



## **Introduction – OFIS School Management Review**

*FAQ's about this important membership benefit!*

### **What is the purpose of a school management review?**

1. The inspection of a school provides an independent external evaluation of its effectiveness and a diagnosis of what it should do to improve, based upon a range of evidence including that from first-hand observation.
2. OFIS School Management Reviews perform three essential functions. They:
  - provide parents with information - this informs their choices and preferences about the effectiveness of the schools their children attend or may attend in the future
  - keep the public and government agencies informed about the work of schools. This provides assurance that minimum standards are being met and assists in accountability
  - promote the improvement of individual schools, and the education system as a whole.

### **How does a school management review promote improvement?**

3. The inspection of a school promotes improvement by:
  - setting expectations: the criteria and descriptors set out in the review framework and guidance illustrate the standards of performance and effectiveness expected of schools who sign agreement with OFIS core values
  - increasing the school's confidence by endorsing its own view of its effectiveness when that is accurate, and offering a sharp challenge (and the impetus to act) where improvement is needed
  - recommending priorities for future action by the school and, when appropriate, checking subsequent progress
  - fostering constructive dialogue between OFIS and the senior leaders and staff of the school

### **What are the key features of the OFIS School Management Review?**

4. Under the revised school management review arrangements from September 2010 reviewers give particular priority to:

- promoting improvement - inspectors make specific recommendations based on their diagnosis of the school's strengths and weaknesses
- evaluating the achievement and wider well-being of pupils as a whole and of different groups of pupils, and assessing the extent to which schools ensure that all pupils, including those most at risk, succeed
- assessing how well schools promote equality of opportunity, and how effectively they tackle discrimination
- checking schools' procedures for safeguarding – keeping children and young people from harm
- fostering the engagement of principals', schools' staff and board members in the process of review so that they understand the judgements made
- gathering, analysing and taking into account the views of parents and teachers
- assessing how effectively schools work in partnership with other providers in order to promote better outcomes for pupils.

### **How is this review process structured?**

5. *The framework for school management review* has three sections.

- **Part A: The school inspection system.** This section sets out the principles and legal framework for inspection and provides information about the timing and frequency of inspections.
- **Part B: Classroom Observation Form.** This section summarises the observations of reviewers based on classroom activities.
- **Part C: School Site Evaluation.** This section summarizes the observations of reviewers based on site tour(s).