

Meeting of the inspectors with the board of management following the evaluation in the school

When the evaluation is complete the inspector or inspectors hold separate meetings with the teachers, the principal and deputy principal(s) and the board of management to discuss the evaluation findings.

At the meeting with the members of the board of management, the inspectors outline the findings of the evaluation in relation to the strengths of the school and the areas where development is required. The inspectors and the board members discuss the draft evaluation report and the draft findings and recommendations.

The report focuses on the four key areas evaluated during the WSE-MLL.

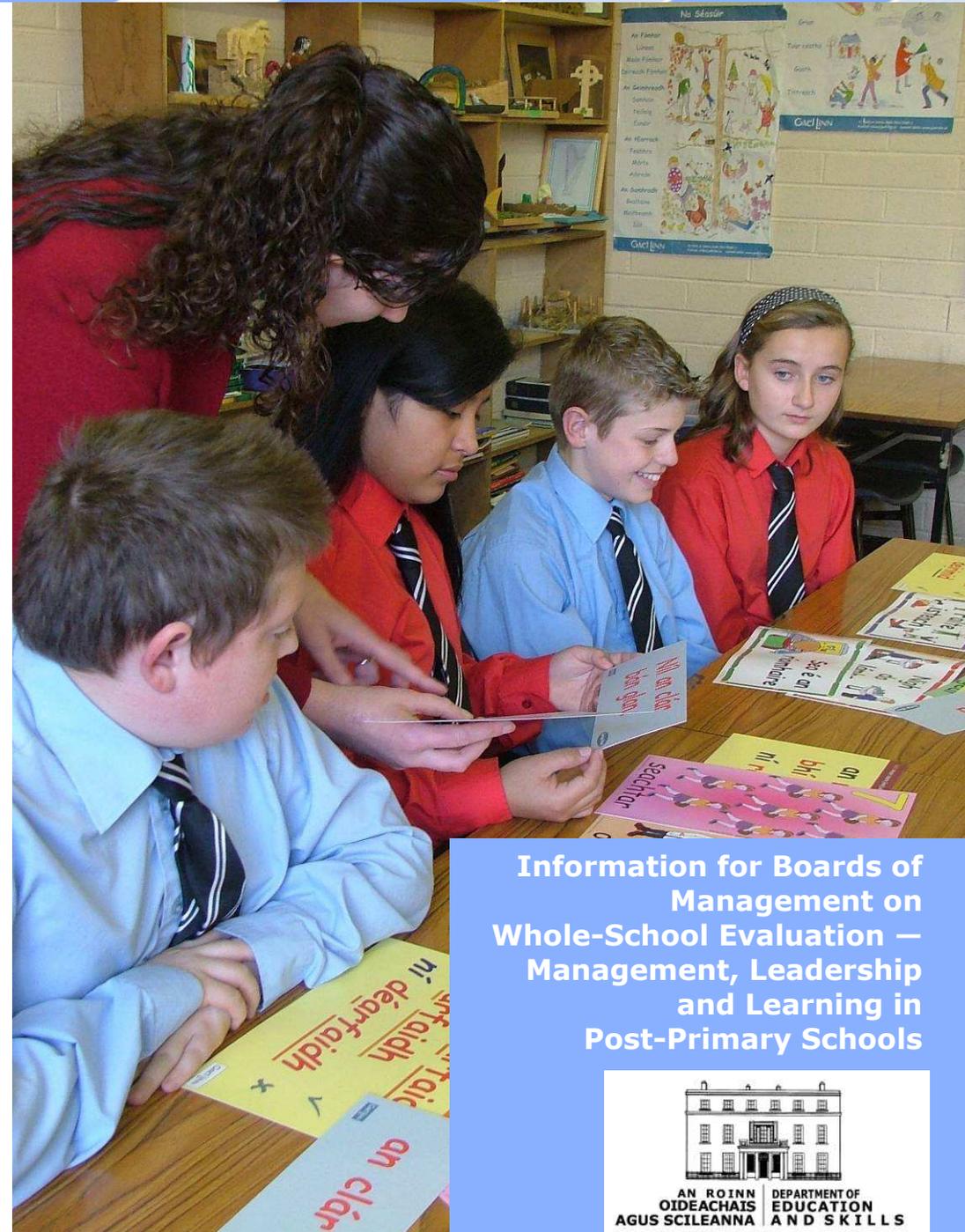


The WSE-MLL report

Arrangements for the issuing and publication of inspection reports are described in *Publication of School Inspection Reports - Guidelines (2006)*, which is available on the Department's web site. The final report is sent to the chairperson of the board of management, the principal, the patron/trustee (CEO of the Vocational Education Committee if the school is a VEC school), the chairperson of the parents' association and the chairperson of the student council.



The WSE-MLL report is concerned with the work of the school as a whole. It affirms positive aspects of the school's work and suggests areas for development. The report provides an external view of the work of the school and it is intended that the findings and recommendations of the report will facilitate development and improvement in the work of the school and school self-evaluation. Once the report is issued to the school it should be considered in detail by the board of management. The board is invited to provide a written response to the findings and recommendations of the report. The report will be published on the Department of Education and Skills website. Normally, the board's response will be published with the report.



Information for Boards of Management on Whole-School Evaluation – Management, Leadership and Learning in Post-Primary Schools



WSE-MLL

WSE-MLL is one of a range of evaluation models used by the Inspectorate of the Department of Education and Skills at post-primary level. Subject inspection is the most frequent form of evaluation in post-primary schools. Subject inspections focus on teaching and learning in a specific subject while WSE-MLL looks at teaching and learning in a range of subjects and levels.



WSE-MLL evaluates the following key areas:

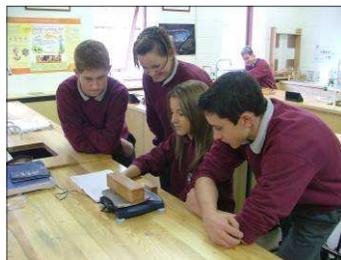
- Quality of school management and leadership
- Quality of learning and teaching in a range of subjects and levels
- The implementation of recommendations from previous evaluations
- The school's self-evaluation process and capacity for school improvement.

Following a WSE-MLL, the inspection team collaborate in writing an evaluation report on the work of the school. This report informs parents, boards of management, the Vocational Education Committee (if the school is a VEC school), teachers, students and the Department of Education and Skills about what the school is doing well. It also makes recommendations on how the quality of education provided could be improved.

Who evaluates?

A WSE-MLL involves a reporting inspector (who has overall responsibility for the inspection) and a support inspector. In the case of large schools, with an enrolment of over 700 students, an additional support inspector is involved.

The team normally spends one advance day in the school during the pre-evaluation phase and three days in the school during the in-school phase.



Who is involved in the WSE-MLL?

During the evaluation inspectors meet with the following groups or individuals:

- The board of management
- Representatives of the parents' association. Where the school does not have a parents' association or where the association is not affiliated to the National Parents' Council Post-primary (NPCpp) the inspectors will meet with the parents' representatives on the board of management
- The principal and deputy principal(s)
- Teachers
- Students

Meeting of the inspectors with the board of management in advance of the evaluation in the school.

The inspection team meets with members of the board of management of the school by arrangement during the evaluation. A representative of the patron/trustee(s) is invited to attend this meeting. The meeting is chaired by a member of the inspection team, normally the reporting inspector.



The board is invited to give a presentation to the inspectors on the operation of the school under the following headings:

- The school context
- The school's self-evaluation process and its impact on school improvement
- The strengths of the school
- The areas for school improvement and development identified by the board
- Progress in the implementation of recommendations of previous evaluations
- The quality of partnership within the school community

The evaluation team asks questions and collects evidence about the work of the board and the school.

What happens during a WSE-MLL?

During the evaluation inspectors will:

- distribute questionnaires to a sample of students and their parents on the operation of the school
- visit classrooms and observe the teachers and the students at work
- meet students, including representatives of the student council, to hear the views and opinions of students
- engage with students in classrooms and other areas of the school
- review samples of the students' work
- talk to the teachers and discuss their teaching with them
- meet with the principal, deputy principal and other teachers to discuss the work and management of the school
- review key school documentation.

