



A parent's guide to school inspection



What is the purpose of an inspection?

- To evaluate key aspects of the school's work
- To monitor the quality of learning and teaching and the learners' overall experience in the school
- To identify and affirm good practice in the school
- To provide advice about the quality of education



How can parents be involved?

- You may be invited to complete an on-line survey
- If you are a member of the parents' association, you may be invited to a meeting with the inspectors
- If you are a parent representative on the board of management, you may be invited to a meeting with the inspectors



What happens during an inspection?

- Schools may get up to 10 days' notice, depending on the inspection type
- Inspectors meet with school leaders, teachers and learners
- Depending on the inspection type, inspectors may also meet with the board of management
- Inspectors evaluate the quality of teaching and learning in a number of classrooms and settings in the school
- Inspectors may gather the views of learners through a survey, a meeting with learners and also through classroom interactions



What happens after an inspection?

- Inspectors provide feedback to school leadership, staff and the board of management
- A report is published
- You can talk to the board of management, the principal and teachers about the plan to implement the recommendations made in the report and ask for a copy of the School Improvement Plan
- You can work with the student council and parent association, if there is one, to support the school in implementing the recommendations



What does the language used in the report mean?

Based on a quality framework, called *Looking At Our School*, ([Primary](#) and [Post-Primary](#)) inspectors use the following scale in their reports to describe the quality of teaching, learning, leadership and management:

Very good a very high standard with very few areas for improvement	Good many strengths and some areas for improvement	Satisfactory slightly more strengths than weaknesses	Fair some strengths, but many weaknesses	Weak not effective and requires change
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