

National thematic inspection: empowerment for parent and pupil participation

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 three national thematic inspections related to aspects of empowerment set out in the Education Reform Joint Agreement, June 2018. The third of these thematic inspections will focus on **parent and pupil participation** and will take place during week commencing 18 March to week commencing 29 April 2019. Your school has been selected to participate as part of the sample of schools for 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

During the visit, Inspectors visiting your school will focus on the following areas:

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?

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. Please also return an electronic version to the Inspection Administrator within a week of the visit.

Documentation

Please make available on the day of the visit any key documents which you feel are relevant. Any such documentation should be kept to a minimum.

Meetings, observations of learning 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. Classroom observation/s
4. Meeting with groups of pupils
5. Meeting with groups of parents
6. Meeting with 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 within a week of the visit.

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 with the lead inspector.

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.