

Ofsted Subject-specific inspection criteria

The Advisory Committee on Mathematics Education (ACME) welcomes this opportunity to comment on Ofsted's draft subject-specific inspection criteria.

ACME is very supportive of this approach and believes that the mathematics criteria are well constructed. We believe that the existence of these documents in such an understandable format will help to encourage excellent teaching of mathematics.

Attention to the following suggestions would enhance the document further:

- Progression to further study of the subject should be used as an indicator of good teaching and good leadership & management. A well managed school would make suitable subject routes available (or provide guidance in advance of applying to sixth form colleges) and would understand and prepare students for the demands of such routes.
- References to 'current developments in the subject' should be clarified – perhaps either 'current developments in the role and scope of the subject in the curriculum' or 'current developments in knowledge about teaching and learning the subject. An awareness of the forefront of mathematics research is probably unrealistic.
- References to supporting teachers through subject-specific CPD should be included in the leadership and management section and in the generic column of the first page.
- Provision of Enhancement and Enrichment activities in mathematics should be encouraged through references in this document.
- References to pupil's and teachers' understanding of the role of mathematics in other subjects (and therefore future careers) should be incorporated, along with indicators of pupils' ability and willingness to apply mathematics to other subjects.
- The role of ICT in mathematics should be enhanced in the document – for instance through references to 'use of appropriate ICT tools to deepen mathematical work' in the achievement section; 'use ICT appropriately to deepen mathematical understanding' in the teaching section; and 'including the use of ICT to deepen mathematical understanding and offer different forms of enquiry' in the curriculum section.
- The subject-specific column of the leadership and management section should refer to 'subject knowledge, expertise and vision' rather than 'subject expertise'