Note on Department Briefing for Primary Education Partners

on

Supporting the Safe Reopening of School Visits (SSRS).

Friday 9th October 2020 at 9:30 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 Mulconry	CPSMA	Seamus Conboy	ETBI
Páiric Clerkin	IPPN	Catherine Cross	NPC - Primary
Jennifer Buttner	Educate Together	Asiyah Al-Tawash	Muslim Primary Education Board
Caoimhín Ó hEagra	An Foras Pátrúntachta	Bláthnaid Ní Ghréacháin	Gaelscoileanna
John Boyle	INTO	Noeline Kavanagh	NABMSE
Niall Muldoon	Ombudsman for Children	Ken Fennelly	Church of Ireland Board of Education

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 findings from the trial phase of the visits.
- Feedback from partners and schools
- Next steps

Observations, questions and feedback were invited from the partners and the topics covered included:

- Child protection checks
- Length and announced nature of visits
- Post-inspection report
- Engagement with pupils
- Communication with the system
- Focus on Wellbeing
- Engaging with special schools and special classes in schools

The meeting concluded at 10.30 and a further briefing will be arranged for partners in November 2020