

Validation of Grades and Link Adviser Commentaries

On the following pages there are commentary boxes for Link Advisers validate the school's own evaluation. Link advisers will need to be provided with a range of evidence in order to come to a conclusion about the accuracy of the school's judgements. Advisers may support key staff to verify some activities first hand, for example, through joint lesson observations or discussions with staff /learners. They may gain some evidence from sampling activities; or through documentation which signifies different types of activities the school has undertaken to monitor and evaluate its performance, both within and across subjects and key stages. This is particularly relevant in the secondary sector where advisers may be working to verify the work of a single department. Whatever the type of evidence to be considered link advisers must be convinced that the school can accurately measure its performance. It is essential that a school's judgements relate not only to provision but to pupil outcomes.

Where there is insufficient evidence for a Link Adviser to validate the school's judgement he/she will indicate further information the school needs to collect and analyse. If time permits the school may ask the adviser to consider this on a later visit.

On the rare occasion where the adviser disagrees with the school's judgement and no agreement can be reached after discussion with the senior management team, this will be stated and supported by reasons why the adviser's opinion differs from that of the school. A role of the adviser is to challenge school's to ensure that judgements are clearly evidenced and will stand up to scrutiny during inspection. Link adviser commentaries may be used to show external validation of school activity.

On the following pages there are examples of Link Adviser commentaries, both where agreement has been reached and when opinions differ.