

What duties and responsibilities does an AA fulfil in inspections?

An AA will undertake any duties allocated to him/her by the Reporting Inspector. These duties are similar to those undertaken by inspectors.

AAs may visit classes and evaluate the quality of teaching and learning/training, and the standards achieved by the pupils.

The AA will attend the post-inspection conference and contribute to the overall findings of the inspection

AAs may also be asked to contribute to focus groups considering new developments in inspection, if requested by the Education and Training Inspectorate (the Inspectorate).

How do I find out more about AAs?

If you wish to know more about the work of AAs please contact:

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Your enquiry or comment will be passed on to an appropriate member of the Inspectorate to provide a reply.



Providing Inspection Services for

Department of Education
Department for Employment and Learning
Department of Culture, Arts and Leisure

The Role of the

Associate Assessor in Inspections



INVESTOR IN PEOPLE

Who is an Associate Assessor (AA)?

An AA is a current practitioner in a pre-school centre, school, further or higher education college, a training organisation, a youth centre or a support service such as the Curriculum Advisory and Support Service (CASS).

An AA will normally join two inspection teams each year in the phase/sector relevant to their professional experience.

Who can become an AA?

AAs are required to:

- demonstrate their commitment to raising standards of learning and teaching/training in their particular phase or sector;
- hold a post of responsibility within their own organisation;
- provide evidence of being involved in curriculum development, preferably in the implementation of curriculum innovation; and

- demonstrate that they have implemented self-evaluation effectively within their own organisation.

What are the aims of the AA initiative?

The aims of the AA initiative are for the practitioner to :

- have the opportunity to inform and contribute to the improvement of the inspection process;
- develop an understanding of the inspection procedures, processes and protocols;
- contribute to improvement and raising standards by developing the use of the self-evaluation process in their own organisations, in relation to learning and teaching/training.

How are AAs appointed?

AAs are appointed through public advertisement and interview. The application must be supported by the

management of the organisation where the applicant is employed.

The normal period of tenure is three years, although this period may be extended by mutual agreement. Confirmation of appointment is dependent on the successful completion of induction training.

Are AAs paid?

AAs are not paid or compensated for loss of earnings, however travel and subsistence costs are met.

What training does an AA receive?

An AA receives training which includes:

- information on the principles of inspection;
- an introduction to the procedures used in inspections;
- observing, evaluating and recording as relevant to phase/sector groups;
- recording and grading; and
- the protocols and processes of inspection.