



# Getting ready for your Ofsted inspection: first impressions count

Simple ways to look like an Outstanding school

In January 2016, Sir Michael Wilshaw said that OFSTED inspectors know within a couple of hours of being in a school how good they are.

I agree.

In fact I think they know far sooner.

I think they know in 10 minutes.

If you watched my video you'll know I can judge a school, very accurately, within 30 seconds. You can watch the 10 minute video [here](#).



# The Problem

The problem is that a lot of schools inadvertently put themselves on the back foot from the moment someone walks through the door; they don't realise the messages they are giving out through their environment.

When judgement day comes and Ofsted walk in, they will quickly get a feel for your school's grade before you've even sat down with them. Which means you might find yourselves battling for the grade you know you deserve.

I've walked into a lot of schools, 4-6 a week, and I get to see the differences that let me judge, quickly and pretty accurately, where a school is. Your school is giving out these messages without realising it.

I help heads see the quick and inexpensive ways you can show your school in its true light and not be on the back foot with the inspectors as soon as they arrive.

This isn't about making superficial changes and trying to pull the wool over anyone's eyes.

What's interesting is that the changes we make have a positive impact on everyone who comes into the school, not just the inspectors.



Because environment is emblematic of how high performing your school is.

## How it works

I visit your school and we spend 2 hours having a 'Look Outstanding, Become Outstanding' walk around where I show you what your school needs to do to be seen at its best through your environment, in ways most heads don't realise.

## Is this a learning walk?

No. We'll talk a bit about displays but not much, it's other, less obvious, things that tell me what I need to know.

## I don't have the budget to redecorate the school!

Don't worry, you don't need to because the changes are:

- Free to make (they require a little time and we're not talking about expensive redecoration, far from it)
- Quick to do (each change typically takes 15mins)
- Have a huge impact on how your school comes across (to anyone who comes into it)

## But I know how to do that

That's brilliant and you don't need my help.

However I've found most heads don't see what I see and when I point it out they begin to see how their school is viewed from the moment anyone walks in, the messages your environment is inadvertently giving out.

When I come in they see all the ways they are missing, I don't say this to be disrespectful but I find:

- It gets hard to see the changes needed when you're in your school everyday
- Most heads don't get to walk into the range of schools I do and so they don't have exposure to all the differences that allow me to judge schools with a high degree of accuracy



'We've had the entrance to school totally revamped so the first impression reflects the standards the team strive to achieve. Your input on judging a school within 30 seconds has certainly had the required impact!' *Chris Hanson, Outstanding Headteacher*

'Over the past few months I have noted many small changes in the school – the way children behave in the playground for example, or the changed appearance of the meeting area outside the office. The whole school has a subtly altered atmosphere...These are small changes but I regard them as highly significant - and I'm sure they stem from Heads Up.' *Frank Bowron, Governor*



# Booking

The cost for our 'Look Outstanding, Become Outstanding' service is usually £595+VAT, however if you book by 26th May 2017 we are offering this at £295+VAT\*

To book either:

Click here and fill in the [online booking form](#).

Complete the form below and send it to [kay@ukheadsup.com](mailto:kay@ukheadsup.com)

I'd like to book a School Environmental Walk Around for £295+VAT

Name: .....

Email: .....

Role: .....

School Address: .....

.....

School Tel No: .....

I look forward to showing you how you can quickly and easily show your school for what it is and not start your inspection on the back foot.

\*Reasonable travel expenses might be charged, this will be discussed with you at the time of booking.

We cannot guarantee the outcome of your inspection.