

An update on the work of ETI: February 2022 – May 2022

February 2022

Early Years, Primary and Special: Outdoor Learning Environment

The ETI thematic paper *'Pre-school and foundation stage: Delivering the curriculum outdoors'* published on 4 November 2021 to coincide with National Outdoor Classroom Day. Outdoor learning is one of the themes which district inspectors will continue to focus on during the rest of this academic year, including in Special Schools.

Primary: The provision of physical education in primary schools

This evaluation focuses on the nature and quality of the provision of physical education within a sample of primary schools. The report will focus on the system-level strengths (including exemplars of best practice), barriers to participation and areas for improvement in the delivery of high quality provision.

Primary and Post-primary: An evaluation of digital skills in primary and post-primary schools

Following on from the ETI's survey of pupil experiences during the period of remote learning which published in November 2021, this evaluation focuses on the learning and development of pupils' and practitioners' digital skills through a qualitative exploration of their experiences of remote learning and its legacy.

Primary and Post-primary: Learning Support Provision in mainstream schools

This evaluation focuses on the arrangements for, and the quality of the provision in, Learning Support Centres in mainstream schools. District inspectors will carry out visits to a sample of primary and post-primary schools with Learning Support Centre provision. Inspectors will also engage with parents to seek their views on provision in Learning Support Centres.

Schools and EOTAS Centres: The preventative curriculum and safeguarding practices in schools and EOTAS centres

This evaluation aims to identify the approaches and challenges around delivering effective preventative safeguarding practices in schools and EOTAS centres. Pupils in Year 7, 10, 12 and 14 in a sample of settings will be invited to complete an online questionnaire. The ETI will also complete the series of district visits to review effective safeguarding practices and discuss aspects of the preventative curriculum. Visits will also take place to a small sample of schools/centres to develop exemplars of effective practice.



Providing Inspection services for:
Department of Education
Department for the Economy
and other commissioning Departments



An update on the work of ETI: February 2022 – May 2022

February 2022

Work-based Learning and European Social Fund: Quality Improvement Planning Scrutiny and ‘Call 2’ visits

The Department for the Economy has commissioned ETI to evaluate the effectiveness of recovery focused quality improvement planning in the training supplier organisations and European Social Fund projects. European Social Fund projects Call 2 visits to providers will also be undertaken.

Youth work: Youth Participation and Wellbeing

Youth Participation: This will focus on evidence taken forward by the Children and Young People Team as part of the Participation Project and the leading role of the Education Authority in developing standards, working with young people and taking forward their views.

Wellbeing: This will include evidence from the ‘Reach’ and wellbeing programme (practice in supporting young people during the COVID-19 pandemic). Inspectors will also be monitoring and evaluating elements of detached youth work, and the development of the DE Youth Mental Health and Wellbeing Programme.

Development work: ‘Empowering Improvement - Stepping Forward Together’ Project

The planning for the ETI’s capacity-building project ‘Empowering Improvement – Stepping Forward Together’ is progressing well, with due cognisance of the current health situation. The project reflects ETI’s commitment to wide-scale consultation and engagement with schools, organisations and other stakeholders around sustainable capacity-building in the area of self-evaluation leading to improvement. Specifically, the project focuses on self-evaluation:

- leading to whole-organisation improvement (from the perspective of middle leadership); and
- of learning and teaching, encompassing digital learning.

We will be in touch with schools and organisations to begin the process of nominating the key staff to become involved with the project and to outline the timetable of activities in February. Over 760 pre-school settings, schools and EOTAS centres have expressed an interest in being involved in consultation around the development of an inspection strategy. This work will be taken forward throughout this academic year.

Other Commissioned Work: Planning for a Joint Child Protection Inspection with the Criminal Justice Inspection (CJI) and Regulation and Quality Improvement Authority (RQIA)

In collaboration with CJI and RQIA, ETI will undertake planning for a pilot joint child protection inspection. This joint working is in keeping with the Children’s Service Co-operation Act (NI) 2015 and its aim to improve co-operation among Departments and authorities in advancing the welfare of children.



Providing Inspection services for:
Department of Education
Department for the Economy
and other commissioning Departments

