



Newsletter

from the Chief Inspector, Department of Education



“

Introduction from Yvonne

Hello again!

I wrote to you last year to explain what school inspectors do and how our work helps schools improve so they can better support students like you.

Now, I want to tell you about what we are working on this year and to share some information that might be interesting to you.

Yvonne Keating”

The Inspectorate's work in schools

This year, we continue to visit schools and do different types of inspection. Some of these inspections take two or three days, while others only take one day.

During inspections, we visit classrooms to see how teaching and learning are going and we talk to students, teachers and the principal. For longer inspections, we also talk to other people involved with the school. We talk to students because it is important to hear what you think about your learning experiences and your school.





The Inspectorate's work with Children and Young People

The Inspectorate really values children and young people's views and ideas and wants to keep getting better at listening to and supporting them. This year, we have added a page just for students to our curriculum evaluation and subject inspection reports. This page shares important findings and recommendations from inspections. You will be able to see the page when your school has had an inspection. You can ask your principal or teachers about it, or you can find inspection reports on the Inspection Reports page of www.gov.ie/DEInspectorate.



Recently, we released four videos where schools show how they encourage student participation and their students leading on different school activities.

You can find them, as well as videos about what inspectors do, on the Information for children and young people page on gov.ie/DEInspectorate.



You might like to know, too, that the Department of Education has set up a Student Participation Unit. It released a report and a plan about how it will work more closely with students like you to improve how it works.

You can read about it here: gov.ie - Student Participation in Education.



New Inspectorate Webpage

Earlier this year, we launched a new website. It is a place where we can share information with everyone in the school community about what we do, why we do it, and how we do it.

There is a section where you can find school inspection reports, and a section that explains our work to children and young people. We also have a section for parents and guardians, and your teachers can find information about inspections there too.

Sometimes, we look at one area of education in several schools and write a report about what we found. These reports are called thematic reports, and you can find them on the website as well.

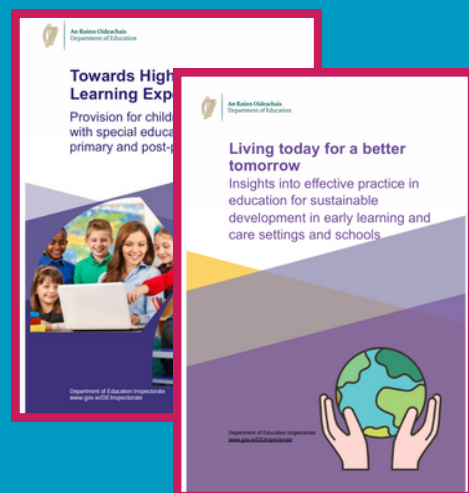


The website address is www.gov.ie/DEInspectorate

Inspectorate Publications

We published several different documents and videos this year on matters such as special educational needs in primary and post-primary schools, education for sustainable development and students interviewed the Chief Inspector about why it is important to listen to students' views during inspections.

These are available at www.gov.ie/DEInspectorate



Thank you

I want to thank everyone in the schools we visit during inspections and other work. Working together with respect is important to us, and inspectors are looking forward to meeting you in the future. Wishing you all the very best!