

# What Ofsted are really looking for – dispelling some myths

Language World 2014

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## Session outline

- The thematic inspections of Initial Teacher Training
- Judging the quality of teaching – what it means for  
language teachers
- Measuring progress
- Supporting improvement

# The thematic surveys in ITE



## Dissemination conferences

To promote improvement in the quality of ITE by:

- sharing the key findings of the ITE thematic inspections in 2012–13
- identifying areas of strength and what needs to be improved
- sharing expectations and good practice.

A web link to associated materials and published resources is available on Ofsted's website.



# Key findings

## Key strengths of trainees

- Passion for the subject.
- Good subject knowledge.
- Developing pupils' cultural understanding.
- Manage behaviour well.
- Plan a wide range of activities.
- Make very good use of technology to deliver lessons.



## Strengths of training

- Subject leaders keep the courses up-to-date on key issues
- Good support for developing behaviour management strategies
- Good training in planning both short and medium term
- Examples of good preparation to teach disabled pupils and those who have special educational needs:

‘Given a bag of tricks for use in the classroom’

- Some good practice in developing trainees’ understanding of transition:

‘Trainees link with primary trainees at another local provider which includes shadowing their primary partner and vice versa.’

# Areas for improvement

- Use of target language
- Understanding of transition matters
- The experience trainees have of sixth form and in some cases Key Stage 4 teaching is very variable
- The quality of subject knowledge auditing varies greatly
- Subject knowledge enhancement for trainees' second language
- Experience of teaching pupils for whom English is an additional language

# Lesson observation and judging the quality of teaching





# Lesson observation



"Inspectors should not be grading individual lessons, and they should not be arriving at a judgement for teaching and learning by aggregating lesson grades."

*Why do Ofsted inspectors observe individual lessons and how do they evaluate teaching in schools?*

# Lesson observation

## Subsidiary guidance:



**"they should not criticise teacher talk for being overlong"**

**"On occasions, too, pupils are rightly passive rather than active recipients of learning."**

- What would a teacher be doing to ensure outstanding outcomes?
  - *confident speakers with good intonation and pronunciation*
  - *can use language creatively and spontaneously*
  - *confidently apply grammatical rules to new situations*

## Target language use

- *Teachers provide a consistently fluent and accurate model of the foreign language for learners to emulate. English is only used where appropriate.*
- *Teachers ensure that all learners experience the need to react to unpredictable elements in conversations. Teachers praise and encourage spontaneous use by learners when it occurs.*
- *Across the school there is a high level of consistency in the effective use of the TL.*

# Achieving outstanding outcomes



- listen attentively to (a variety of forms of) spoken language and show understanding by joining in and responding
- engage in conversations (initiate and develop conversations)
- speak in sentences
- develop accurate pronunciation and intonation
- present ideas and information orally to a range of audiences (express and develop ideas clearly and with increasing accuracy)

# Measuring progress



# Goodbye levels



By the end of each key stage, pupils are expected to know, apply and understand the matters, skills and processes specified in the relevant programme of study.

Plan for expectations of where pupils need to be in each year to meet that requirement.

Show progress by logging what pupils can do now, compared to yesterday, last week, last year.

Assess pupils and feed back to them how to improve; that in itself is the only really important bit.

How we can help





# Internal and external support



- Updating inspectors
- Sharing resources
- Seeking out good practice
- Networking through the regions

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Thank you

