



An Roinn Oideachais
agus Scileanna
Department of
Education and Skills

Quality Assurance

INSPECTORATE, DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION AND SKILLS, IRELAND

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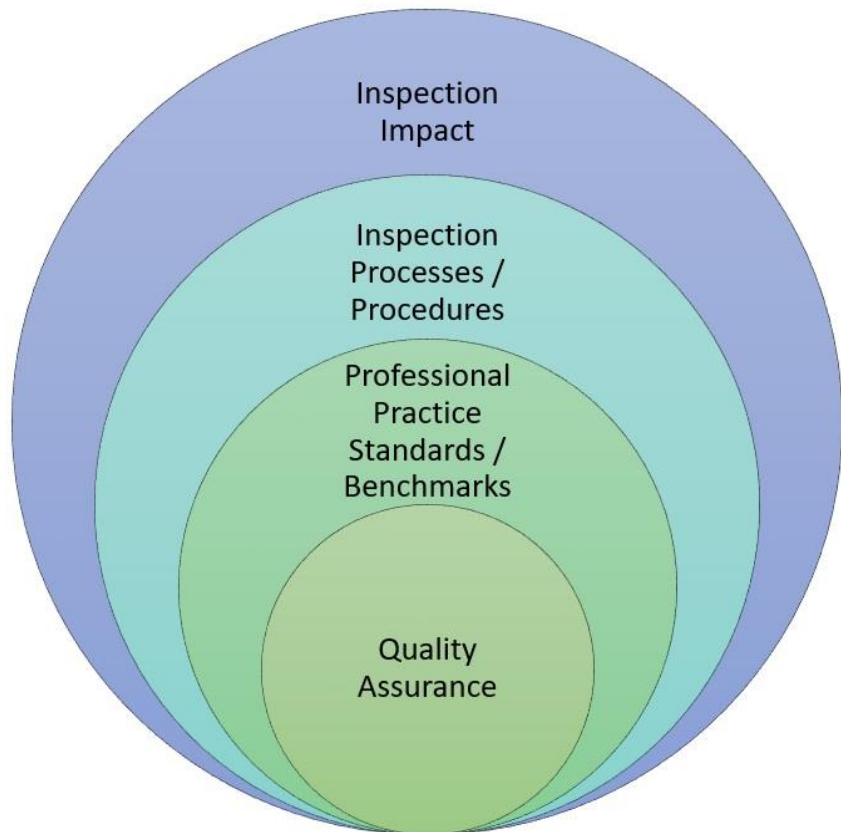
Purpose of the session

- To provide an overview of the Irish Inspectorate's approach to quality assurance
 - How we ensure reliable, fair and effective judgements
 - Our associated policies/guidelines/instruments
 - A specific focus on our post-evaluation feedback process
- To provide details of our future plans for quality assurance

Our overall aim- develop a quality assurance culture where inspectors

- ▶ continually reflect on their own inspection practices
- ▶ view themselves as an integral part of an effective team
- ▶ support and challenge their colleagues through respectful professional engagements around the quality of inspections

Our Quality Assurance Framework - Overview



- ▶ Professional Practice Standards / Benchmarks
 - ▶ Quality Framework
 - ▶ *The Code of Practice for the Inspectorate*
 - ▶ Prescribed codes and standards for civil servants
- ▶ Inspection Processes / Procedures
 - ▶ Published external guides
 - ▶ Internal guides
- ▶ Inspection Impact
 - ▶ On learners
 - ▶ On schools

How do we ensure that inspectors make reliable, fair and effective judgements

Comprehensive induction programme

Published quality continuum

Pre-publication dialogue with school

Post-evaluation survey

Ongoing CPD

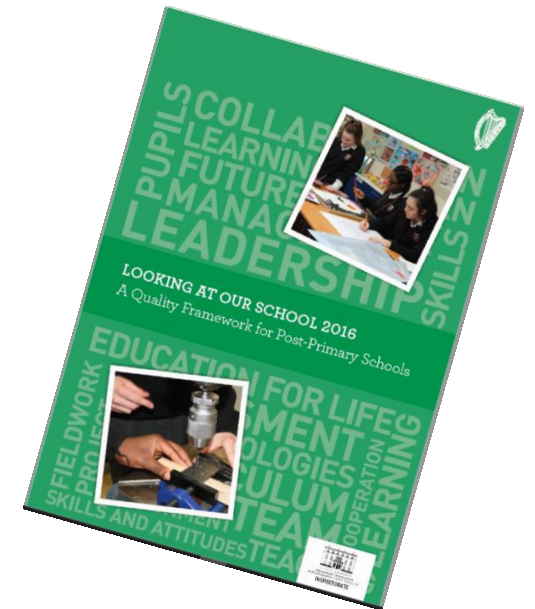
Post-evaluation inspectors' meeting

Published school response

Quality framework

Peer editing

Option for school to seek review



Making and communicating judgements of quality

Quality Framework

- Provides the focus for our evaluation and the standards that inform our judgements

Example of standard:

- Students engage purposefully in meaningful learning activities

Quality Continuum

- Provides the language to articulate our judgements

Weak

Fair

Satisfactory

Good

Very Good

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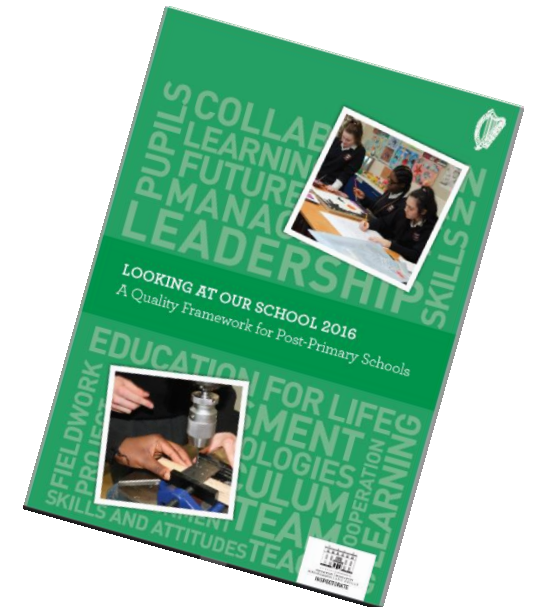
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Policies / Guidelines / Instruments

- Professional Code of Practice for the Inspectorate
- Published inspection guides
- Internal inspection guides
- Quality framework
- Standardised templates
- Surveys for students, parents and teachers
- Quality assurance action plan 2020-2022



A focus on post-evaluation engagement with schools

- Approach based on dialogue
- Opportunity for further discussion in relation to areas for development
- Opportunity for factual verification and school response



Senior
Management



Teachers



Board of
Management

Separate feedback sessions

Some post-evaluation survey responses

The inspection process was conducted in a highly efficient and fair manner

The whole evaluation process was carried out in a most professional manner

I found the inspection process extremely valuable, worthwhile and affirming

I felt it was unfair that some members of staff were not evaluated

I would like to compliment the inspection team on the positive and constructive manner in which they engaged with the school community

Teachers are not given the chance to express their opinions to the inspector before the visit

Future plans

External and internal strategies

- Review sample of inspection files – compliance check
- CPD in relation to findings
- Peer review and team review
- Greater and improved opportunities for feedback with students and parents
- External review of inspection processes and reports



