

How can parents be involved in the whole-school 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.



The whole-school evaluation report

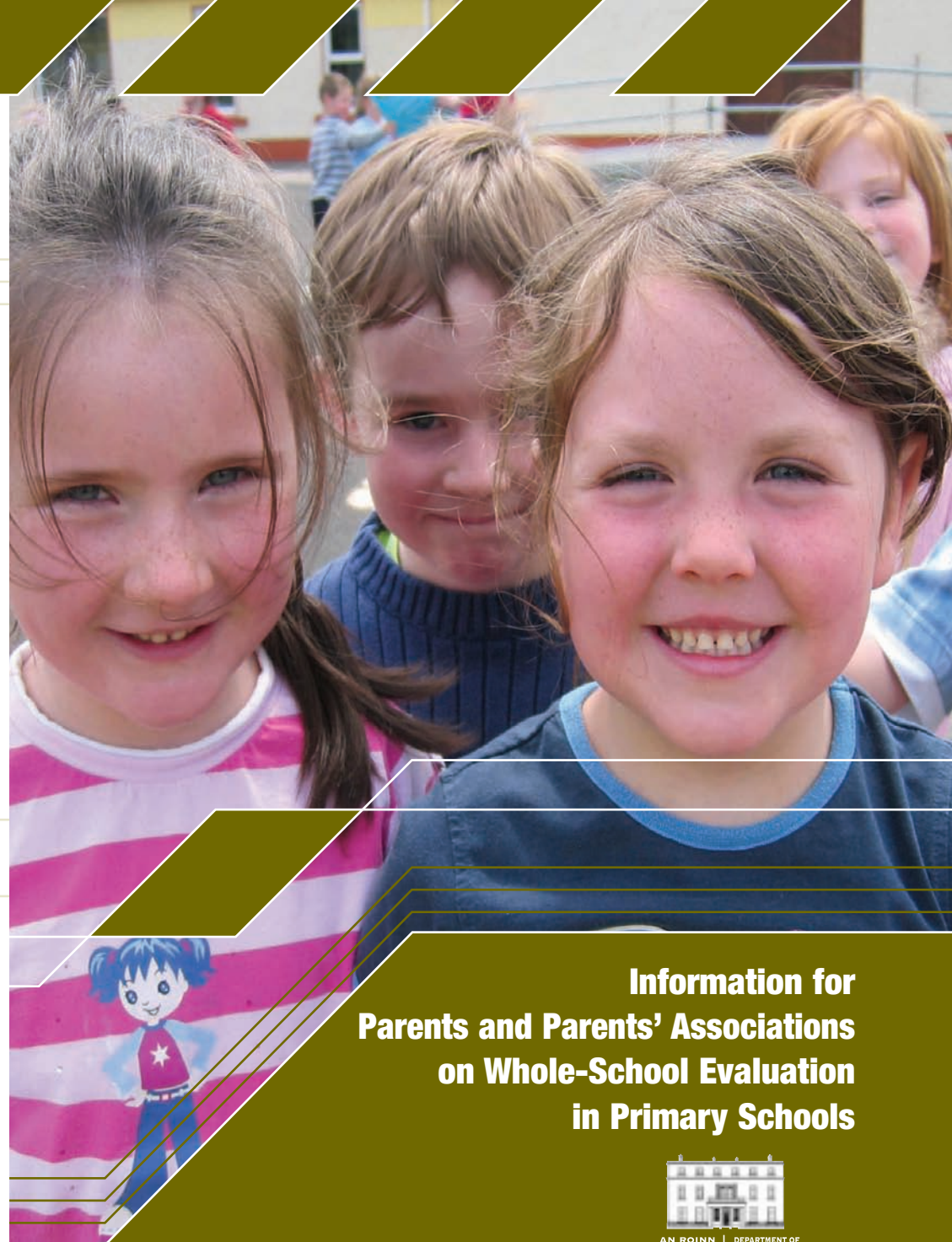
A report on the school is sent to the principal and to the board of management approximately six weeks after the evaluation. The report provides constructive recommendations for school development and improvement. This report should be considered in detail by the board of management. The board is invited to provide a written response to the findings and recommendations of the report.



The report will be published on the Department of Education and Science website. Normally, the board's response will be published with the report. You will be able to download a copy of the report from the website. You can also write to the Department of Education and Science to receive a copy of the report.


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Design > Q design/print@4908 201



**Information for
Parents and Parents' Associations
on Whole-School Evaluation
in Primary Schools**


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Whole-School Evaluation

All schools are visited and evaluated by the Inspectorate of the Department of Education and Science. The most frequent form of evaluation is called a **whole-school evaluation**.

A whole-school evaluation will inform you about:

- how the school is managed;
- the school's planning for teaching and learning;
- the quality of learning and teaching in the school;
- the way the school is helping children to learn and develop as individuals;
- how the school provides for the needs of children with learning difficulties or special needs.

Following a whole-school evaluation, an inspector writes an evaluation report on the work of the school. This report informs parents, boards of management, teachers and the Department of Education and Science about what the school is doing well. It also makes recommendations on how the quality of education provided could be improved.

Who evaluates?

In general, small primary schools are evaluated by one inspector from the Department of Education and Science. In larger schools, a team of inspectors carry out the evaluation. The team is led by the reporting inspector, who has lead responsibility for writing the evaluation report.

Who is involved in the whole-school evaluation?

During the whole-school evaluation the inspector or inspectors meet with the following groups:

- representatives of the parents' association or the parents' representatives on the board of management;
- teachers;
- board of management.



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

Where the parents' association is affiliated to the National Parents' Council, the reporting inspector invites officers of the parents' association to a meeting. This meeting is usually held in the school. At this meeting, the parents are invited to discuss:

- the work of the parents' association;
- how the parents' association supports the work of the school;
- how parents are involved in helping their children learn;
- parental involvement in the life of the school;
- how parents help the principal and teachers;
- parents' involvement in school planning;
- communication between school and parents.

Other matters agreed in advance with the reporting inspector can also be discussed. If there is no parents' association in your school, the inspector will meet with the parents' representatives on the board of management. A brief record of the meeting with parents will be made available to the board of management.

What happens during a whole-school evaluation?

During the evaluation inspectors will:

- visit classrooms and observe the teachers and the children at work;
- listen to the children's views and opinions;
- talk to the children about what they are learning;
- look at samples of the children's work;
- talk to the teachers and discuss their teaching with them;
- meet with the principal and other teachers to discuss the work and management of the school;
- look at school documents including the school plan.

