Note on Department Briefing for Post-Primary Education Partners

on

Supporting the Safe Provision of Schooling Visits (SSPS).

Monday 9th November 2020 at 11:30 a.m. Online

In attendance from the Department of Education and Skills: Harold Hislop (Chief Inspector),Yvonne Keating (Deputy Chief Inspector), Gary Ó Donnchadha (Deputy Chief Inspector), Brian Mac Giolla Phádraig (Assistant Chief inspector), Declan Cahalane (Assistant Chief inspector), Padraig McFhlannchadha (Assistant Chief inspector), Elizabeth Sheridan (Divisional Inspector)

Partners in attendance:

Name	Organisation	Name	Organisation
Seamus Lahart	TUI	Niall Muldoon	Office of the Ombudsman for Children
Martin Marjoram			
Kieran Christie	ASTI	Gerry McCaul	JMB
Ann Piggott		Paul Fields	ETBI
		John Irwin	ACCS
Paul Byrne	NAPD	Reuben Murray	ISSU
Clive Byrne		Paul Fiorentini	ACCS

Outline of meeting:

The Department provided an overview to the partners on:

- The purpose of the visits to Support the Safe provision of Schooling (SSPS).
- The journey to date in developing the
- The findings from the trial phase of the visits.
- Responding to stakeholder feedback
- Report format and publishing of reports
- Next steps in the 13(8) consultation

Questions, comments and discussion were invited from the partners and the topics covered included:

- Positive feedback from pilot schools
- School context taken into consideration
- Staff and principals felt affirmed and were delighted that the collaborative approach taken by school staff was acknowledged
- The professional dialogue with the Inspector was appreciated
- Meeting with the Lead Worker Representative during SSPS visits
- Questions raised included
    - How schools can manage the implementation of the procedures during lunch and break times?
    - How the voice of students is being considered?
    - Following up on actions advised
    - Isolation areas and school cleaning arrangements

- The Chief Inspector clarified that the Department had undertaken surveys of principals, parents, teachers and students prior to the mid-term break. The Inspectorate plan to create a composite report on the findings from these surveys and the findings from the SSPS visits.

A request for written comments from partners was sought and partners agreed to provide written feedback in the week of 23rd November 2020. Following submission of written feedback from the education partners the *Guide* will be finalised and forwarded to the Minister for sign off. Trial inspections will continue until that process has concluded and visits under the Guide will commence thereafter.

The meeting concluded at 12.40.