



Date: 3 November 2020

Circular Number: 0072/2020

To: Boards of Management, Principal Teachers and Teachers in Primary
Schools and Special Schools

To: Chief Executives of Education and Training Boards

**UPDATED GUIDE TO CHILD PROTECTION AND SAFEGUARDING
INSPECTIONS IN PRIMARY AND POST-PRIMARY SCHOOLS**

Please bring this circular to the attention of all teaching and other relevant staff and to all members of the school board of management.

The *Child Protection and Safeguarding Inspection* (CPSI) model was formally approved for use in schools in January 2019 following detailed trial and development work in schools in collaboration with all stakeholders.

A commitment was made to the education partners that a review of the CPSI model would be undertaken following one year of implementation. The Inspectorate received ministerial approval in June 2020 to review the CPSI model through a written consultation process.

The review process concluded in October 2020 and the updated *Guide to Child Protection and Safeguarding Inspections* was finalised and submitted to the Minister for Education and Skills for her approval in line with the provisions of Section 13(8) of the *Education Act 1998*.

The Minister has granted her approval for the revised *Guide to Child Protection and Safeguarding Inspections 2020* which was published on 13 October 2020.

The revised Guide provides greater clarity on the provision of a Child Protection and Oversight Report (CPOR) to boards of management in Centres for Education (Youthreach Centres) and on the review of the school's Acceptable Use Policy (AUP) for Information and Communications Technology (ICT). It also removes a very small number of ambiguities from the original CPSI framework.

The purpose of this circular is to inform you that **all new Child Protection and Safeguarding Inspections (CPSIs) commenced after 3 November 2020 are being conducted in accordance with the new revised Guide.**

The revised *Guide to Child Protection and Safeguarding Inspections* is available on the Department's website (www.education.ie)

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