

What to expect: Engagement activity in maintained schools and PRUs

From Autumn term 2021, we'll continue with our engagement activity, visiting schools and PRUs when safe and appropriate to do so. We'll also continue with virtual engagement meetings with a small sample of schools and PRUs where appropriate. The feedback on this work from many schools and PRUs has been very positive. Leaders and staff have welcomed the opportunity to share their experiences with us. Information from these calls and visits feeds into our annual report, advice to Welsh Government and future thematic work.

There is no need for anyone to prepare for an engagement visit or virtual meeting and we won't be making any judgements about individual providers. There will be no written report for an individual school or PRU. We will have professional discussions with leaders during the visit about the school or PRU's work. Our aim is for the visits to be supportive and a positive learning experience for the school/PRU and for our inspectors.

During 2021-22, our focus is on schools' and PRUs' preparations for the the Curriculum for Wales. We'll discuss how leaders and staff are developing their teaching approaches in light of the curriculum. We'd also like to discuss approaches to ALN reform.

We'll contact the school or PRU ten days prior to our visit to discuss the arrangements with the headteacher. We may meet with other staff or visit classrooms to talk to teachers, learning assistants and pupils to get a flavour of their work. We'd also like to talk with the additional learning needs co-ordinator about approaches to ALN reform.

We understand that schools and PRUs continue to face challenges as a result of COVID-19 and that supporting pupil and staff wellbeing remains a key priority for all.

This document is also available in Welsh.