

What happens during a WSE-MLL?

During a WSE-MLL inspectors will:

- visit classrooms to look at the teachers and the students at work
- meet students, including members of the student council, to hear views and opinions of students
- talk to students in classrooms and other areas of the school
- look at 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 of the school and how it is run
- look at key school documents such as the school's admissions policy, code of behaviour etc.



How are students involved in the WSE-MLL?

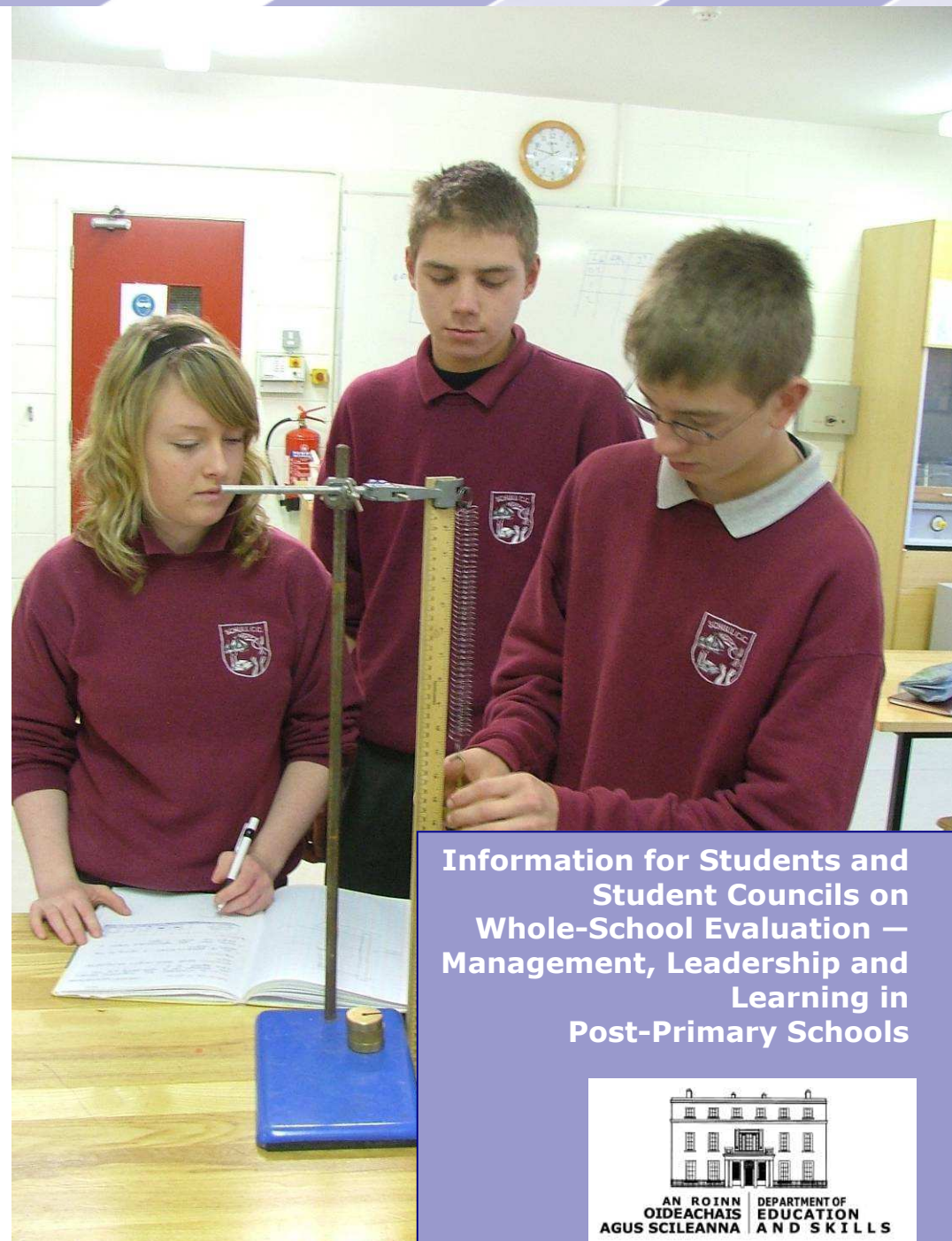
A large number of students (usually all students in 2nd year and 5th year but sometimes other years as well) are asked to complete a questionnaire about their life in the school. These questionnaires give the inspectors a lot of information about students' views of the school. The same students are also given a questionnaire for their parents to complete. The inspectors also organise a meeting with a group of about ten students where they discuss what it is like to be a student in the school. In addition to this, inspectors meet a lot of students and talk to them about their school work during their lessons over two days in school. Inspectors also talk to students outside of lessons, in the corridors, at lunch breaks or during other activities that take place during a normal school day.



The WSE-MLL report

When the final report is written, it is sent to the chairperson of the board of management, the principal, the patron/trustee (CEO of the VEC if the school is a VEC school), the chairperson of the parents' association and the chairperson of the student council.

The WSE-MLL report looks at the work of the school as a whole. It praises the positive aspects of the school's work and suggests areas where the school might improve. These areas for improvement should help the school to improve the quality of education for students in the years ahead. Once the report reaches the school the board of management is asked to consider it carefully. The board can provide a written response to the findings and recommendations of the report if it wishes. The report is then published on the Department of Education and Skills website. Normally, the board's response will be published with the report.



Information for Students and Student Councils on Whole-School Evaluation – Management, Leadership and Learning in Post-Primary Schools



WSE-MLL

The Department of Education and Skills inspects schools throughout the country in order to assess the quality of education being provided. WSE-MLL is one way in which this is done. It stands for “Whole-School Evaluation — Management, Leadership and Learning”. As the name suggests, during the inspection inspectors look closely at the management of the school, how it is led and how students are learning. Inspectors also look at whether the school has improved as a result of inspections already carried out in the school and how the school changes from year to year on its own initiative.



Following a WSE-MLL, the inspection team write a report on the work of the school. This report tells parents, the board 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 could be improved in the school.

Who carries out a WSE-MLL?

A WSE-MLL usually involves two inspectors from the Department of Education and Skills — a reporting inspector (who writes the report) and a support inspector who works closely with the reporting inspector. In large schools where there are more than 700 students, another support inspector is also involved bringing the number of inspectors on the team to three.

The team normally spends four days in the school, one day in advance and three days during the following week. The inspectors visit lessons and look at teaching and learning in the school.



Who is involved in the WSE-MLL?

During the WSE-MLL inspectors meet with the following people:

- The board of management
- Parents from the Parents’ Association
- The principal and deputy principal
- Groups of teachers
- Groups of students



Meeting of the inspectors with students

As well as meeting students in classes when they are looking at teaching and learning, the inspectors also hold a meeting with students. Usually, there are four or five students from the student council at this meeting and another four or five students from different year groups in the school.

At this meeting the inspectors ask students questions about what it is like to be a student in the school, how they are getting on with their studies and what help they get from teachers outside of classes. Inspectors also ask about what other activities are going on in the school such as sports, music, plays, debating etc.

Inspectors will answer any questions that students may have about the inspection and will discuss any other topics that students want to raise. The work of individual teachers is not discussed at this meeting.

