

Support with Ofsted

Who are Ofsted?

Ofsted stands for The Office for Standards in Education, Children's Services and Skills. This department is responsible for ensuring that children are safe and receive a good quality of education and an acceptable level of care.

Ofsted has significant regulatory power over schools, childcare providers, and further education institutions in England. This power comes mainly from its ability to inspect, report on provision, and enforce improvements. Inspections can be carried out with as little as one day's notice.

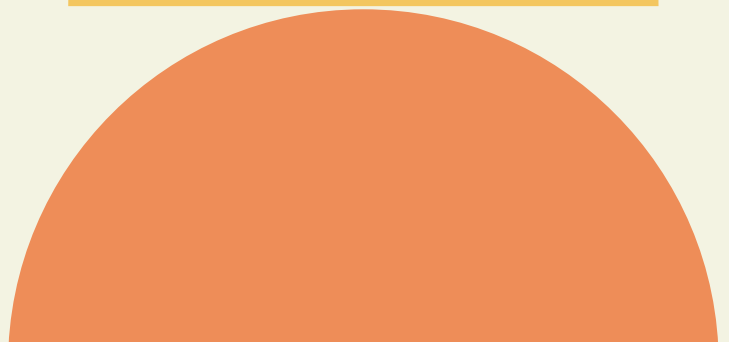
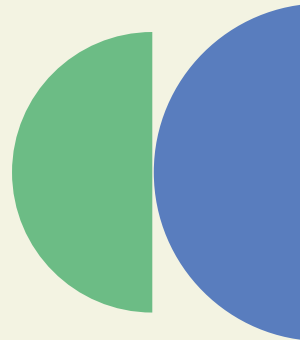
Ofsted Ratings Explained

Every nursery setting in England will already have an Ofsted rating. Currently, there are four main ratings:

- Outstanding
- Good
- Requires Improvement
- Inadequate

These ratings are generally indicative of how well a nursery is run and how effectively it meets health, safety, and care standards.

The ratings system is currently under review and is expected to change in the near future, moving away from single-word judgements. For now, however, this remains the framework in use.





Ofsted Registration for New Nurseries

When setting up a new nursery in England, you must be registered with Ofsted before opening. Only once your registration has been approved are you legally permitted to operate.

Newly registered childcare providers are usually inspected by Ofsted within 30 months of registration, and then at least once every six years thereafter.

Buying an Existing Nursery: What Happens with Ofsted?

When purchasing an existing nursery, the setting will already be registered with Ofsted. Depending on the structure of the sale, you may be able to transfer the registration or may need to apply for a new one.

Understanding this early is important, as it can affect both timescales and planning around completion.

Ofsted Registration in a Share Sale (Limited Company)

Where a nursery is run under a limited company, the Ofsted registration is held in the company's name.

If you purchase the nursery via a share sale, meaning you acquire the limited company as a whole, the Ofsted registration continues without interruption. The main requirement is to update the nominated individual – the person legally responsible for the registration – from the previous owner to yourself. This change can usually be completed post-completion and is relatively

Ofsted Registration in an Asset Sale (Sole Trader)

Where a nursery is run as a sole trader, the Ofsted registration is held in the individual owner's name and cannot be transferred to the buyer.

In these cases, the buyer must apply for a new Ofsted registration in their own name and go through the full registration process. This can take up to six months, which is why it is often one of the first steps taken once a sale is agreed.

Although registration cannot be fully approved until the sale completes, much of the process can be completed in advance so that approval follows shortly after completion. During this period, the seller will maintain their registration.

Ofsted will usually inspect new childcare providers within 30 months of registration, and inspections typically last no longer than six hours.





Support and Preparation for Buyers

Given how the process works, buyers often have to navigate much of the Ofsted registration process themselves. However, we are always here to provide guidance and support where needed.

As with most aspects of buying a nursery, preparation is key, and there are numerous resources available to help ensure you are ready for registration and inspection.



You can also find more information here:
How Ofsted inspects nurseries and other
types of daycare - GOV.UK

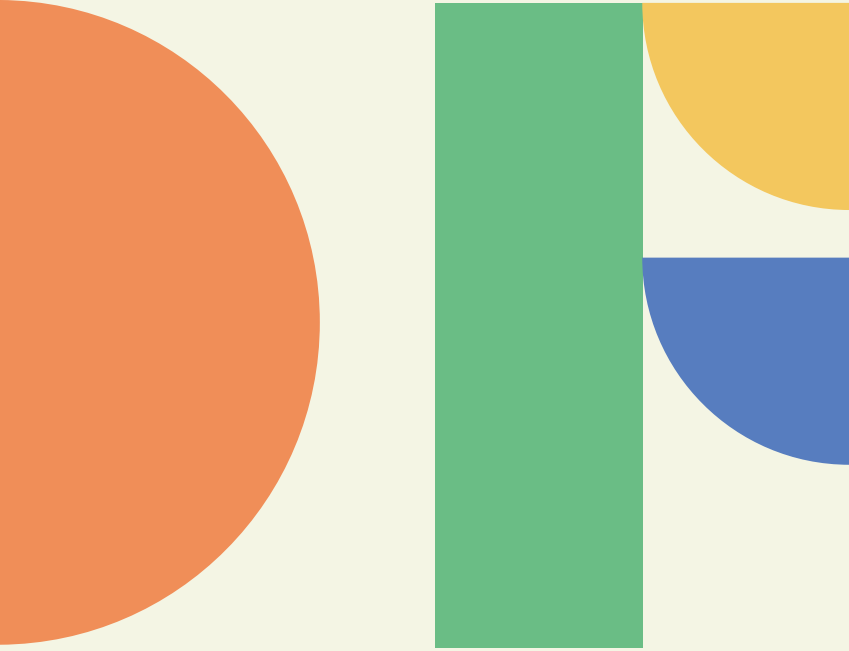


([www.gov.uk/government/collections/
providing-childcare-services-in-england](https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/providing-childcare-services-in-england))

Navigating Ofsted as part of a nursery purchase can feel daunting
- but you don't have to do it alone.

If you're buying a nursery and would like guidance on registration,
inspections, or how the process affects your transaction, our team
is here to help.

[Speak to Owen Froebel about your nursery purchase](#)



Whether you're new to the early years sector or looking to expand your existing portfolio, the dedicated team at Owen Froebel can help you find, assess and acquire the right nursery for you.

To access our full list of nurseries for sale and be the first to hear about new opportunities, you'll need to register on our website. It's quick, free and puts you first in line.

**Register today at
owenfroebel.co.uk**

Looking to acquire your next nursery?

We'll help you find the right opportunity

Contact Leah Turner – Co-Founder

hello@owenfroebel.co.uk | 02476 013929

Company Number 13971855

