Understanding inspections in schools: A guide for parents and carers

Estyn is responsible for inspecting a wide range of education and training provision in Wales, and will soon be inspecting your child's school.

How do inspectors take account of my views of the school?

Estyn wants to know your views on the school. You can do this by:

- **completing an online questionnaire** via the direct link provided by the school or by going to http://vir.estyn.gov.uk, clicking on 'complete a parent questionnaire' and inputting 09656. The questionnaires will be available until 25/01/2018.
- **attending a meeting with inspectors**. The school will inform you of the date and time.

If you have any difficulties in accessing or completing the questionnaire, hard copies are available from your school or Estyn on request. Return hard copies directly using the freepost facility or 'In Confidence' via your school no later than 22/01/2018.

How will an inspection benefit my child?

An inspection tells you about the standards and quality at your child's school. It gives the school an expert view on its work, outlining what it does well and helps it to improve.

Who inspects the school?

The inspection team is led by a Reporting Inspector who has considerable experience of teaching and education. Each inspection team also includes a lay inspector and a peer inspector. Lay inspectors have not worked as teachers in a school, while peer inspectors are headteachers or managers from another school. Each school may nominate someone to liaise directly with the inspection team to keep the inspectors informed about the school and its work.

How will the school be inspected?

Inspectors follow Estyn's inspection guidance. They will use the school's self-evaluation report as their starting-point.

How will inspectors take account of my child's view of the school?

During the inspection, inspectors will ask groups of children how they feel about the school, their work and how well they are getting on. A sample of learners will complete an online questionnaire before the inspection.

Estyn

Arolygiaeth Ei Mawrhydi dros Addysg a Hyfforddiant yng Nghymru
Her Majesty's Inspectorate for Education and Training in Wales

How will I know the inspectors' views on the school?

Inspection reports are published on the Estyn website 45 working days after the start of the inspection. The governing body will also send you details of the report.

What will be included within the report?

The report will have overall judgements on:

- standards
- wellbeing and attitudes to learning
- teaching and learning experiences
- care, support and guidance
- leadership and management

Inspectors use a four-point scale when making these judgements:

Excellent: Very strong, sustained performance and practice

Good: Strong features, although minor aspects may require improvement

Adequate and needs improvement: Strengths outweigh weaknesses, but important aspects require improvement

Unsatisfactory and needs urgent improvement: Important weaknesses outweigh strengths

What happens after an inspection?

All schools must produce an action plan based on the recommendations in the inspection report. The inspection team will also consider whether the school requires any follow-up activity. The three types of follow-up activity include:

Estyn review: involves reviewing the progress the school has made towards addressing the recommendations highlighted in the report about 12-18 months after the publication of the inspection report

Significant improvement: involves a small team of Estyn inspectors visiting the school about 12-18 months after the publication of the inspection report

Special measures: involves a small team of Estyn inspectors making regular visits to review the school's progress following the publication of the inspection report

How can I contact Estyn?

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For further information on Estyn please visit our website - http://www.estyn.gov.wales