BOARDING SCHOOLS — GUIDE

What boarding school inspection reports mean

Check the report's scope, date and findings. Separate inspection, accreditation, state records and association membership.

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Read the actual report before relying on a summary. Find it on the inspector's website where possible. Check that it covers the school and boarding campus you are considering.

ISI

The Independent Schools Inspectorate says it is approved to inspect association independent schools in England. Its website provides the inspection framework, handbook and report-writing guidance. Read the framework used for the report in front of you. Do not assume reports from different inspection periods use identical language. Sources: ISI, Inspections Explained and ISI, Inspection Framework, fetched 2026-11-10.

Look for the report's scope, findings and required action. Ask the school which changes followed and how it checks them. Record evidence, not only a statement that an issue is resolved.

Ofsted

GOV.UK provides a service to find Ofsted inspection reports. Use the official record rather than an extract in a prospectus. Check the setting name, address, report date and whether a later report or notice exists. Sources: GOV.UK, Find an Ofsted Inspection Report and Ofsted, fetched 2026-11-10.

Do not assume every UK school is inspected by Ofsted. Ask the school to name the relevant inspector and provide the report link for its jurisdiction and provision.

US state records and accreditation

A government record and accreditation answer different questions. California's Department of Education says inclusion in its private school data does not mean that the department or another agency has evaluated, approved or endorsed the school. That statement is about California's data; do not turn it into a rule for every state. Source: California Department of Education, Private School Data, fetched 2026-11-10.

NEASC publishes school accreditation information and a school directory. If a school claims NEASC accreditation, confirm the school and current status with NEASC. Do not infer the status from a school logo. Source: NEASC, fetched 2026-11-10.

Use the report to ask better questions

Make a note with these fields:

- School and campus covered.
- Inspector or accreditor and the source link.
- Inspection date and publication date.
- Boarding provision covered by the report.
- Finding, action required and follow-up evidence.
- Question to ask the head or boarding lead.

Keep inspection findings separate from association membership and exam results. A strong result in one area does not answer a concern in another. If you cannot locate a current report, ask the school and the named body. Mark the status as unconfirmed until you can check it.

Frequently asked questions

Is a state directory entry accreditation?

Do not assume so. Check what the state says its record establishes. California explicitly says inclusion in its private school data is not evaluation, approval or endorsement.

Does a verified owner badge mean a school passed inspection?

No. A badge on this directory concerns the listing owner. It does not establish school quality or inspection status.