

A pupil's guide to inspection in 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 will visit some or all of the classrooms.
 - They will stay to watch some of the lessons and look at the work the teacher asks you to do.
- They will talk to teachers and to the principal. Sometimes, they will 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 really like hearing the views and ideas of children too. They will chat with children when they visit classrooms.

- Sometimes, they talk to everyone as a whole class and other times they talk to children in small groups.
- They might talk to you about what you are learning and doing in school, or about the types of lessons you have.
- They may ask some classes to complete a survey about how they learn. Whatever children say in the survey is private, and the inspector does not tell the school what any child said.



What will happen after the inspector leaves?

- > Following an inspection, the 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 be an even better place for children 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 will often visit the school again a while later to see how things have changed 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

