

# National thematic inspection: empowerment for curriculum leadership

## Information for Directors of Education

### Context

Education Scotland is carrying out three national thematic inspections on aspects of empowerment as set out in the Education Reform Joint Agreement, June 2018. The inspections relate to the 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.

### Areas of focus

The second national thematic inspection will focus on curriculum leadership and 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 the following areas:

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

### School visits

Visits within your authority will take place between 7 January and 18 February 2019. Each school visit will last one day and the lead inspector will contact the school to arrange the visit. We will ask the school to complete a brief self-evaluation to be shared with the inspector on the day of the visit.

We will ask schools to 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.

During the visit the inspector will meet the senior leadership team and speak to groups of staff, pupils and partners. Headteachers will be asked to draw up the programme to suit their own local circumstances. Groups should consist of no more than six to eight people and the meetings will last approximately 45 minutes.

The inspector will share findings with the headteacher at the end of the visit. This will be brief and last for around 30 minutes. There is no expectation for an officer from your central team to attend the sharing of findings.

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.