

## Note on Department Briefing for Primary Education Partners

on

### Supporting the Safe Provision of Schooling Visits (SSPS).

**Monday 9<sup>th</sup> November 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), Pdraig McFhlannchadha (Assistant Chief inspector), Elizabeth Sheridan (Divisional Inspector)

#### **Partners in attendance:**

<b>Name</b>	<b>Organisation</b>	<b>Name</b>	<b>Organisation</b>
Seamus Mulconry	CPSMA	Seamus Conboy	ETBI
Páirc Clerkin	IPPN	Aine Lynch	NPC - Primary
Caoimhín Ó hEagra	An Foras Pátrúntachta	Bláthnaid Ní Ghréacháin	Gaelscoileanna
John Boyle	INTO	Ken Fennelly	Church of Ireland Board of Education

#### **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
- Staff and principals felt affirmed and listened to
- The professional dialogue with the Inspector was appreciated
- Welcome the brief nature of the Guide
- Further advice and support from Inspectors in relation to staff rooms, supervision, congregation of parents at school gates and school transport would be welcome.
- The question of parental surveys was raised. 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 23<sup>rd</sup> 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 10.20.