

Definitions for 'Vulnerable' Schools

'Risk indicators' that might cause a school or academy to be 'vulnerable'

Situations a school may face which could indicate vulnerability leading to 'under performance' in the short, medium or long term:

- Breakdown of relationship between governance and senior leadership.
- Unexpected crisis with subsequent long term implications for example
 - Serious illness of a key member of staff (including an individual with knowledge and skills that is difficult to replace).
 - Major premises incident or concern e.g. flooding, explosion.
 - Community crisis or challenge e.g. acts of violence, terrorism or abuse, sudden increase in admission.
- Change of headteacher / principal.
- Change of organisation or status e.g. (VC to VA, maintained to academy)
- Competition challenge e.g. new or Free school in the vicinity.
- Disciplinary or capability issues.
- Poor practice and procedures revealed through changed leadership.
- Resignation of key staff.
- Disproportionate change in Governing Body members.
- Change of incumbent.
- Closure of a church
- Significant reduction in budget e.g. as a result of sudden declining role.
- Declining trend in performance information;
 - Pupil outcomes for progress and, or, attainment (in combined or individual subjects).
 - Absence increasing, persistent absence increasing.
 - Exclusions rising.
 - Number on role – bulge intake or sudden decrease.
- Lack of engagement with other schools, networks and the DET.
- Significant change in levels of mobility.
- Indicators for poor inspection outcomes.

Specific Ofsted inspection vulnerabilities

- More than four years since inspection.
- 'Coasting' performance indicators.
- Less than expected progress for any group
- Low percentages of 'more than expected progress'
- Weak governance at strategic levels and, or, high governor / trustee engagement at operational levels.

It is appreciated and understood that this is not an exhaustive list nor that any one indicator suggests vulnerability in every context.