

THE VALE OF GLAMORGAN COUNCIL

CABINET: 20TH JUNE, 2016

REFERENCE FROM LEARNING AND CULTURE SCRUTINY COMMITTEE:
23RD MAY, 2016

“56 SUMMARY OF SCHOOL INSPECTION REPORTS FOR SPRING TERM
2016 (DLS) –

Committee was provided with an update on the outcomes of school inspections for the Spring term 2016 and an update on the outcomes of recent Estyn monitoring visits.

Ysgol Dewi Sant and St. Andrews Major Primary Schools had been inspected during the Spring term 2016 and a summary of the inspection findings for each of the named schools / playgroup was appended to the report at Appendix 2. The overall judgements for the schools were reported as follows:

Ysgol Dewi Sant – current performance adequate, prospects for improvement adequate

St. Andrews Major Primary School – current performance good, prospects for improvement good.

As a result of these inspections follow-up activity had been identified at Ysgol Dewi Sant – Estyn monitoring and St. Andrews Major Primary – Local Authority monitoring.

While the responsibility for producing the action plan rested with the school, the Authority also had a number of key responsibilities. These included:

- Ensuring that any issues identified by Estyn relating to the Local Authority were addressed;
- Ensuring that delivery of the action plan was monitored through Challenge Advisor visits to schools;
- Supporting schools to raise standards through identification and sharing of good practice.

During Spring term 2016 Estyn had monitored Bryn Hafren Comprehensive. and had judged the extent of the progress made by the school in addressing the recommendations of the inspection report. The review activity considered the Local Authority report and scrutiny of the school's post inspection action plan and self-evaluation report. It was noted that progress was judged as follows:

Limited - Does not meet the recommendation
 Satisfactory - Addresses the recommendation in many respects
 Strong - Addresses the recommendation in most respects
 Very good - Addresses the recommendation in all respects.

Having reviewed the progress made by the school in addressing each of the recommendations, Estyn could:

Remove the school from all follow up activity
 Leave the school in Estyn monitoring
 Place the school in a category; requiring significant improvement or special measures.

As a result of the visit Estyn had judged the school as below:

School name	Overall judgement	Outcome
Bryn Hafren Comprehensive	Satisfactory Progress against 3 recommendations and limited progress against 2	Placed in Significant Improvement

The detail of the progress the school had made against each of the recommendations was provided at Appendix 3 to the report. Committee was further reminded that the Vale now had two schools judged by Estyn to need significant improvement, being Barry Comprehensive and Bryn Hafren Comprehensive Schools. The Vale also had two schools settings in Estyn monitoring, namely Ysgol Dewi Sant and Wenvoe Playgroup. In Local Authority monitoring there were three schools, which were reported as Albert Primary, St. Andrews Major Primary and Y Bont Faen Primary. It being noted that Romilly Primary School had been removed from Local Authority monitoring.

In considering the report the Director, with regard to security at St. Andrews School, could confirm that Recommendation (4) "Address the site security issue raised in the report" was now being addressed, meaning funding arrangements to improve the security had been agreed.

A Member considered that, in their view, it had been premature for Ysgol Dewi Sant to have been inspected by Estyn as it was a brand new school with a new Headteacher taking over on two separate sites and that the inspection had been undertaken within a year of that situation. The Director advised that, in her view, she felt that Estyn was trying to balance the need to be confident that all schools were of the appropriate quality with the reality that new schools require time to become established. In the Director's personal view, unannounced Estyn visits were less stressful than timetabled visits with long notice periods.

Having considered the reports in detail, the Scrutiny Committee subsequently

RECOMMENDED –

- (1) T H A T the inspection judgements about the schools inspected during the Spring term be noted.
- (2) T H A T the judgements made by Estyn in its monitoring visit regarding the progress of one school in addressing inspection recommendations be noted.
- (3) T H A T the judgements made by Estyn with regard to schools in Local Authority monitoring be noted.
- (4) T H A T the reports be referred to Cabinet for its consideration.

Reasons for recommendations

- (1-3) In order that Members are aware of Estyn judgements about local schools.
- (4) For Cabinet's consideration.”

Attached as Appendix – [Report to Learning and Culture Scrutiny Committee: 23rd May, 2016](#)