



Newsletter

from the Chief Inspector, Department of Education



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I'm Yvonne Keating, the Chief Inspector in the Department of Education. We work for the Government and for the public, to make sure that all children and young people have the best learning opportunities whether they are in early learning and care settings, or in schools. This newsletter is to let you know what school inspectors do and how our work helps to make schools better able to support students like you.

Yvonne Keating

What do Department of Education Inspectors do?

The Department of Education's team of inspectors visit schools, as well as early learning and care settings, to see how students are taught and how well things are working there. If anything needs to be improved we will give advice to the school about how this can be done. We visit as many schools as we can each year and share information with the Department of Education, so that we can all work towards higher standards to improve the learning experience for students.





What happens during a school inspection?



We do different types of inspections. Some of our visits take two or three days. During these inspections we visit classrooms to look at teaching and learning, and talk to teachers, principals and other people involved in the school. We also talk to students because it is important to hear what you have to say.

Sometimes we carry out shorter inspections to see what a normal day is like for everyone in a school.

We visit schools to see how children and young people with additional needs are supported, and to ensure that all students are safe and protected in their place of learning.

After our visit

We talk to teachers about what we notice during an inspection. We tell them what is working well, and give advice to help make things better. After some of our inspections we write a report about what we have found. [You can see some of these reports on our website.](#)

How you can get involved

When we visit schools we want to hear what you think about the school and about your learning experience. You might be asked to fill in a survey, or to be part of a focus group. We have made some videos and leaflets to explain more about what inspectors do and what happens during an inspection.

[Find out here why it is important that students like you have your say.](#)



Inspectors know how important your education is. We want you to have the best learning experience possible. We are looking forward to meeting you during our school visits and hearing what you think!



School self-evaluation

All schools are asked to think carefully about how well they do things and to choose some ways they can improve; this is called school self-evaluation. It is a process where schools build on their strengths and then try to make things better for students and their learning.

This year, your school may ask you to fill in a survey or to take part in a discussion about different things. Your ideas will help school leaders to consider what is working well and what still needs to improve.



[Find out more here.](#)

Where to find out more

Department of Education website

<https://www.gov.ie/en/organisation/departments-of-education/>

Information on inspection for children, young people and parents/guardians

<https://www.gov.ie/en/publication/d3832-guide-to-inspection/>

Inspection reports

<https://www.gov.ie/en/school-reports/>

School self-evaluation

<https://www.gov.ie/en/service/3f07cf-school-self-evaluation/#sse-resources-2022-2026>

