

Empowering improvement - Stepping forward together

October 2021

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*Investing in time for,
and supporting schools
and organisations with,
the self-evaluation
process.*

Why are we doing this?

The Covid-19 pandemic has caused widespread disruption and presented many challenges to our education and training system. Alongside the challenges, however, it has brought rapid change and opened up new opportunities. New ideas around learning and assessment are being debated, along with in-depth discussions around the nature, purpose and function of high quality education in the 21st century.

ETI, like all other education and training organisations, is working hard to understand the legacy of the pandemic and discern the best way forward. We are committed to wide-scale, consultation and engagement and want to work alongside schools, organisations and other stakeholders around sustainable capacity-building of key staff in the important area of self-evaluation leading to improvement.

We have also been working internally to build our own foundations for change process and are reflecting on how best we can serve learners in the now significantly changed landscape for education and training. As part of this work, we will also consult with schools and organisations around the development of an inspection strategy.

What will it look like?

Funding towards substitute cover has been secured to deliver a programme of professional learning/capacity building. This will be allocated to participating schools and organisations to support, and provide time for identified key staff, to work collaboratively with ETI colleagues. Specifically, the ETI capacity-building will focus on self-evaluation:

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

The high-level aims of the project are anchored around promoting organisational improvement in order to enhance learners' learning experiences and improve outcomes.

The work with ETI will involve:

- in-school planning and preparation work, using own and ETI-produced resources, prior to participation in professional learning activities;
- participation in ETI-led professional learning activities, based upon the successful model of Associate Assessor development work;
- in-school follow-on work and dissemination, using a range of ETI-supplied materials and resources; and
- engagement in shared community of practice conferences and follow-on with the school's District Inspector.

Want to get involved?

We would like as many schools and organisations as possible to become involved in this project. At this point in time, it is anticipated that most of the engagement will be done virtually.

The self-evaluation work will be targeted at the middle leadership level across primary, post-primary and special schools. Leaders in nursery schools, nursery units and pre-school settings are also invited to get involved.

You can become involved by:

1. opting for involvement only in the professional learning opportunities which will be available; and/or
2. expressing an interest in being a part of a consultation group around the design and content of the main component parts of the self-evaluation focused project; and/or
3. expressing an interest in being a part of a consultation group around the development and piloting of an inspection strategy for the future.

To ascertain the scope of the project and to assist with the more detailed planning, we are seeking expressions of interest from schools; a short online expression of interest form can be accessed by clicking <https://consultations.nidirect.gov.uk/de-nisra-education-and-training-inspectorate/d5441a30>.

This needs to be returned to us before **12.00 noon on Wednesday 20 October**.

Next steps

ETI will acknowledge receipt of expressions of interest. The information from the online returns will be used to determine the scope of the project across the pre-school, primary, post-primary and special school sectors and to commence the more detailed planning and preparation.

Over the next few weeks, 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 (January to March 2022).

For each of the schools/organisations who have expressed an interest in participating, it is anticipated that funding to support substitute cover will be available for one member of staff in nursery/pre-school, two in primary/special and four in post-primary.

We will also be in touch with those schools who have been selected to work with us in the two consultation groups.

If you have any queries, please contact the ETI Inspection Services Team at eti@education-ni.gov.uk.

A chance to work closely with the school's District Inspector in supporting self-evaluation.

