

What to expect: **Thematic work**

Each year, we conduct several thematic reviews as part of specific advice requested by Welsh Government in our annual Estyn remit letter. The information that we gather helps inform a national picture on the topics in each thematic review and our findings are published on our website in a thematic report.

In autumn 2021, we've slowly and sensitively resumed visits to schools and other providers to gather information from speaking to learners, staff, and leaders, reviewing learners' work and other documentation related to the following thematic reviews:

- Regional consortia and local authority support for Curriculum for Wales
- Peer-on-peer sexual harassment
- Welsh language immersion approaches
- Impartial advice and guidance to young people by Careers Wales advisers

From the spring term 2022, we will continue to visit schools and other providers to gather information to support two more thematic reviews:

- 16-19 curriculum
- Approaches to assessment

We email schools and providers before visits to inform them that they have been chosen as part of a sample of providers for each of the thematic reviews. Our inspectors also contact the schools and providers before visiting to discuss arrangements for the visit and agree any documentation or information to be provided on the day. Visits may include activities such as lesson observations, meetings with groups of learners or staff or walks around different areas to get a flavour of the provider's work. We will agree protocols with the school or provider that will help to gather a clear picture of teaching and learning while also keeping learners, staff, and the inspector safe. Inspectors will always be flexible in response to any changes in the school or provider's circumstances, for example learner or staff absence, by amending the timetable of activities where necessary.

Our thematic reports are published on [our website](#) and often include cameos or case studies of interesting and effective practice which will normally name the provider. Our reports support improvement for education and training in Wales by providing recommendations to schools and providers, local authorities and regional consortia, and Welsh Government related to the key findings and aspects to improve for each of the thematic reviews. The reports won't identify shortcomings or provide direct feedback to individual providers.

This document is also available in Welsh.

