



Recovery visits to ELC Settings and Schools



Her Majesty's Inspectors
of Education 'recovery'
visits | March - June 2022



HER MAJESTY'S INSPECTORS OF EDUCATION 'RECOVERY' VISITS



This leaflet is designed to update you on HM Inspectors' plans to engage with settings and schools this academic year.

Between September and December 2021 HM Inspectors (HMI) carried out over 200 visits to schools and settings, including thematic visits and engagement with schools awaiting

further inspection. The feedback from these visits was very positive and senior leaders told us they valued the opportunity to share their experiences. We now wish to continue this positive engagement with you to learn from you, share what is working and identify where further support would be helpful to aid education recovery.

THE PURPOSE OF OUR VISITS

As announced in December 2021, HMI will carry out recovery visits during the remainder of the academic year. The main purpose of the visits is to support the education system during the pandemic through:



hearing from you about your current priorities for recovery or improvement;



learning what is working well, the challenges faced and solutions found;



identifying and sharing examples of effective practice.

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OUR APPROACH

We are acutely aware of the pressures that schools and settings continue to face. It is with this understanding that we are asking settings and schools to self-nominate to participate in a recovery visit. We know that you remain under considerable pandemic challenges and feel that self-nomination will allow you to decide if these visits would support your school/setting planning and that the professional dialogue and engagement would support further improvement. It is of course important that you discuss this with your local authority.

The visits will be of a bespoke hybrid nature, with both online meetings and face to face activities in your setting. Visits are likely to be arranged over two days within a given week. Schools and settings will have the opportunity to indicate any unsuitable weeks for the visit to take place as part of the self-selection process. Building on positive experiences and feedback from our visits during September - December 2021, we will invite a representative from your local authority to join us. The visits will reflect your setting's/school's requirements and be co-constructed with you and your teams.

During the visit we will have professional discussions with staff, learners and, if appropriate, parents and partners. Our aim is for the visits to be a supportive and positive learning experience. We will invite you to talk about your own current priorities as you respond to the impact of the current pandemic. To help this discussion we will ask you to share your improvement plan or recovery plan during the visit. We want to learn more about how you are addressing the impact of COVID-19 with a particular focus on continuity of learning and wellbeing of staff and learners. We will gather information about the range and quality of learning children and young people are experiencing and, in discussion and agreement with you, join a small number of learning activities. We will discuss approaches to safeguarding in the current context.

There is no need to prepare anything in advance of our visit. We are not evaluating any quality indicators or assigning any summative grades. We will provide you with a note of our visit which is aimed at supporting you further with school improvement. We will not publish the note of visit.



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ARRANGING A RECOVERY VISIT

We hope this information has helped you to understand the purpose and format of our planned engagement and that you will give consideration to your school/setting participating in a recovery visit.

If you and your staff are interested in putting your school or setting forward for a visit, please ensure your local authority is in full agreement.

You can then complete the self-selection form using this link: [**Recovery visit form**](#).

Thereafter, we will be in touch to let you know if we will be visiting and to agree and discuss the date of the visit.



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HM Inspectors are all looking forward to working with schools and settings over the next few months. We understand that this work will need to be flexible and reflect changing circumstances locally. Please be assured that health and safety will remain our priority in engaging with schools and settings. We also recognise the continuing pressures on schools and settings and fully appreciate your commitment to making sure staff, children and young people continue to be safe and supported during these challenging times.

Thank you all. We look forward to hearing from you.