



Dear Principal, Teachers, Special Needs Assistants and Members of the School Community,

In this update from the Inspectorate, I would like to let you know about our current programme of inspection work in primary schools, some developments regarding how we report to children and young people, a number of thematic reports that we have published in recent months, and our plans for an annual report.

Inspection programme 2024-25



The inspection programme in primary schools this year includes:

- Whole-school evaluation – management, leadership and learning (WSE-MLL)
- Evaluation of action planning for improvement in DEIS schools
- Incidental inspection: some with a particular focus on access and inclusion and others with a particular focus on Mathematics
- Curriculum evaluation
- Evaluation of provision for children with additional and special educational needs
- Follow-through inspection
- Child protection and safeguarding inspection
- Inspection of provision for children with autism in special classes in primary schools.

During July and August, inspectors visited some schools offering the summer programme. Later this term, inspectors will return to a selection of those schools to engage with children, their parents and school leaders about the impact of the summer programme.



Communicating with children and young people about inspection

Following consultation with a number of schools, we have added a page specifically for children to curriculum evaluation reports. This page will share some of the findings and recommendations made during an inspection. I would be grateful if you would share this page with your pupils once the curriculum evaluation report is published.

Resources, including videos about the work of inspectors and how focus groups work, are available for children on the *Information for children and young people* page of gov.ie/DEInspectorate

Related information and resources for parents are available on the *Information for parents/guardians* page of gov.ie/DEInspectorate

You can find school inspection reports on the *Inspection Reports* page of gov.ie/DEInspectorate

Annual report



Plans are underway for the publication of an overall composite Inspectorate report in the coming months. This report will be part of an annual publication strategy, enabling the Inspectorate to deliver key data and information on inspection coverage, school engagements and inspection findings across early learning and care settings and primary and post-primary sectors. The report will include articles informed by inspection findings on topics such as inclusion, assessment and curriculum.

Thematic reports and publications

Since the last update to schools, we have continued our work on thematic reports and other publications. The most recent publications are listed below. All of our thematic publications are available on the Inspectorate publications page of gov.ie/DEInspectorate



Student participation and student leadership videos in primary and post-primary schools were published in May and October

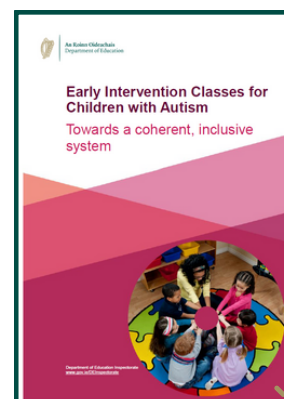


Inspectorate, Department of Education
Student Participation Series



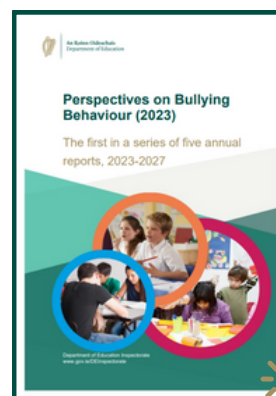
Four videos were created by the Inspectorate in collaboration with primary and post-primary schools. They share how those schools promote and facilitate the development of student participation and student leadership. It is intended to publish other such videos in 2025.

The report "Early Intervention Classes for Children with Autism - Towards a coherent, inclusive system" was published in June



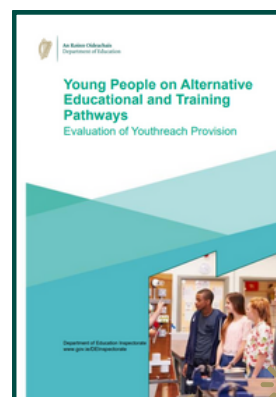
This report presents the findings of inspections of fifteen early intervention classes for pre-school children with autism conducted between September and December 2023.

The report “**Perspectives on Bullying Behaviour 2023**” was published in June



The *Cineáltas Action Plan* commits the Inspectorate to publishing an annual report on anti-bullying measures in schools. The 2023 report presents insights from students, parents, teachers and principals on the effectiveness of anti-bullying strategies in Irish schools.

The report “**Young People on Alternative Educational and Training Pathways: Evaluation of Youthreach Provision**” was published in August



This report presents the overall findings of the evaluations of Youthreach provision in nine Centres for Education and Community Training Centres conducted in 2023.

The report “**Unlocking Creativity- Insights into effective practice in early learning and care settings and schools**” was published in August



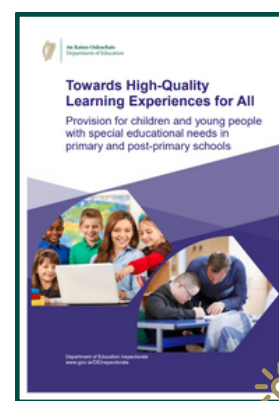
This report presents insights into the effective support and promotion of creativity in early learning and care settings and primary and post-primary schools.

The report “Living today for a better tomorrow - Insights into effective practice in education for sustainable development in early learning and care settings and schools” was published in August



This report presents insights into effective support and promotion of education for sustainable development (ESD) in early learning and care (ELC) settings and schools.

The report “Towards High-Quality Learning Experiences for All - Provision for children and young people with special educational needs in primary and post-primary schools” was published in August



This report presents the findings relating to provision for children and young people with special educational needs in twenty-nine schools in 2023 (seventeen primary and twelve post-primary).

I want to extend my thanks to everyone in the schools we visit during inspection and advisory and developmental work. Working in a collaborative, mutually respectful way is very important to us as we carry out our role in schools and other education settings across the country.

As always, I wish you all the very best for this school year.
Thank you.

Yvonne Keating

Yvonne Keating,
Chief Inspector

