

EDUCATION AND TRAINING INSPECTORATE

An update on the work of ETI:
February 2025 – June 2025

Programme of Work

Schools/organisations	Individual Organisation Inspections and Progress Inspections
Pre-school	An Evaluation of the Sure Start Programme
Schools	An Evaluation of Specialist Provisions in Mainstream Schools – Part 2
Primary Schools	Progress Report – Physical Education in Primary Schools (December 2022) Progress Report – The World Around us in Primary Schools (January 2015)
Youth	Review of Priorities for Youth (PfY) Implementation
Independent Schools	Registration and re-registration visits
Work-based learning	Quality Improvement Planning Scrutiny Visits
Further Education	Evaluation of the Traineeship Programme Evaluation of the Step-Up Project
Broader work	Specialist Insight Reports of ApprenticeshipsNI provision
Professional Learning for Impact	Publication of the Compendium of Phase Insights Report
Professional Learning for Impact	Empowering Improvement II Programme for senior leaders
Professional Learning for Impact	Dissemination of Effective Practice – Emotional Health and Wellbeing and School Uniform Policies
Professional Learning for Impact	Associate Assessor Programme

Schools/Organisations: Individual Organisation Inspections and Progress Inspections

Since September 2024, using the Empowering Improvement Framework, ETI has carried out individual organisation inspections of: pre-schools; primary and post-primary schools; youth providers; and work-based learning providers. In this period, ETI inspectors have been able to identify schools/organisations which require external support in particular areas of their provision and to share the highly effective practice from which others may learn.

Individual organisation inspections will continue this term. Any school or organisation that would like to hear more about the Empowering Improvement Framework can do so by requesting a visit from the District Inspector, using the [form](#) available on the ETI website. Similarly, the Chief Inspector will continue to consider specific requests for an inspection from schools/organisations in this academic year. Please discuss with the District Inspector in the first instance. Please note that not all requests will be able to be accommodated due to resource availability.

Progress Inspections of a small number of schools/organisations will take place during this term. This will provide these schools/organisations with the opportunity to demonstrate the progress made in addressing areas for action identified at the time of the last inspection and to provide the school community with an up-to-date report.

Pre-school: An Evaluation of the Sure Start Programme

The aim of this evaluation is to provide a focused analysis of the quality of play activities within Sure Start projects. ETI inspectors will work with the staff to assess the quality and effectiveness of the play provision in achieving positive outcomes for children's development. The work will involve visits to a number of Sure Start projects to: observe the quality of play activities, meet with the staff, engage parents and assess the impact of play activities on the children's learning and development.

Schools: An Evaluation of Specialist Provisions in Mainstream Schools – Part 2

As part of ETI's longitudinal evaluation of Specialist Provisions in Mainstream Schools (SPiMS), inspectors will carry out a second visit to approximately one-half of the schools involved in visits last term. Inspectors will: engage with principals and relevant staff; observe lessons; seek the views of the learners who attend the SPiMS classes; assess learner outcomes; and engage with focus groups of parents to discuss their child's learning.

Primary Schools: Physical Education in Primary Schools – Progress Report

Further to the publication in November 2022 of ETI’s evaluation of Physical Education in Primary Schools, inspectors will be monitoring progress in addressing the seven ‘next steps’ identified in the report. This work will involve engagement with the relevant officials in the Department of Education, along with the employing authorities, initial teacher education institutions, school governors, leaders, practitioners and children.

Primary Schools: The World Around Us in Primary Schools – Progress Report

ETI published an evaluation of the implementation of The World Around Us in primary schools in January 2015. Now ten years on, inspectors will be reviewing the progress made by all stakeholders on the ten recommendations made in the report. This work will involve engagement with relevant officials in the Department of Education, along with the Council for Curriculum, Examinations and Assessment (CCEA) and the employing authorities, and engaging with school leaders, practitioners and children to highlight current effective practice.

Youth: Review of Priorities for Youth Implementation

ETI will complete the review of the implementation of Priorities for Youth.

Independent Schools: Registration and Re-registration Visits

ETI will be conducting re-registration visits with a small number of independent schools. These are conducted within a five-year timeframe, providing assurance to DE as part of its registration requirements.

Work-based learning: Quality Improvement Planning Scrutiny Visits

The Department for the Economy (DfE) has commissioned ETI to evaluate the effectiveness of the quality improvement planning process in a sample of training provider organisations contracted to deliver the Skills for Life and Work and ApprenticeshipsNI training programmes. The scrutiny evaluation work will be completed this term and will include Scrutiny Visits to a sample of organisations. [Guidance on the arrangements for the scrutiny process in 2024-25](#) is available on the ETI website.

Further Education: Evaluations of the Traineeship Programme and the Step-Up Project

DfE has commissioned ETI to evaluate the quality and effectiveness of the NI Traineeship Programme and the Step-Up Project delivered across the six further education colleges. The evaluations commenced in Term 1 and will be completed during this term.

Broader work: Specialist Insight Reports of ApprenticeshipsNI provision

ETI inspectors will engage with a sample of training provider organisations and further education colleges to inform Specialist Insights reports of ApprenticeshipsNI training provision in the specialist areas of Child Care, Learning and Development (CCLD) and Construction. Inspectors will undertake one-day visits to a sample of organisations, leading to insight reports which will highlight what is working well and identify any key challenges/next steps for each area.

Professional Learning for Impact: Compendium Report

The Chief Inspector will publish a compendium of the phase insights reports over the period 2021-2024.

Professional Learning for Impact: 'Empowering Improvement II' Programme

ETI will complete the delivery of its Empowering Improvement II programme to the remaining cohorts of the senior leaders across primary and post-primary schools who registered to take part. The programme is centred on the five core questions from the new inspection framework and aims to support the whole-organisation self-evaluation process.

Professional Learning for Impact: Dissemination Events

Emotional Health and Wellbeing (EHWB):

ETI worked with eight schools/organisations to report on the successful approaches adopted to meet the changing EHWB needs of their children and young people. The exemplars of effective practice document the approaches taken, highlighting their aims, actions, successes and next steps. A huge thank you to the eight schools involved. To mark the launch of Children's Mental Health Week, an EHWB guidance document, containing the exemplars, will be available on the DE website from 3 February, and a dissemination event will be held to mark the publication. We hope you find them to be an inspiring read.

School Uniform Policy:

ETI engaged with a sample of primary and post-primary schools to report on and exemplify innovative practice in relation to the effective implementation of their school uniform policies. The examples of effective practice have captured the views expressed by principals, governors, parents and pupils. These will be published on the ETI website and may inspire other leaders in reviewing their approach to sustainable and affordable school uniforms for all.

Professional Learning for Impact: Associate Assessor Programme

ETI will be hosting professional learning and development conferences for Associate Assessors from the pre-school, primary and post-primary phases. The conferences will focus on the new model of inspection, the Empowering Improvement Framework, and will provide an opportunity for them to explore how they can best use their experience and expertise when part of an inspection team and how to use the experiences they gain on inspection to effect improvement when they return to their own organisations.