methodology that we will finalise, in preparation for launching a formal consultation in January 2020.

During the ITE pilots inspectors will **not** share the draft criteria with partnerships. This is because we will be making iterative updates weekly, based on the feedback from pilot partnerships (including mentors and trainees) and our inspection workforce.

A smaller number of pilot inspections will be conducted during the spring term of 2020. These pilots will allow Ofsted to better consider any changes to the framework and/or criteria as we analyse the formal consultation feedback.

**DfE skills test announcement (QTS courses only)**
The Department for Education (DfE) [announced on 16 July 2019](https://www.us4.list-manage.com/track/click?u=46387df40cbf78623e0679b2f&id=ab48f05f48&e=ffe7216036) that the Government has decided to replace the skills test with a new system of provider-led assurance from the upcoming recruitment cycle.

In September 2019, the DfE wrote to partnerships, sharing the guidance on the fundamental English and mathematics proficiencies that all teachers need. The letter also outlined details on how the new approach will affect all training routes, ahead of the start of the next recruitment cycle.

Since this announcement I have received a number of questions from providers about how Ofsted will respond to this announcement. Ofsted will expect providers to comply with the requirements set out in the ITT compliance criteria.
[https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/initial-teacher-training-criteria/initial-teacher-training-itt-criteria-and-supporting-advice](https://www.us4.list-manage.com/track/click?u=46387df40cbf78623e0679b2f&id=8f4d263a2d&e=ffe7216036)

Ofsted will simply continue to inspect partnerships’ recruitment and selection of trainees. Inspectors will continue to:

1. ask providers about the processes and procedures in place to recruit and select trainees who are ready to begin training to teach.
2. ask leaders how they are responding to the needs of individuals and groups of trainees. In particular, how they are adapting the training programme or pastoral arrangements for each new cohort of trainees.

Going forward, inspectors are likely to ask partnership leaders how they:

* identify any gaps in prospective trainees’ fundamental English and mathematics skills, which will not be covered in the course content.
* support trainees admitted to the training programme(s) who have identified gaps.
* ensure any identified gaps are filled before course completion.

Ofsted will **not** expect you to have any particular recruitment and selection process. We will **not** expect evidence about recruitment to be presented in any particular manner.

**Publication of official statistics for ITE - 29 August 2019**
Ofsted has published its annual official statistics information for ITE. These include re-inspection judgements from the summer term 2019 and can be found via the following link: [https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/initial-teacher-education-inspections-and-outcomes-as-at-30-june-2019](https://www.us4.list-manage.com/track/click?u=46387df40cbf78623e0679b2f&id=271b5dc234&e=ffe7216036)

**National ITE engagement events – December 2019**
In the run up to the launch of the ITE framework consultation in January 2020, Ofsted will be holding a number of engagement events. The engagement events will be open to all ITE partnerships and free to attend. The sessions will allow you to hear first hand the thinking that has shaped the ITE framework consultation. Each date will offer a morning and an afternoon session, aiming to allow you flexibility with travel.

Registration for attending the events will be communicated to partnerships over the next few weeks. The events will be held on the following dates:

* **4 December 2019** – Jurys Inn, 245 Broad Street, **Birmingham**, B1 2HQ
* **10 December 2019** – etc.venues, Avonmouth House, 6 Avonmouth Street, **London**, SE1 6NX

We will also be running two live webinars to complement the events taking place in London and Birmingham.

The webinars will include the same content as the face-to-face events, and registration for attendance will be communicated to the partnerships over the next few weeks.

Recordings of the webinars will be made available to the sector for reference and for those who cannot attend the live events.

**Formal consultation**
The formal consultation for the new framework will be launched in January 2020. We will write to you directly as a partnership when the consultation opens.

During the consultation process we will hold a number of events to discuss the framework being consulted on.

We will write to you nearer the time explaining when these will take place and how to register.

**Ofsted publications and materials**

**HMCI commentary: managing behaviour research**
September 2019: Ofsted's Chief Inspector, Amanda Spielman, summarises our findings so far on managing behaviour in schools and our future projects:  [https://www.gov.uk/government/speeches/research-commentary-managing-behaviour](https://www.us4.list-manage.com/track/click?u=46387df40cbf78623e0679b2f&id=e1819dd35d&e=ffe7216036)

**Knife Crime: safeguarding children and young people in education**
September 2019: Ofsted carried out a research project on knife crime in education. This report sets out our findings and recommendations:
[https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/knife-crime-safeguarding-children-and-young-people-in-education](https://www.us4.list-manage.com/track/click?u=46387df40cbf78623e0679b2f&id=4f3ac6d93b&e=ffe7216036)

**Education Inspection Framework (EIF)**
Ofsted’s new inspection framework for Early Years, Schools, and Further Education and Skills came into effect in September 2019. While this framework is not used for ITE inspections, it may be useful for trainee teachers to be aware of:
[https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/education-inspection-framework](https://www.us4.list-manage.com/track/click?u=46387df40cbf78623e0679b2f&id=6f52267c2f&e=ffe7216036)

Yours sincerely

David Storrie HMI, Specialist Adviser for ITE