

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 **06815**
- **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. They should be returned to Estyn either direct using the freepost facility or 'In Confidence' via your school no later than **15/01/2016**, see 'How can I contact Estyn?'.

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, whilst peer inspectors are current teachers 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 and use the school's self-evaluation and performance data 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.

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:

- the current performance of the school and its prospects for improvement
- the standards achieved by pupils and their wellbeing
- learning experiences, teaching, care, support and guidance, and the learning environment
- leadership, improving quality, partnership working and resource management

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

Excellent: many strengths, including significant examples of sector-leading practice

Good: many strengths and no important areas requiring significant improvement

Adequate: strengths outweigh areas for improvement

Unsatisfactory: important areas for improvement 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 five types of activity include:

Excellent practice: involves Estyn inviting schools to submit a case study

Local authority monitoring: involves a report to Estyn from the relevant authority

Estyn monitoring: involves reviewing the progress the school has made towards addressing the recommendations highlighted in the report about a year to 18 months after the publication of the inspection report

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

Special measures: involves a small team of Estyn inspectors visiting the school every term following the publication of the inspection report.

How can I contact Estyn?

Address: Freepost ESTYN

Email: ic@estyn.gov.wales

Tel: 02920 446446

Feedback about inspections:
feedback@estyn.gov.wales

