

About Estyn

Annual Report 2010-2011



Estyn is the office of Her Majesty's Inspectorate for Education and Training in Wales. We are independent of, but funded by, the National Assembly for Wales. The purpose of Estyn is to inspect quality and standards in education in Wales.

Estyn is responsible for inspecting:

- nursery schools and settings that are maintained by, or receive funding from, local authorities;
- primary schools;
- secondary schools;
- special schools;
- pupil referral units;
- independent schools;
- further education;
- adult community learning;
- local authority education services for children and young people;
- teacher education and training;
- work-based learning; and
- offender learning.

Our inspection work is aimed at raising standards and quality in education and training across Wales.

In a number of sectors, we work with other regulators and inspectorates to inspect provision. We work in partnership with Ofsted to inspect work-based learning provision that operates both in Wales and England. Our inspectors liaise with CSSIW to inspect residential schools and local authority secure children's homes. We also take part in inspections, led by HMI Probation, of youth offending teams (YOTs) in Wales and we join HMI Prisons and Ofsted to inspect institutions for young offenders in England that have significant numbers of Welsh young people. In addition, we include inspectors from the Wales Audit Office when we inspect local authority education services.

We also provide advice on specific matters to the Welsh Government in response to an annual remit from the Minister for Education. Our advice provides evidence of the effect of the Welsh Government's strategies, policies and initiatives on the education and training of learners.

We make public good practice based on inspection evidence. We have a unique and independent view of standards and quality across all aspects of education and training in Wales, and this contributes to the policies for education and training introduced across Wales.

If you want to find out more about what we do and how we work, please follow this link: www.estyn.gov.uk

The inspection cycle covered in this report

A new six-year cycle of inspections began in September 2010. When we inspect we use our Common Inspection Framework for education and training in Wales. This framework covers three key questions and ten quality indicators and they are organised as follows:

How good are outcomes?

- 1.1 Standards
- 1.2 Wellbeing

How good is provision?

- 2.1 Learning experiences
- 2.2 Teaching
- 2.3 Care, support and guidance
- 2.4 Learning environment

How good are leadership and management?

- 3.1 Leadership
- 3.2 Improving quality
- 3.3 Partnership working
- 3.4 Resource management

We also make two overall judgements about current performance and prospects for improvement.

We use the following four-point scale to show our inspection judgements.

Judgement	What the judgement means
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

In inspections of local authority education services for children and young people, we report on provision under four headings:

- 2.1 Support for school improvement
- 2.2 Support for additional learning needs and educational inclusion
- 2.3 Promoting social inclusion and wellbeing
- 2.4 Access and school places

Explanation of words and phrases used to describe our evaluations

The words and phrases used in the left hand column below are those that we use to describe our evaluations. The phrases in the right hand column are the more precise explanations.

nearly all	with very few exceptions
most	90% or more
many	70% or more
a majority	over 60%
half or around a half	close to 50%
a minority	below 40%
few	below 20%
very few	less than 10%

Notes about the data used in this report

- 1 The data we show in charts or discuss within the text of report derives from Estyn's database of inspection grades. Data from other sources is referenced in the report, and is mainly derived from the Welsh Government's Statistical Directorate.
- 2 Figures in charts are rounded to the nearest whole percentage. Totals may therefore not be equal to 100%.