

Focused on Professional Standards

The Looking at Our School 2016 Framework for Leadership and Management¹ published by the Department of Education and Skills Inspectorate, is designed for school leaders to use in enhancing the quality of leadership in their schools. This publication provides a common understanding of what constitutes high quality leadership practices. It is therefore important that those involved in developing professional learning programmes and activities use the standards and statements of practice as a basis for planning such learning. This framework highlights the skills and knowledge that are essential elements of good practice. A focus on the standards outlined in the framework can also provide participants with tools for reflection as a support in developing their leadership capacity. The flexibility built into the statements of practice allows for school leaders to reflect and evaluate their own level of proficiency in their own specific context. The framework "... allows for what is most relevant to suit the specific purpose of individual teachers and schools." The framework also provides an excellent tool for those providing professional learning to evaluate the strengths of their current provision and can be used to explore opportunities for further development.

The framework, if used as a guide to identify good practice in a school as part of the school self- evaluation process, can be very powerful in terms of developing good leadership practices at a number of levels in schools.

¹www.education.ie/en/Publications/Inspection-Reports-Publications/Evaluation-Reports-Guidelines/Looking-at-Our-School-2016-A-Quality-Framework-for-Post-Primary-schools.pdf
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