



A Practical Guide to Incidental Inspection



A N R O I N N | D E P A R T M E N T O F
O I D E A C H A I S | E D U C A T I O N
A G U S S C I L E A N N A | A N D S K I L L S

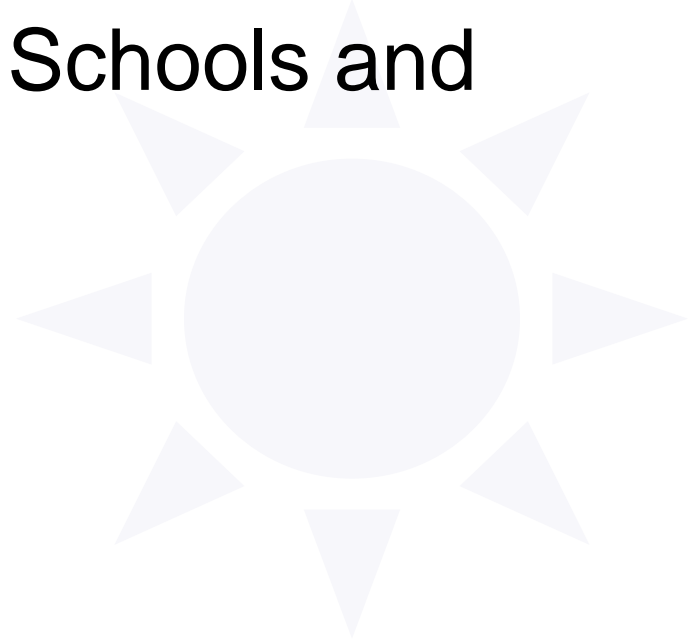
EVALUATION SUPPORT AND RESEARCH UNIT

ACCS Annual Conference
17 November 2011 Athlone
Suzanne Dillon, Assistant Chief Inspector

Purpose of this session



- To provide information on Incidental Inspection for Second-Level Schools and Centres for Education



Overview of session



1. Incidental inspection

- What is it?
- Rationale
- Experience to date

2. Questions



Inspection models



- **Subject inspection**
- **Programme inspection**
- **Whole-school Evaluation (WSE)**
- **Whole-school Evaluation – Management, Leadership and Learning (WSE-MLL)**
- **Thematic Inspection**
- **Incidental Inspection**



INCIDENTAL INSPECTION



- Complements existing models of inspection
- Complements school's own development planning and self-evaluation processes



Purpose of incidental inspection

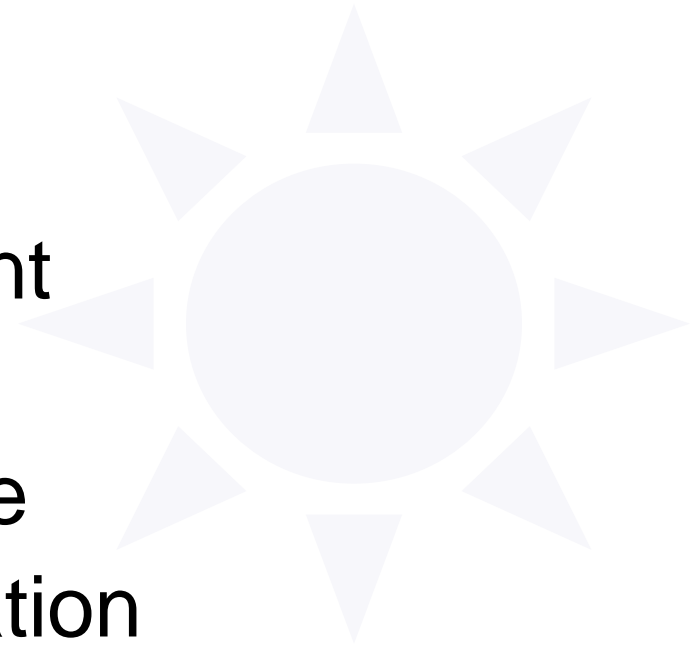


- To affirm good practice in classroom settings
- To support schools and teachers in developing self-reflective professional practice
- To provide advice to teachers and principals about the quality of the education provided in a school and how this can be improved

Features of incidental inspection



- Focuses on the experience of the student in every-day school situations
- Less formal, less intrusive
- ‘Low stakes’
- Co-professional engagement
- Professional dialogue
- Facilitates reflective practice
- Supports school self-evaluation



Features of incidental inspection



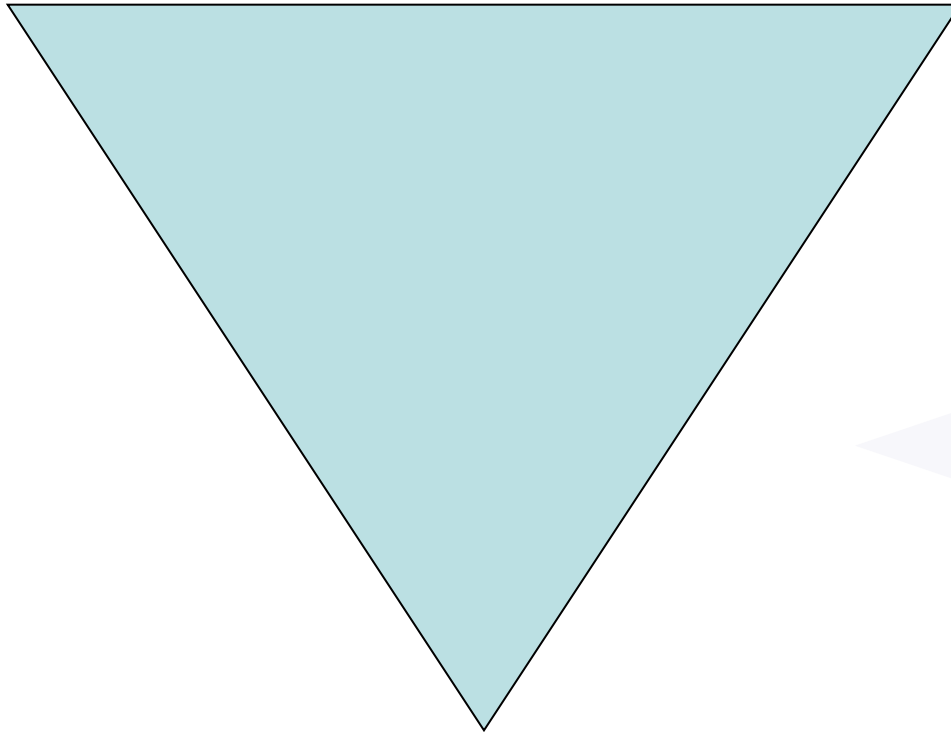
- Carried out in accordance with *Professional Code of Practice on Evaluation and Reporting for the Inspectorate*
- Does not look at quality of educational provision at whole-school level
- No inspection report
- Not a professional competence inspection
- To be reviewed in 2012

Emphasis on advice and support



advise

support



evaluate



What happens during an incidental inspection?



- Selection of schools
- Initial meeting
 - Introduction
 - School timetable
 - Draft schedule
- Five lesson periods
 - One or more subjects/areas/programmes
 - Inspection methods
 - Reduced emphasis on documentation
 - Preparedness
 - Brief oral feedback



What happens during an incidental inspection?



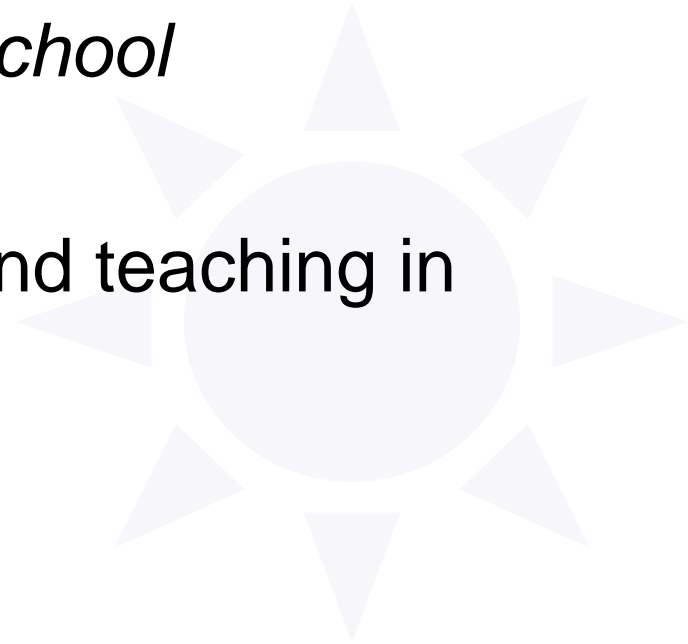
- Discussion with principal/deputy principal
 - Positive aspects of work observed
 - Aspects that require improvement
 - Opportunity for principal to raise issues re teaching and learning
 - Discussion re recommendations of previous inspections
 - Advice re any priority whole-school issues requiring action by school

Evaluation framework



– *Looking at Our School-An Aid to Self-Evaluation in Post-Primary School*

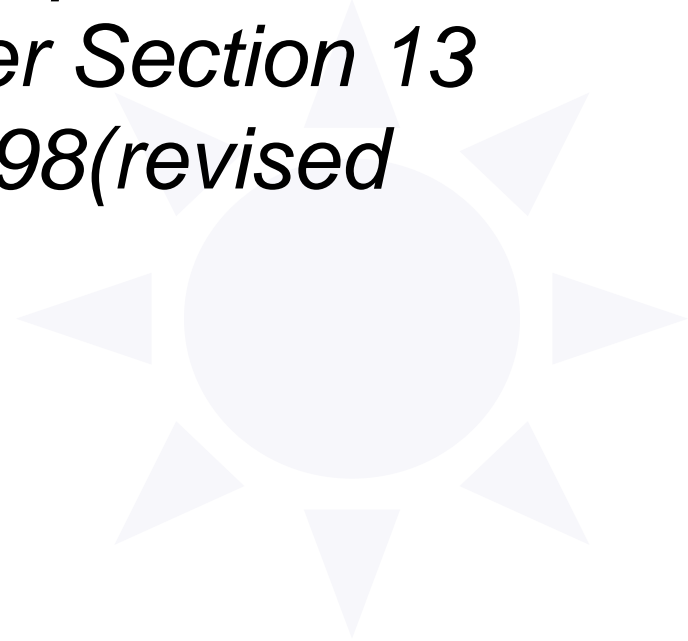
(Area 4: Quality of learning and teaching in subjects)



Review of inspections



- *Procedures for Review of Inspections on Schools and Teachers under Section 13 (9) of the Education Act, 1998(revised 2006)*





- *Guide to Incidental Inspection in Second-Level Schools and Centres of Education*
- **available on**
www.education.ie





Questions?
Thank you.

