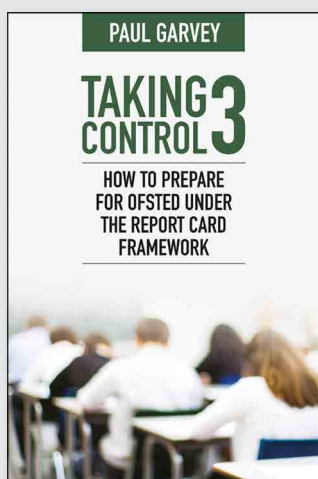


P R E S S R E L E A S E

"Whatever your opinion of Ofsted, being prepared is key—and this book is your battle plan."

**Chris Dyson, Interim CEO Create Partnership (former Head Teacher of Parklands Primary School
and author of *Parklands - A School Built on Love.*)**



Taking Control 3 **How to Prepare for Ofsted Under the** **Report Card Framework**

By Paul Garvey

ISBN: 9781785837470

Price: £18.99

Published by: Crown House Publishing

Date of publication: December 2025

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**Guides readers through Ofsted inspections with specific
advice on the new Report Card Framework.**

How can schools truly take control of the inspection process?

Ofsted's new Report Card Framework marks a major overhaul of how schools are inspected. Brought in to enhance transparency and fairness in educational assessments, many school leaders worry that the revised documentation and shift in methodology bring more complications than clarity. A poll has found that almost two-thirds of headteachers say the new Ofsted school inspections will be worse for their wellbeing than the old system.¹

Single-word judgments were scrapped following criticism of the inspection system in the wake of the tragic death of Caversham headteacher Ruth Perry. Yet the new grading system reintroduces categories that many say risk piling further pressure onto already overstretched schools. Ministers argue the reforms will allow quicker interventions for struggling schools, but leaders are nevertheless left to navigate a new and demanding framework at a time of widespread staff strain.²

Paul Garvey – who spent 11 years as an Ofsted inspector and more than two decades as a teacher – is keen to offer schools the most accessible toolkit possible to navigate this difficult period of change. He firmly believes that leaders can take control of the process to be in with the chance of inspection success.

Often, it isn't that schools lack the quality needed for a strong outcome, but that they struggle to demonstrate it clearly during inspection or in their self-evaluation. This is where Paul's new book, *Taking Control 3*, is a vital asset.

Building on the success of his previous books, Paul explains the new Report Card Framework in plain terms, highlighting the key differences from the outgoing Education Inspection Framework (EIF). He also introduces practical strategies for navigating the new "inspection commentary", which replaces the School Self-Evaluation Form (SEF) – including a dialogic tool to help schools present the most positive and persuasive picture of their work across all inspection areas.

Above all, *Taking Control 3* offers school leaders the knowledge and reassurance they need to face inspection with a genuine sense of control.

¹ 'New Ofsted grading worse for wellbeing – headteachers', BBC News, September 2025. Available at:
<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/articles/cdxqjejl8jo>.

² Judith Burns and Nathan Standley, 'Phillipson says new Ofsted report cards will help struggling schools', BBC News, February 2025. Available at:
<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/articles/c20gkmy6k74o>.

P R E S S R E L E A S E

Suitable for head teachers, senior leadership team members, subject leaders, classroom teachers, governors and all stakeholders in mainstream schools in England.

"This book will positively help and support, and is, in the true spirit of its author, a book that will make school leaders feel less lonely and more empowered."

Prof Dr Ger Graus OBE, Global Education Adviser

About the author

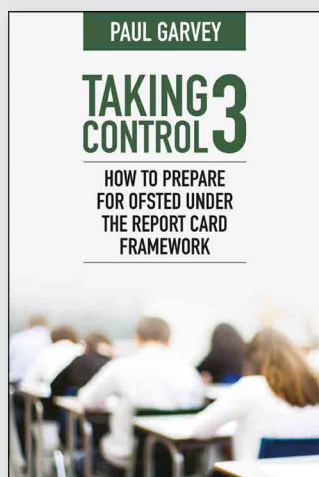
Paul Garvey was a teacher for 22 years and is a former lead inspector for Ofsted. He has also supported many schools in preparing for inspection. Paul is the author of *Taking Control*, *Taking Control 2* and *Talk for Teaching*.

Click [here](#) to read Paul's blog.

Articles and interviews available

Paul is available for interview, expert comment or by-lined articles on a range of topics, such as:

- Is the new inspection process a step forward for Ofsted?
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- What are the main changes from the EIF to the new SEF?
- How can school leaders reduce pressure on staff during inspections?
- What's the biggest shift schools need to prepare for under the new Report Card Framework?



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