Note on Department Briefing for Primary Education Partners

on

Supporting the Safe Reopening of School Visits (SSRS).

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

Partners in attendance:

Name	Organisation	Name	Organisation
Seamus Mulconry	CPSMA	Seamus Conboy	ETBI
Páiric Clerkin	IPPN	Aine Lynch	NPC - Primary
Emer Nowlan	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

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
- Notification period and the number of visits planned
- Feedback to and from schools
- The benefit of Inspectors visiting schools
- Parent and Pupil voice
- Support and re-assurance for school leaders
- Advisory visits.

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