Note on Department Briefing for Post-Primary Education Partners

on

Supporting the Safe Reopening of School Visits (SSRS).

Friday 11th September 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), Elizabeth Sheridan (Divisional Inspector)

Partners in attendance:

Name	Organisation	Name	Organisation
Michael Gillespie	TUI	Niall Muldoon	Ombudsman for Children
Kieran Christie	ASTI	John Curtis	JMB
Ann Piggott		Paul Fields	ETBI
Paul Rolston Mia Fanning	National Parents Council -PP	John Irwin	ACCS
Paul Byrne	NAPD	Alison Dervan	ISSU
Clive Byrne			

Outline of meeting:

The Department provided an overview to the partners on:

- The context of the visits to Support the Safe Reopening of School (SSRS).
- The aims of the visit in supporting the safe and sustainable reopening of schools
- The procedures and key features of the visit
- An overview of the main aspects of the visit in line with HSA guidance
- Ongoing consultation with Partners and Schools

Questions were invited from the partners and the topics covered included:

- HSA requirements
- Scheduling SSR visits, notification period and the number of visits planned
- Feedback to and from schools - co-professional collaboration
- Visits to support improvement – sharing the framework for the visit
- The benefit of learning what is working and what needs improvement in the system
- Parent and Pupil voice
- Support and re-assurance for school leaders
- Alerting the system to the visits

The meeting concluded at 12.45 and a further briefing will be arranged for partners in October / November 2020