

## What happens after an inspection?

### 1983 – 2002 (called ‘Follow-up’)

Inspection reports were published from 1983 on. Arrangements for follow-through were as follows :

- The inspection report always contained Key Strengths of the School and Main Points for Action
- The relevant Education Authority gave support to the school in addressing the actions
- Inspectors returned after 2 years to evaluate the progress made by the school on the Main Points for Action and published a brief report
- If a school had a particularly negative report, inspectors returned after 1 year and again after 2, publishing a report each time
- This system worked well enough; between 75% and 89% of schools took this work very seriously and could demonstrate improvement. The quality of support from the education authorities was variable.

### 2002 – 2011 (called ‘Follow-through’)

Over the period 1990 – 2000 (and onwards), **self-evaluation gradually became established in Scottish schools so that often the inspection Main Points for Action already figured in the school’s action (improvement) plan. Also, in the period 1998 – 2002, inspectors carried out evaluations of all education authorities (EA) which led to substantial improvements in the ways education authorities interacted with schools.** The nature of what happened after an inspection changed (several times) to meet these new circumstances. Follow-through was tailored to the quality of provision in the school and account was taken of the quality of the support and challenge potential of the local authority. A number of options for the follow-through were put in place as follows, each school subject to one or a combination of the Options :

- Option A : no further involvement, the EA published a letter for parents on how the school had followed through
- Option B : some additional support was provided by the EA (and sometimes by inspectors); the EA informed parents of progress after 2 years
- Option C : a further inspection was carried out by inspectors one year after the original report and inspectors published a letter for parents. A second follow-through was possible.
- Option D : where innovative practice had been found, inspectors revisited to seek detail or help the school present a case-study or video for wider distribution as good practice

### 2011 on (called ‘Continuing Engagement’)

In 2011 HMIE (the inspector body) amalgamated with Learning and Teaching Scotland (the curriculum and assessment support agency) to form Education Scotland. **Arrangements are now being put in place in order to 1) emphasise that inspection is for improvement and 2) draw on the wider support team available within Education Scotland in order to build capacity in schools. To that end, the current arrangements build on the previous system but now, where a re-inspection is required, ensure that support is provided by Education Scotland (HMI or development officers) before any further inspection is carried out.**