

National thematic inspection: readiness for empowerment

Information for Directors of Education

Areas of focus

This thematic inspection will focus on aspects of empowerment set out in the Education Reform Joint Agreement, June 2018 related to 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.

Further thematic inspections will focus on other aspects related to curriculum and parental and community engagement and pupil participation.

Meetings and discussion groups

Inspectors visiting your authority have asked for the following meetings to be set up for the thematic inspection which will last for one day, or in a few larger authorities, a day and a half.

Meetings should last for 45-60 minutes. Please note that you should draw up the programme to suit your own local circumstances. Please include colleagues from special schools and from Gaelic Medium Education as appropriate.

1. Meeting with the Director of Education or his/her nominee
2. Meeting with group of local authority education officers
3. Meeting with group of LNCT/teacher union representatives and/or other unions, as appropriate
4. Meeting with group of primary teachers
5. Meeting with group of primary headteachers
6. Meeting with group of secondary teachers
7. Meeting with group of secondary headteachers
8. Meeting with other stakeholders as appropriate

Note that these meetings could be run concurrently or combined.

Please note that discussion groups should involve no more than six to eight people. It would be very helpful if you could provide a list of names in advance.

Sharing of findings

The lead inspector will discuss arrangements for sharing of findings at the end of the visit.

Self-evaluation

When we notify you of the date of the visit we will also share with you a self-evaluation proforma. Please complete the proforma and then share with the inspection team on the day of the visit.

Documentation

It would be very helpful if you could make available on the day of the visit copies of any key documents which provide relevant support and guidance for schools and teachers. Any such documentation should be kept to a minimum.

Reporting

Education Scotland will use the evidence gathered to publish one report at national level. We will not produce reports on individual authorities.