

National thematic inspection: readiness for empowerment

Briefing for local authority and school staff involved in meetings and discussion groups

In August 2018, Janie McManus, Strategic Director Scrutiny, Education Scotland wrote to all Directors of Education with details of the thematic inspections related to aspects of empowerment set out in the Education Reform Joint Agreement, June 2018. The first of these thematic inspections will focus on **empowerment** and take place during w/c 24 September through to w/c 12 November 2018, with a report due to the Deputy First Minister and Cabinet Secretary for Education and Skills by December 2018.

Education Scotland inspection teams will look at aspects of empowerment related to the Joint Agreement on the expectations within the Headteachers' Charter in the Education Bill which will require local authorities to empower headteachers in the areas of:

- improvement;
- curriculum;
- staffing; and
- funding.

Visits will last 1 or 1.5 days, depending on the size of the local authority. Inspection teams will be made up of at least two HMIs/associate assessors. Team members will meet local authority staff and speak to groups of headteachers and teachers from a number of schools and settings. Groups will consist of no more than six to eight people. Meetings will be arranged at a central venue, likely to be the council offices. Meetings will last approximately 45-60 minutes.

The areas of focus are:

- Improvement : How well do local authorities empower headteachers and schools to lead improvement in order to close the poverty-related attainment gap through school improvement planning in collaboration with their school community?
- Curriculum : How well do local authorities empower headteachers and schools to design their local curriculum in line with Curriculum for Excellence and in collaboration with their school community?
- Staffing : How well do local authorities provide headteachers with flexibility to make decisions about staffing and leadership structures in their schools?
- Funding : How well do local authorities empower headteachers to decide how funding allocated to their schools for the delivery of school education is spent?

Thank you in advance for your contribution to this review.