

What happens during a WSE-MLL?

During the evaluation inspectors will:

- visit classrooms and observe the teachers and the students at work
- meet students, including representatives of the student council to hear views and opinions of students
- engage with students in classrooms and other areas of the school
- review samples of the students' work
- talk to the teachers and discuss their teaching with them
- meet with the principal, deputy principal and other teachers to discuss the work and management of the school
- review key school documentation.



How are parents involved in the WSE-MLL?

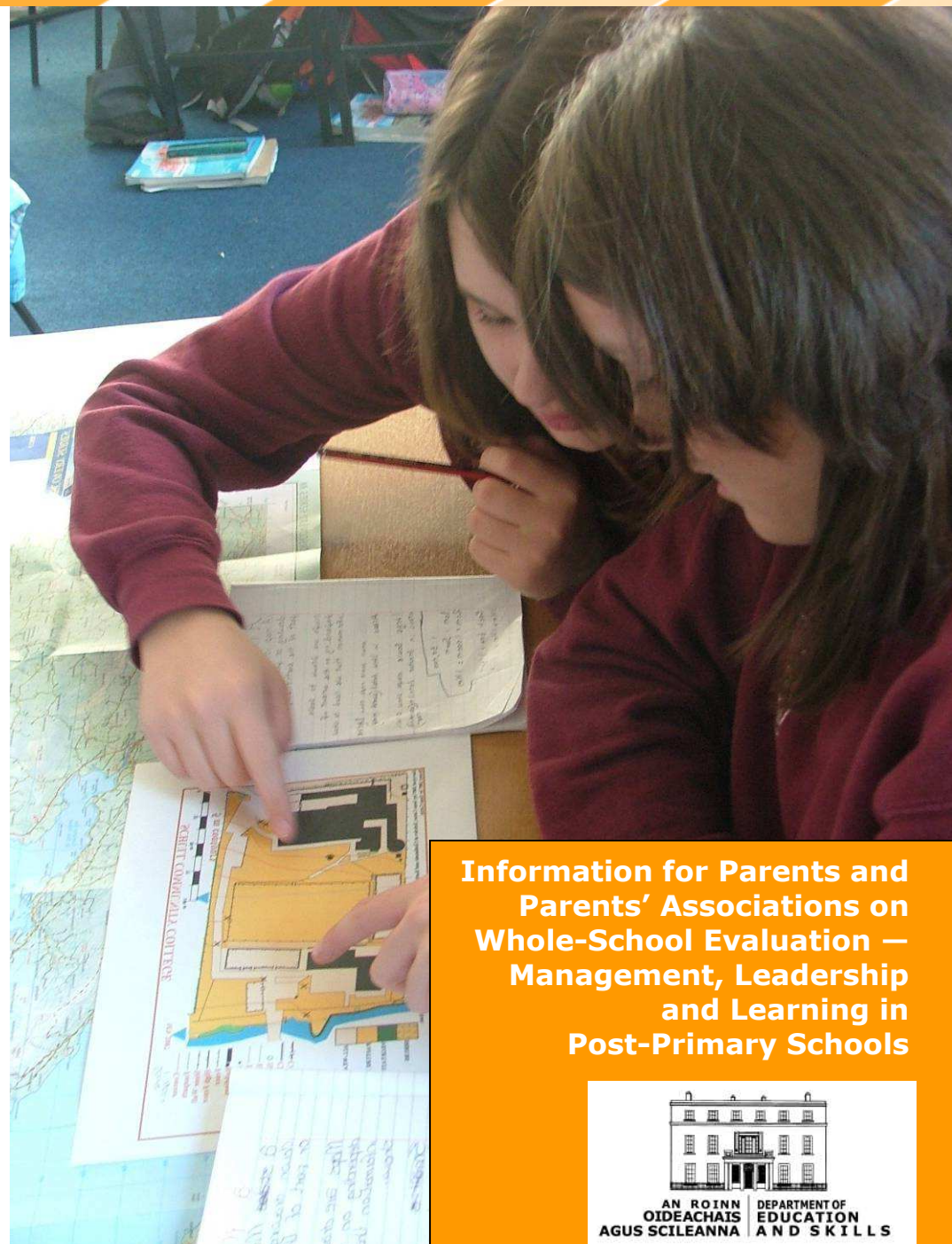
A meeting takes place with representatives of the parents' association as part of the evaluation. Before the evaluation takes place you can share your views on the school with the officers of the parents' association. You can also contact the parents' representatives on the board of management and inform them of your views. An important aspect of WSE-MLL is the use of questionnaires for both parents and students. These are normally issued to students in second year and fifth year and to their parents. The completed questionnaires provide an insight into the views of parents and students on the performance and operation of the school and are an important source of evidence as part of the evaluation.

The WSE-MLL report

Arrangements for the issuing and publication of inspection reports are described in *Publication of School Inspection Reports - Guidelines (2006)*, which is available on the Department's web site. The final report is sent to the chairperson of the board of management, the principal, the patron/trustee (CEO of the Vocational Education Committee if the school is a VEC school), the chairperson of the parents' association and the chairperson of the student council.



The WSE-MLL report is concerned with the work of the school as a whole. It affirms positive aspects of the school's work and suggests areas for development. The report provides an external view of the work of the school and it is intended that the findings and recommendations of the report will facilitate development and improvement in the work of the school and school self-evaluation. Once the report is issued to the school it should be considered in detail by the board of management. The board is invited to provide a written response to the findings and recommendations of the report. The report will be published on the Department of Education and Skills website. Normally, the board's response will be published with the report.



Information for Parents and Parents' Associations on Whole-School Evaluation — Management, Leadership and Learning in Post-Primary Schools



WSE-MLL

WSE-MLL is one of a range of evaluation models used by the Inspectorate of the Department of Education and Skills at post-primary level. Subject inspection is the most frequent form of evaluation in post-primary schools. Subject inspections focus on teaching and learning in a specific subject while WSE-MLL looks at teaching and learning in a range of subjects and levels.



WSE-MLL evaluates the following key areas:

- Quality of school management and leadership
- Quality of learning and teaching in a range of subjects and levels
- The implementation of recommendations from previous evaluations
- The school's self-evaluation process and capacity for school improvement.

Following a WSE-MLL, the inspection team collaborate in writing an evaluation report on the work of the school. This report informs parents, boards of management, the Vocational Education Committee (if the school is a VEC school), teachers, students and the Department of Education and Skills about what the school is doing well. It also makes recommendations on how the quality of education provided could be improved.

Who evaluates?

A WSE-MLL involves a reporting inspector (who has overall responsibility for the inspection) and a support inspector. In the case of large schools, with an enrolment of over 700 students, an additional support inspector is involved.

The team normally spends four days in the school, one day in advance and three days during the following week.



Who is involved in the WSE-MLL?

During the evaluation inspectors meet with the following groups or individuals:

- The board of management
- Representatives of the parents' association. Where the school does not have a parents' association or where the association is not affiliated to the National Parents' Council Post-primary (NPCpp) the inspectors will meet with the parents' representatives on the board of management.
- The principal and deputy principal(s)
- Teachers
- Students



Meeting of the inspector(s) with the parents' association

Where the parents' association is affiliated to the NPCpp, the reporting inspector invites three nominees of the parents' association to a meeting. This meeting is usually held in the school. At this meeting, the parents are invited to discuss:

- Quality of school management and leadership
- Quality of learning and teaching
- The parents' association's awareness of recommendations made in previous evaluation reports
- The parents' association's priorities and its involvement in the school's planning process.

Other matters agreed in advance with the reporting inspector can also be discussed. A brief record of the meeting with parents will be made available to the board of management.

