

ETI School Inspections – What to Expect

December 2022

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Purpose of inspection

To build capacity within the organisations inspected to provide high quality education and outcomes for learners,

ETI will:

- ✓ promote processes of self-evaluation which will endure beyond the period of the inspection;
- ✓ evaluate and report objectively and fairly on the quality of provision in the best interests of the learners;
- ✓ help to inform and establish improved ways of working through professional dialogue;
- ✓ identify, affirm, report, and disseminate examples of highly effective and innovative practice from which others may learn;
- ✓ seek to reduce the burden of inspection, avoid unnecessary workload, and minimise the stress around inspection;
- ✓ take into account the context of the individual school, and reflect this during inspection and reporting;
- ✓ look at evidence of a school's self-evaluation process and related current working documents;
- ✓ place more emphasis on professional dialogue during inspections, between the ETI and teachers and school leaders; and
- ✓ focus on teaching and learning in action rather than read files of paperwork.

Expectations around documentation

ETI has no desire for schools to be creating or providing documentation for inspection purposes that is not required.

In order to help address this matter, ETI will:

- ✓ Provide clarity around the essential documentation required for inspection. The documentation will relate to the school's self-evaluation work, including the starting points and progress of learners.
- ✓ Use the transition to an entirely electronic inspection platform to ensure that only the documentation essential to the inspection will be able to be uploaded in advance, or during the inspection.
- ✓ Emphasise to schools, through guidance documents and other communications, that additional paperwork is not required or desired and may well detract from the core purpose of the inspection.
- ✓ Engage in professional dialogue with teachers and senior and middle leaders about existing short, medium, and long-term planning.
- ✓ Engage in professional dialogue based on existing working documents and would ask that schools and teachers do not prepare any new documentation specifically for the inspection.

What to expect from your District Inspector

Every school has a named District Inspector, whose role is to:

- ✓ maintain good communication and relationships with the school, building mutual trust;
- ✓ develop knowledge and understanding of the school through engagement and dialogue;
- ✓ develop an understanding of the change factors within a school, its context and circumstances;
- ✓ affirm good practice, acknowledge progress and discuss and influence strategies for the school improvement agenda;
- ✓ provide constructive feedback, challenge and build capacity; and
- ✓ encourage and support progress towards improvement.