

Resuming our regular activity: [Monitoring visits](#)

In autumn 2021, we resumed our monitoring of schools and PRUs in a statutory category (special measures or significant improvement). We have been in regular contact with these providers during the pandemic via the Pastoral HMI (PHMI) that was appointed for each one. This has enabled us to keep abreast of the constantly evolving challenges facing these providers. It has also – alongside our regular contact with local authorities – helped us to understand when it was safe and appropriate to make non-judgemental pastoral visits leading up to the resumption of formal monitoring.

We are visiting all providers in special measures in the autumn term. Those in significant improvement will be visited during 2021-22 as appropriate.

When planning and carrying out monitoring visits, we have ensured that:

- The first visit is led by the PHMI, who has a good understanding of the provider's specific context through their regular contact with the headteacher
- The PHMI and headteacher agree protocols regarding activities such as lesson observations that enable the team to get a clear picture of teaching and learning whilst keeping pupils, staff and inspectors safe
- The team are flexible in response to any changes in the school's circumstances, for example pupil or staff absence, by amending the timetable of activities where necessary
- The provider's context is fully taken into account when evaluating pupil progress, wellbeing and attendance – in doing so, inspectors will follow the principles set out in [Judging Sufficient Progress in 2021](#).

As is always the case with inspections and monitoring visits, we will not require schools to produce any documentation other than a brief outline of progress against recommendations that the headteacher will provide for the reporting inspector. Our expectations regarding documentation and other evidence are set out in [Reducing Workload](#), which was agreed with regional consortia, local authorities, the EWC, teaching unions and the Welsh Government.

This document is also available in Welsh.

