Note on Department Briefing for Primary Education Partners

on

Evaluation of Remote Teaching and Learning (ERTAL)

Monday 29th March 2021 at 9:30am 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 MacGiollaPhádraig (Assistant Chief inspector), Padraig McFhlannchadha (Assistant Chief inspector), Ger Power (Senior Inspector), Karina Holton and Elizabeth Sheridan (Divisional Inspectors)

Partners in attendance:

Name	Organisation	Name	Organisation
Deirdre O'Donoghue	ETI	Megan Whyte	ETBI
Paraic Clerkin	IPPN	Aine Lynch	NPC - Primary
Caoimhin Ó hEaghra	An Foras Pátrúntachta	Bláthnaid Ní Ghréacháin	Gaelscoileanna
Joe McKeown and Deirbhile Nic Craith	INTO	Asiya Al Tawash	Muslim Board
Anastasia Crickley and Mary Brigid Collins	Pavee Point	Seamus Mulconry and Paul O'Donnell	CPSMA
		Cathryn Mannion and Maria Joyce	National Traveller and Women's Forum

Outline of meeting:

Harold Hislop provided an introduction and welcomed Primary Education partners to this briefing and consultation meeting. Padraig McFhlannchadha provided an overview to the partners on school closures, re-opening and sustained operation phases and the advice, support and research undertaken by inspectors. He outlined the need for the Inspectorate to balance our support and accountability functions and explained the co-construction approach of the Inspectorate in developing the ERTAL approach.

Brian Mac GiollaPhadraig outlined the aims and the focus of Evaluations of Remote Teaching and Learning (ERTAL). He outlined the guidance and expectations in relation to remote teaching and learning which underpin the evaluation framework.

Karina Holton explained the features of the ERTAL model and the experience during the pilot phases. She outlined the various activities which were undertaken during the pilot evaluations and how the school experienced the evaluation. The activities undertaken before, during and after the ERTAL evaluation, were explained and the learning from the trial presented.

Harold opened a discussion to seek the views of Education Partners**.**
Questions, comments and discussion were invited from the partners and the topics covered included:

- Plan for Evaluation of Remote Teaching and Learning going forward
- Provision of a Report
- Notification period and timetable of the evaluation
- Inclusion of minority groups and the digital divide
- The emergency context - more than a digital plan – supporting learning
- Non-digital provision.

- Investment in digital technologies
- Focus groups with pupils and parents including parents of minority groups and parents of special education needs children
- The challenges for Gaelscoileanna and Gaeltacht schools
- Parents/families who do not have English as a first language
- Challenge of finding substitute teachers and the problem with substitute teachers providing remote teaching.

Next Steps
Written submissions invited from Partners before May 14th
Guide will then be finalised and sent to the Minister for her approval.

The meeting concluded at 11:00am.