

National thematic inspection: empowerment for parent and pupil participation

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 third national 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:

- **parental and community engagement; and**
- **pupil participation.**

In particular the areas of focus are:

1. Parental and community engagement: how well do schools engage parents and the community in the life of the school and their child's learning to improve outcomes for children and young people?
2. Pupil participation: how well do schools ensure that the views of children and young people are heard, respected and taken seriously, as is central to the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child?

School visits

Visits within your authority will take place between 18 March and 3 May 2019. Each school visit will last a day and the lead inspector will contact the school to arrange the visit. Each inspection team will consist of one or two Inspectors.

Schools will be asked to complete the parent and pupil participation self-evaluation form on each of the following areas of focus, and then share with the thematic inspection team on the day of the visit:

1. Parental and community engagement: How well do schools engage parents and the community in the life of the school and their child's learning to improve outcomes for children and young people?

2. Pupil participation: How well do schools ensure that the views of children and young people are heard, respected and taken seriously, as is central to the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child?

Inspectors visiting schools in your authority will ask schools to plan a schedule of activities for the thematic inspection which will last one day. The following inspection activities will be carried out:

- meetings with a range of staff/parents/learners/partners
- observations of learning
- discussion of findings
- review of relevant documentation

We will ask schools to make available on the day of the visit any key documents which provide relevant support and guidance. Any such documentation should be kept to a minimum.

Please note that the school should draw up the programme to suit their own circumstances. Groups should consist of no more than six to eight people and the meetings will last approximately 45 minutes.

Sharing of findings

The lead 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.

Reporting

Education Scotland will report only at national level i.e. we will not publish/share individual reports on each local authority.