

The Inspection Process

Information for Teachers and Support Staff INSPECTION OF POST-PRIMARY SCHOOLS

WHY IS OUR SCHOOL BEING INSPECTED?

All schools are inspected and visited regularly by inspectors from the Education and Training Inspectorate (ETI).

In order to promote improvement in the interests of all pupils, the purpose of a post-primary inspection is to:

- > evaluate the quality of the provision and the outcomes for the pupils;
- > evaluate the school's leadership and management and its capacity to effect and sustain improvement in its provision and standards; and
- > inform the school's planning for improvement.

Inspections tell **all** those who need to know, such as the parents, the Department of Education (DE) and the Government, how good the schools in Northern Ireland are and what needs to be changed to improve matters.

WHO INSPECTS?

An inspection team has members of ETI who have qualifications and a range of experiences in the field of education. In most inspections an Associate Assessor will join the team to give an additional perspective on the life and work of the school. The team is led by a Reporting Inspector (RI) who is in charge of the inspection and the report of the findings.

WHAT HAPPENS DURING AN INSPECTION?

During the inspection, the inspectors:

- > observe the pupils at work;
- > talk to the pupils about what they are learning;
- > listen to the pupils' account of their learning and other experiences;
- > look carefully at samples of the pupils' work;
- > observe the teaching, and talk to the teachers; and
- > discuss aspects of the school's work with teachers, senior and middle leaders, co-ordinators, governors and the principal.

They assess:

- > the standards attained by the pupils in literacy, numeracy, ICT and in public examinations;
- > the way in which the school looks after the pupils' needs, including the school's arrangements for care and support and child protection/safeguarding;
- > the extent to which the curriculum offer is broad and balanced and meets the needs, aspirations and career goals of the pupils;
- > how well the pupils are learning, being taught and making progress in line with their ability;
- > how well the school is run and led;

- > the effectiveness of the governance of the school; and
- > how well the school relates to the parents and the wider community.

Two members of the team will also talk informally to groups of pupils outside the classroom and without a member of staff being present. During these discussions the inspectors will talk to the pupils about:

- > the things they enjoy in school;
- > how they are supported in their learning;
- > how the school promotes positive behaviour;
- > how the pupils are supervised outside the classroom; and
- > how the school deals with their concerns and worries.

HOW CAN I CONTRIBUTE TO THE INSPECTION PROCESS?

It is very important to ETI that you take the opportunity to give your views on the school and how well it is meeting the needs of the pupils. One of the ways of doing this is by completing a confidential online questionnaire.

In addition, you may request to meet with the RI, or any member of the inspection team, during the inspection if you wish to do so.

FURTHER INFORMATION

The following documents are available via the ETI website: www.etini.gov.uk

Together Towards Improvement (Post-Primary version)
Complaints Procedure
Inspection Guidance for Post-Primary Principals
A Charter for Inspection

WHAT HAPPENS AFTER AN INSPECTION?

When the report on the school is published, a copy of the report will be available on the Education and Training Inspectorate website at www.etini.gov.uk or at the school.

If the report finds that there are important or significant areas for improvement, the governors will be asked to make a response and a follow-up inspection will take place.

If you wish to comment on any aspect of the inspection or the report, you should write to the Chief Inspector, at the address below.

The Chief Inspector, The Reporting Inspector and Inspection Services Branch may be contacted at: Department of Education, Rathgael House, Balloo Road, BANGOR, Co Down BT19 7PR, Telephone: 028 9127 9726