

A student's guide to inspection in post-primary schools



Why does an inspector visit schools?

- > The Minister for Education has the job of making sure all the schools in Ireland are working well. The Department of Education helps the Minister to do this. The Department has a team of inspectors and they visit every school.
- > Every year, inspectors carry out inspections in a number of schools. They want to see how well the schools are working and what teaching and learning are like.

What happens during an inspection?

One or more inspectors will visit the school. They choose lessons from various year groups to visit and they look at different subjects.

They stay to watch lessons and look at the work teachers ask you to do.

They talk to teachers and to the principal and deputy principal(s). Sometimes, they talk to the board of management (the group of people who help run the school) and to parents.

The inspectors may also ask parents to complete a survey about the school.

Inspectors want to hear the views of students too.

They talk to students when they visit classrooms and often meet with smaller groups of students. They are interested to hear you describe your learning and your experiences of school.

They may ask some year groups to complete a survey about how they learn at school. Whatever students say in the survey is private.

What will happen after the inspector leaves?

- > Following an inspection, an inspector usually writes a report. It describes what the inspectors saw working well and gives ideas about what the school could change to make it an even better place to learn.
- > The report is shared with the school. It is also shared on the internet for anyone else who wants to read it. Inspectors often visit the school again a while later to see how things are progressing since the inspection.

Inspectors want to help your school to be the best place it can be so that you can enjoy your learning and your time there.

You can find out more about what we do at gov.ie/en/publication/d3832-guide-to-inspection

