

Become a Peer Inspector in the pupil referral unit and maintained special school sectors

About the role

We are currently recruiting candidates to become Peer Inspectors who are senior leaders in:

- Maintained special schools
- Maintained pupil referral units (PRUs)

Peer Inspectors are a key part of our inspection teams. If you qualify as a Peer Inspector, you'll:

- use your knowledge and skills during learning walks and lesson observations, talk to learners, and scrutinise samples of their work;
- have discussions with parents and educational staff;
- use your observations to draft sections of the inspection report as part of the inspection team activity.

Being a peer inspector is a superb professional learning opportunity to see effective practice where it's happening every day, and to take these examples back to your provision to support improvement.

Eligibility

You'll inspect through the medium of English and/or Welsh, and will have:

- at least two years' experience in a senior leadership role, (Headteacher, Deputy Headteacher, Assistant Headteacher, Teacher in Charge of a PRU);
- at least 5 years' teaching experience;
- support from your Headteacher/Teacher in Charge (where appropriate) or Support from the Chair of Governors or Management Committee.

You must currently be working in the maintained special, PRU sector, or within primary, secondary or all-age schools who have responsibility for local authority specialist classes (ALN) to be eligible.

We'd particularly encourage those working in Welsh medium schools/PRUs to apply.

If you've applied to become a Peer Inspector before but have not been invited to the training, we'd be happy to consider a new application. Usually, we aim to allocate a proportion of training places to schools and PRUs that do not currently have peer inspectors.

Selection and training

The training will be available in English and Welsh and will include:

- **Pre-training activity:** a reading list you must complete before you attend the training.
- **Part two:** Three days of training including oral and written assessments.
 - The training for PRUs and maintained special schools will be held **3-5 November 2026** at Estyn in Cardiff.
- **Probationary inspection(s):** You'll be deployed on an assessed inspection, and the lead inspector will grade your performance. You need an A or B grade to pass.

Peer Inspector training is free of charge, and we'll pay for your travel and subsistence and accommodation (if you're eligible) in line with our [travel and subsistence policy](#).

Endorsement

In order to attend training and, if successful, attend inspections we must receive an endorsement from your employer. This must be received **in advance** of the training or you will be unable to attend. An email will be sent to the contact you shared in your application.

Disclosure and Barring Service check

To move on to the assessed inspection, you must complete the written assessments successfully and have a valid Disclosure and Barring Services (DBS) Enhanced certificate. The certificate must be less than three years' old, and include the Child workforce category. Once we've got your certificate, our Planning and Deployment team will be in touch with details of the assessed inspection. On the inspection, the lead inspector will assess your work and will give you a grade at the end of the inspection week.

We'd recommend that you apply for a DBS as soon as you pass part 2 - these certificates can take up to six weeks to be issued. Once you've received your DBS, or if you have one already, please send a scanned copy to dbschecks@estyn.gov.wales and include the name and date of the training so that we can check it meets our requirements. **You will not be deployed or considered as having fully passed the training until your certificate has been received.**

Deployment

We usually deploy peer inspectors around once a year or once every two years. A few peer inspectors are deployed more often. When you're on inspection, we'll pay a flat rate contribution to your school for supply cover. We'll also cover your travel and subsistence costs.

Every year, we invite all Peer Inspectors to attend update training in the summer term; you must attend this training to carry on as a peer inspector. There's no charge for the training, but we're not able to pay supply cover or travel and subsistence costs. Your DBS certificate must be Up to date to attend.

How to apply

Online application form: [32902 Maintained Special & PRU Initial PI](#)

Closing date: 5pm Monday, 28 September 2026

We'll contact everyone with the result of their application by **w/c 5 October 2026**.

Any fields marked with * are mandatory, so you won't be able to submit the form without entering a response for these fields. If they don't apply to you, please enter 'N/A'.

Contact details

This pack contains all the information about the role and the application process, but if you have any questions, please email us at events@estyn.gov.wales or call us on 029 2044 6510.

We look forward to receiving your application.