



Dear principal, teachers, special needs assistants and members of the school community,

The new school year is well under way and, at this point, I would like to share some updates about the Inspectorate's work with schools during the 2023/2024 school year.

Our inspection work

Our full inspection programme in post-primary schools this year includes:

- Whole-school evaluation - management, leadership and learning (WSE-MLL)
- Evaluation of action planning for improvement in DEIS Schools (DEIS)
- Incidental inspection
- Subject inspection
- Follow-through inspection
- Child protection and safeguarding inspections
- Programme evaluation
- Evaluation of provision for students with additional and special educational needs
- Inspections in schools participating in the Gaeltacht School Recognition Scheme (Meastóireacht ar chomhlíonadh na gcritéar teangabhunaithe d'aitheantas mar scoil Ghaeltachta)



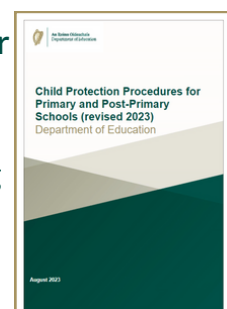
The *Guide to Inspection* is available [here](#)

Some incidental inspections will focus on provision for children and young people for whom English is an additional language and children under international protection

During July and August, inspectors visited some schools offering the **summer programme**. Later this term, inspectors will return to a selection of these schools to engage with children and young people, their parents and with school leaders about the impact of the summer programme.

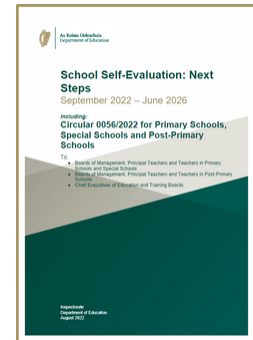


The updated [Child Protection Procedures for Primary and Post-Primary Schools \(Revised 2023\)](#) became effective from 1 September 2023. We ask that all school staff and board of management members are made aware of the revised procedures and that the board formally adopts the 2023 procedures during the first meeting of the school year. The updated mandatory templates are available [here](#). Child protection checks are carried out as part of all inspections in all schools and settings.



School Self-Evaluation (SSE)

A new cycle of SSE started in September 2022. Year 1 (2022-2023) was a review year that enabled schools to take stock of their engagement with SSE and to consider priorities in light of the impact of COVID-19 on pupils.



During the next three years, schools should use SSE to address priorities such as teaching, learning, equity and inclusion, and curriculum. The SSE process should be used to start a wellbeing promotion review and development cycle by 2025.

Schools in the DEIS programme should use the DEIS themes as the main focus for their SSE to address the priorities outlined in SSE Next Steps. These include attendance, retention, literacy, numeracy, supporting educational transitions, partnership with parents and others and attainment in examinations. Leadership, well-being and CPD should be integrated across all themes.



To support all schools in this process, we have published the latest issue of the SSE Newsletter, which includes links to SSE resources.



Schools can also request SSE advisory visits from the Inspectorate by emailing sse@education.gov.ie

Some other developments

School attendance campaign resources

The Minister for Education launched a school attendance campaign in September 2023. Information, resources and toolkits on attendance promotion will soon be made available to schools. There will also be a series of webinars available [here](#) on the promotion of school attendance, which may be of interest to you.



Inspectorate homepage on gov.ie



To support access to Inspectorate materials, including inspection guidelines, reports and publications, and resources for children, young people and parents, we are working to enhance the Inspectorate homepage on gov.ie.



This page will enable you to access various documents and materials published by the Inspectorate in a more user-friendly way. We will share details of this homepage when it is available.

Student participation in inspections



As you will know from my last update, the Inspectorate is committed to eliciting children and young people's views about their learning in a rights-respecting way. To help them to understand what an inspection is, and to interact confidently with inspectors, we created a number of resources for children and young people and their parents about inspection, including videos about how focus groups work. There is a webinar for educators also, *Promoting the participation of children and young people in inspection: Information for educators*. The resources are available [here](#).

The first term of the school year is always a very exciting time, as new experiences and opportunities develop. I hope the remainder of this term will be enjoyable and fruitful for all staff and students and I wish you all the very best.

Yvonne Keating,
Chief Inspector



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**Useful
links**

- Access school inspection reports [here](#)
- Access Inspectorate publications [here](#)