

National thematic inspection: empowerment for curriculum leadership

Briefing for headteachers

In September 2018, Gayle Gorman HM Chief Inspector/Chief Executive and Janie McManus, Strategic Director Scrutiny, Education Scotland wrote to all Directors of Education with details of the national thematic inspections related to aspects of empowerment set out in the Education Reform Joint Agreement, June 2018.

The agreement sets out 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.

Education Scotland is carrying out three national thematic inspections which focus on school empowerment this academic year. Each inspection will focus on a different aspect of school empowerment. The second of these thematic inspections will focus on **empowerment for curriculum leadership** and take place during week commencing 7 January through to week commencing 18 February 2019.

Your school has been selected to participate as part of the sample of schools in this thematic inspection. The thematic inspection visit will last for one day and the lead inspector will be in touch with you to discuss arrangements for the visit.

Areas of focus

Inspectors will focus on how well headteachers and schools are empowered to design their curriculum in line with Curriculum for Excellence and in collaboration with their school community. Education Scotland inspectors 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:

- **rationale and design of the curriculum;**
- **development of the curriculum;**
- **leadership of learning.**

Self-evaluation

We want to understand the context and improvement work of your school and would appreciate it if you can complete a short self-evaluation summary. To assist with this we have shared with you a self-evaluation form. Please complete the form, share with the inspector on the day of the visit and return an electronic version to the Inspection Administrator.

Documentation

Please make available on the day of the visit copies of any key documents which provide relevant support and guidance on the curriculum. Any such documentation should be kept to a minimum.

Meetings and discussion groups

The inspector visiting your school will ask for the following meetings to be set up:

1. Meeting with the Senior Leadership Team
2. Meeting with group of teachers
3. Meeting with group of staff who are not teachers
4. Meeting with group of pupils
5. Meeting with group of parents and other partners as appropriate

You have been provided with a meetings schedule to complete and the lead inspector will phone to discuss this. Please complete the schedule, share with the inspector on the day of the visit and send an electronic version to the Inspection Administrator .

Meetings should last for about 45 minutes. Please note that you will be asked to draw up the programme to suit your own local circumstances. Discussion groups should involve no more than six to eight people. It would be helpful, where possible, to provide a list of names in advance.

Sharing of findings

The inspector will discuss with you arrangements for sharing of findings at the end of the visit. There is no expectation for an officer from the central team to attend the sharing of findings.

Reporting

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