

Myth Busters for Marking

Ofsted expectations	
Myth	Fact
<i>Ofsted expects to see a certain frequency of marking in books.</i>	Ofsted does not expect to see any specific frequency, type of volume of marking and feedback.
<i>If inspectors identify marking as an area for improvement, it means that teachers' workload will increase.</i>	Ofsted explains that if marking is seen as an area for improvement it will pay "careful attention" to the way that recommendations are made to ensure that this does not result in unnecessary workload for teachers.
<i>Teachers are expected to deep mark pupils' work.</i>	Deep marking has not been set as a requirement by Ofsted or any government policy. The Teachers' Standards state that teachers must "give pupils regular feedback, both orally and through accurate marking, and encourage pupils to respond to the feedback".

Whole-school practice	
Myth	Fact
<i>The volume and detail of marking should be consistent across all age ranges and subjects.</i>	The Independent Teacher Workload Review Group advises that while standards should be consistent across a school or department, marking practice should vary by age, subject and what works best for the pupil and teacher.
<i>Teacher comments are more effective than self-marking and peer-marking.</i>	While teacher comments can help to advance pupils' progress, research shows that pupils benefit from marking their own work as it helps them to independently identify their strengths and weaknesses.
<i>Frequent marking, in particular deep marking, is the best means of giving feedback.</i>	The Independent Teacher Workload Review Group explains that extensive deep marking can be demotivating and can take away responsibility from pupils of improving their work. Short, challenging comments or oral feedback can be more effective.
<i>All marking must be done in pink and green pen</i>	While pink and green are used in developmental marking, acknowledgement marking can be done in any pen that is a different colour from the children's writing. Please note: if you do not have a pink or green pen to hand, any other pen will do.
<i>You must use a sticker to mark all Theme and Science work</i>	Not every piece of Theme or Science work needs a sticker. Sometimes it may be more appropriate or convenient to write a short comment or acknowledge mark the children's work.

<i>Every piece of work should be marked with a 'green pen question'</i>	This is unrealistic and difficult to manage for teachers and children. Only use a 'green pen question' when it is fit for purpose and will help the child to further their learning. Also there may be some pieces of work that do not need any green pen marking.
<i>All pieces of work must be marked the day they are completed</i>	While it is ideal for this to be true - especially in English and Maths - it is not always realistic or achievable. Don't worry if you have been too busy to complete all of your marking in one evening. No teacher should be awake until midnight marking!
<i>Teachers should never mark in the lesson</i>	This is not true and can be done when appropriate. By marking in the lesson, teachers are able to give instant feedback to a child. This way they can check their progress and see if changes need to be made or whether to set any further challenges.

Some information taken from: The Key Support Services Limited. Full article on <http://schoolleaders.thekeysupport.com>