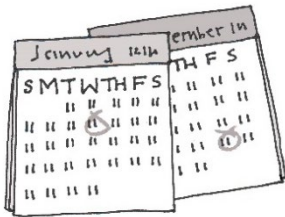
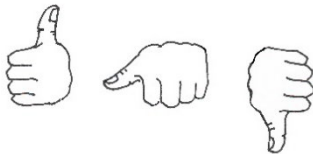




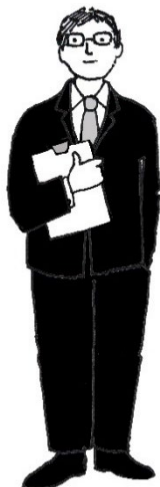
Inspection of HMP Bedford



Inspectors visited this prison in July and August 2026.



We wanted to find out if things were better, the same or worse for prisoners since we last visited in 2023.



Inspectors did this by:

- looking around the prison
- asking prisoners and staff to fill in a paper survey
- speaking to prisoners
- speaking to staff and helpers
- reading documents.

What did we find?



Safety: 2 out of 4

- There was too much violence.
- There were too many drugs.
- Many prisoners could not speak to family and friends in their first few days at the prison.



Respect: 2 out of 4

- Too many prisoners were sharing small cells.
- The prison was dirty and there were rats.
- Staff did not always give prisoners enough help to behave better.
- Prisoners who arrived at the prison in the evening could not get help with drug and alcohol problems.



Things to do: 1 out of 4

- Prisoners waited too long to start doing education or work.
- Not enough prisoners went to education or work.
- There was not a good choice of education subjects for prisoners.
- Teaching was not good enough.



Getting ready to leave prison: 2 out of 4

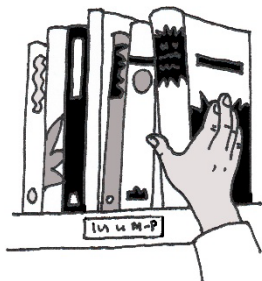
- The prison did not do enough to make sure high risk prisoners were released safely.
- Prisoners did not get enough help to see and speak to family and friends.

What should the prison do?



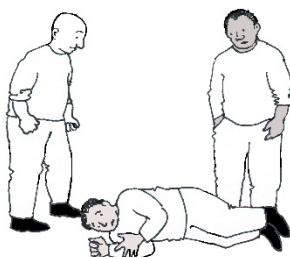
We want the governor to read the report we wrote about HMP Bedford and make a plan.

The plan should tell us how they will fix the problems at HMP Bedford and make things better for prisoners.



You can find the report we wrote in the prison library.

What do we want to happen?



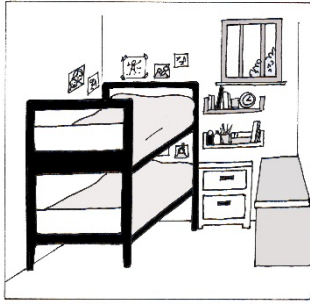
We want the prison to do more to sort out the problems with violence.



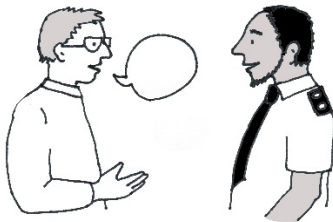
We want the prison to do more to stop drugs getting in.



We want prisoners to be able to speak to family and friends in their first few days at Bedford.



We want prisoners to live in clean, safe cells with enough space.



We want staff to do more to help prisoners behave well.



We want prisoners with drug and alcohol problems to get the help they need when they arrive at the prison.



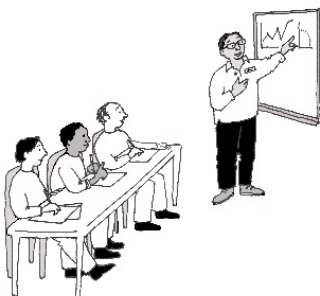
We want prisoners to be able to start education or work quickly.



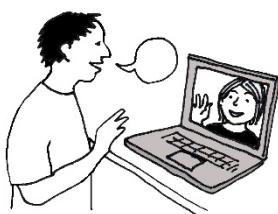
We want more prisoners to go to education and work.



We want there to be a better range of subjects for prisoners to learn.

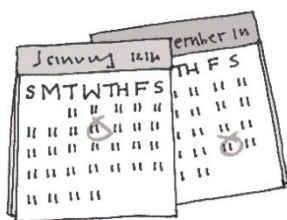


We want teaching to be better.

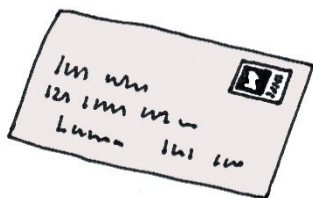


We want prisoners to get more help to see and speak to family and friends.

What will we do?



We will come back in a few years to check how well the prison is doing. We will write a report to tell people what we find.



If you have any questions, please write to us:

HM Inspectorate of Prisons
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10 South Colonnade
Canary Wharf
London
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