



The Education and Training Inspectorate  
Promoting Improvement

Providing inspection services for:  
Department of Education  
Department for the Economy



Department of  
**Education**  
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Dear colleagues

Due to the fast moving and challenging circumstances for you all related to COVID-19, the Education and Training Inspectorate (ETI) are taking the unprecedented action of pausing all inspections with immediate effect until further notice. The position will be reviewed as and when circumstances change. The ETI, working with the Minister and Department of Education understand the concerns of schools and providers, parents, carers and all stakeholders at this time. This pausing of inspections will enable schools and providers to focus on the health and well-being of staff, pupils and students. It will also enable schools and providers to plan for closures if/when they happen.

During this period all ETI inspectors and staff will be redeployed to support the education system, the Minister and the Department at this challenging time. We will continue to review and monitor the situation in line with the advice from the Minister, the Department, the Public Health Agency (PHA) and the Executive.

Should you wish to discuss your approaches to remote learning in the event of school and provider closures, with your District Inspector, please contact the Inspection Services Team by telephone or email (02981 279515 [eti@education-ni.gov.uk](mailto:eti@education-ni.gov.uk)) and they will be pleased to make the necessary arrangements for your District Inspector to contact you. This will be beneficial to all our children and young people and will enable District Inspectors to identify and share good practice in this regard both with individual schools and providers and with the wider education system. This will also enable us to listen to your views and concerns on matters that affect you immediately and in terms of future scenario planning.

In the days that lie ahead, it will be important that we all follow and adhere to the PHA advice and guidance on COVID-19.

We are listening to schools and providers at this difficult time and wish you and your staff well as you continue to put children and learners first.

Yours faithfully

**Noelle Buick**  
Chief Inspector



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