



# Newsletter

from the Chief Inspector, Department of Education and Youth



## Introduction

“

Hi,

I'm writing to you again this year to explain what school inspectors will be doing during 2025-2026 and how their work helps schools to support students like you.

*Yvonne Keating*

”

## The Inspectorate's work in schools

Inspectors will keep visiting schools to check how things are going. Sometimes we'll tell the school we're coming, and other times we might show up without notice. For some inspections, we'll stay in the school for one day, and in others, we might stay for two or three days.

During every inspection, we'll go into some classrooms to see how teaching and learning are going. We'll also talk with students, teachers and the principal.



When we visit a school for a few days, we'll get to meet with some students in focus groups to talk about what school is like for them. You can find out more about focus groups on our web page: [www.gov.ie/DEInspectorate](http://www.gov.ie/DEInspectorate). We talk to students because it is really important for us to hear what you think about your learning and your school. Your voice really matters!

## Making inspection better

Right now, we're looking at how we do inspections to see how we can make them better. To help with this, we're doing research with some schools, and students are helping too! This work will continue until the end of November. I want to say a big thank you to the schools and students who have helped so far – they've given us some really helpful ideas.



## The Inspectorate's work with Children and Young People

I mentioned in my last newsletter that we had just introduced a page for students in our curriculum evaluation reports (for primary schools) and in subject inspection reports (for post-primary schools). A year has passed since then!

By now, the page has been included in hundreds of inspection reports. The page shares important findings and recommendations from inspections. Watch out for the page when your school has an inspection. You can find inspection reports on the Inspection Reports page [here](#).



I hope you get to watch the videos we made with schools, where students show the different activities they lead and explain how their ideas are helping the school improve. You can find them, as well as videos and more information about what inspectors do, on the "Information for children and young people" page [here](#).

## A national student survey on the work of schools to prevent and address bullying behaviour 2025

To mark Anti-Bullying Week 2025 (10–14 November), we are launching a national online survey for all post-primary students and children in fifth and sixth class at primary level. The survey opens on 10 November and will be available for two weeks.

The survey was created with help from students, teachers and researchers. Taking part is completely optional and your answers are private – we won't collect any personal information.

The link to the survey will be sent to your school principal shortly. They will share the link with you and, hopefully, give you time to complete it at school. Your views and ideas are important to helping schools and teachers create safe, inclusive, and positive learning spaces for everyone.



## Publication of Inspectorate Report (2024) and Thematic Review

Each year, the Inspectorate publishes a detailed report about its work and what it has learned in schools. The new report, coming in November 2025, looks at school inspections from 2024. It shares what inspectors learned about teaching and learning in early learning, primary, special and post-primary schools. It shares inspection results and focuses on key topics like learning Irish, helping students with Mathematics as they move to post-primary, supporting inclusion, and helping students learning English as an additional language (EAL). It will be available on the Inspectorate's webpage: [www.gov.ie/DEInspectorate](http://www.gov.ie/DEInspectorate)



## Inspectorate Publications

The Inspectorate published other reports since my last newsletter including:

- Special Classes for Autistic Pupils in Primary Schools: Towards a Coherent, Inclusive System (October 2025)
- Main Findings from Inspections of Courses in Irish Colleges 2022-2024 (July 2025)



## Student Participation Unit



You might like to know, too, that the Department has set up a Student Participation Unit. It released a report and a plan about how it will work more closely with students to improve how it works. You can read about it here: [gov.ie](http://gov.ie) - [Student Participation in Education](#). At the moment, the unit is looking at how student councils could work better in schools.

## Resources and information

Visit our webpage, [www.gov.ie/DEInspectorate](http://www.gov.ie/DEInspectorate), to access a variety of materials and recent publications.

- Updated information videos for parents and guardians about inspection in schools and Youthreach centres were published in May 2025. The videos can be found [here](#).
- Information videos for parents and guardians about inspections in early learning and care and school-age childcare settings were published in September 2025. The videos can be found [here](#).
- The most recent updates from the Inspectorate are available [here](#).
- Inspection reports are available [here](#).



*Thank you*

Thank you to everyone in the schools we visit. We especially love seeing everyone help and support each other, which makes school a friendly place for everyone! Inspectors look forward to meeting you. Best wishes to you all.