

INSPECTION INFORMATION FOR TEACHERS 2024/25

The Inspectorate of the Department of Education has a suite of 11 inspection models for schools. A number of these are focused on evaluating classroom teaching. Other inspections are focused on whole-school practices and teachers in their many professional roles outside the classroom can also be involved in these inspections.

All the inspection models are underpinned by the quality framework for schools – Looking at Our School (LAOS).

All inspection models involve a level of Child Safeguarding evaluation. Teachers will be asked if they have read the Child Safeguarding Statement and if they are aware of their responsibilities as a mandated person.

All inspection models involve anti-bullying monitoring. Teachers will be asked if the school's anti-bullying policy is readily accessible to teachers, students, parents and Board of Management members.

A teacher or a Board of Management affected by an inspection is entitled to seek a review of the inspection under the procedures set out in the Department's Guide. For the 2024 Department of Education's Guide to Inspections in Post-Primary Schools scan the QR code opposite.



Note: This chart only includes key information relevant to classroom teachers and does not include requirements, documentation, meetings, etc. in relation to school management.

TYPE/NOTICE/ DURATION	DOCUMENTATION REQUIRED FROM SUBJECT TEACHERS	FOCUS	REPORT
Incidental Inspection No advance notice Typically, 1 day duration	Teachers' individual termly and yearly planning documents Student support plans (SSP) if available Records of student attainment and assessment data	Teaching and learning in the classroom: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Teacher's preparation for lesson taught Effectiveness of approaches used Classroom atmosphere How students are organised and managed during learning activities Inspector interacts with students and may review samples of their work	No written report issues to school Verbal feedback to teachers and at meeting with principal Inspectorate recommends that main themes of feedback are shared with teachers and Board of Management
Subject Inspection 5 working days' notice Typically, 1 to 2 days' duration	Subject department/ programme plans, records of subject department/ programme team meetings Teachers' individual termly and yearly planning documents Student support plans (SSP) if available Records of student attainment and assessment data Assessment policy Programme coursework-related materials <ul style="list-style-type: none"> JSCP – Student Profile Folders TY – Portfolio LCVP – Links Module Coursework LCA – Key Assignments and Tasks Samples of students' work/students' journal	Teaching, learning and assessment Subject provision and whole-school support Planning and preparation Inspector interacts with students and may review samples of their work	Publication of final report at www.gov.ie/school-reports
Programme Evaluation 5 working days' notice Typically, 2 days' duration	Programme plans, records of programme team meetings Teachers' individual termly and yearly planning documents Records of student attainment and assessment data Programme assessment policy Programme coursework-related materials <ul style="list-style-type: none"> JSCP – Student Profile Folders TY – Portfolio LCVP – Links Module Coursework LCA – Key Assignments and Tasks Records relating to students' work experience	Teaching and learning Programme provision and whole-school support Programme planning, co-ordination and evaluation Inspector interacts with students and may review samples of their work	Publication of final report at www.gov.ie/school-reports
Evaluation of Inclusive Practices and Provision for Children with Special and Additional Educational Needs 10 working days' notice Typically, up to 3 school days' duration	Subject department/ programme plans, records of subject department/ programme team meetings Teachers' individual termly and yearly planning documents Student support plans (SSP) if available Records of student attainment and assessment data Assessment data and documents relevant to students with additional and special educational needs if available Assessment policy	Quality of learning outcomes Quality of learning experiences Effectiveness of school's use of additional resources Effectiveness of structures and practices to foster inclusion, equality of opportunity and holistic development of students	Collated results of survey shared with school Publication of final report at www.gov.ie/school-reports
Whole School Evaluation – Management, Leadership and Learning (WSE-MLL) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 10 working days' notice 1 advance day with Board of Management and Parents' Association 3 to 4 days' evaluation 1 day after for feedback meeting 	Same as for Subject Inspection Additional documentation may include: Assessment data and documents relevant to students with additional and special educational needs if available Records relating to students' work experience Samples of students' work/students' journal	Quality of school leadership and management Quality of teaching and learning Quality of support for students' wellbeing Across their areas, school's self-evaluation process and school improvement plan are also evaluated	Collated results of survey shared with school Publication of final report at www.gov.ie/school-reports
Whole School Evaluation (WSE) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 10 working days' notice 1 advance day with Board of Management, staff, school teams, parents 3 to 4 days' evaluation 1 day after for feedback meeting 	Same as for WSE/MLL	Quality of leadership and management Quality of school planning and self-evaluation Quality of subject provision Quality of teaching and learning Quality of support for students	Collated results of survey shared with school Publication of final report at www.gov.ie/school-reports
Evaluation of Action Planning for Improvement in DEIS Schools (DEIS) 10 working days' notice Typically, 3 days' duration	Same as for Subject Inspection Additional documentation may include: Assessment data and documents relevant to students with additional and special educational needs if available	How school has prepared, implemented and monitored action plans for improvement under each of the DEIS themes Evaluation of effectiveness of school interventions	Collated results of survey shared with school Publication of final report at www.gov.ie/school-reports
Evaluation of Schools attached to Special Care Units and Children Detention Centres No advance notice. Typically, 2 to 3 days' duration	Same as for Subject Inspection Additional documentation may include: Assessment data and documents relevant to students with additional and special educational needs if available	Teaching, learning and support for students/ pupils School organisation and management School planning and self-evaluation Inspector interacts with students	Collated results of survey shared with school Publication of final report at www.gov.ie/school-reports
Child Protection and Safeguarding Inspection 24 to 48 hours' notification: may also be unannounced. Typically, 1 day	RSE/SPHE department/ programme plans, records of subject department/ programme team meetings RSE/SPHE teachers' individual termly and yearly planning documents	10 specific checks based on <i>2023 Revised Child Protection Procedures</i> which can be accessed by scanning the QR code: 	Collated results of survey shared with school Publication of final report at www.gov.ie/school-reports
Follow-Through Inspection 2 working days' notice: may also be unannounced Typically, 1 day	Dependent on the focus of the Inspection – can include observation of teaching and learning	Level of progress in implementing some or all of recommendations contained in a previous inspection report	Inspectorate may liaise with other Department sections. Publication of final report at www.gov.ie/school-reports