

Meeting of:	Learning and Culture Scrutiny Committee
Date of Meeting:	Thursday, 10 June 2021
Relevant Scrutiny Committee:	Learning and Culture
Report Title:	Estyn Case Studies of Effective Practice in Vale of Glamorgan Schools
Purpose of Report:	To update Members on the effective practice case studies identified in Vale of Glamorgan schools by Estyn since the introduction in September 2017.
Report Owner:	Director of Learning and Skills
Responsible Officer:	Carys Pritchard, Principal Improvement Partner
Elected Member and Officer Consultation:	Councillor Lis Burnett, Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Education and Regeneration
Policy Framework:	The recommendations of this report are within existing policy framework and budget
Executive Summary:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Since September 2017, 20 schools in the Vale of Glamorgan have been inspected. • Where Estyn identified excellent practice during an inspection, schools are invited to prepare a written case study which will be published by Estyn and shared with other schools. • Estyn may also identify examples of interesting or innovative effective practice that are worthy of sharing with others, even if the Inspection Area overall has not received a judgement of excellent. In such cases, Estyn will invite the school to prepare a written case study on the agreed areas of effective practice. • The report outlines a brief overview of the best practice case studies identified in the Vale of Glamorgan, along with links to access the information.

Recommendation

1. That Members note the examples of effective practice identified by Estyn.

Reason for Recommendation

1. To advise Members of the effective practice identified by Estyn in Vale of Glamorgan schools

1. Background

- 1.1 Estyn inspects quality and standards in education across Wales using the Common Inspection Framework.
- 1.2 In September 2017 a new Estyn School Inspection Common Inspection Framework (CIF) was introduced across all schools in Wales. An overview of the CIF is outlined in Appendix 1.
- 1.3 In the CIF, judgements are made under five inspection areas:
 - Standards
 - Wellbeing and attitudes to learning
 - Teaching and learning experiences
 - Care, support and guidance
 - Leadership and management
- 1.4 The judgement for each of the five inspection areas are as follows:
 - Excellent: very strong, sustained performance and practice
 - Good: strong features, although minor aspects may require improvement
 - Adequate and needs improvement: strengths outweigh weaknesses, but important aspects require improvement
 - Unsatisfactory and needs urgent improvement: improvement weaknesses outweigh strengths
- 1.5 Since September 2017, 20 schools in the Vale of Glamorgan have been inspected. Appendix 2 provides an overall summary of Estyn activity in the Vale of Glamorgan since September 2017.
- 1.6 Where Estyn identified excellent practice during an inspection, schools are invited to prepare a written case study which will be published by Estyn and shared with other schools.
- 1.7 Estyn may also identify examples of interesting or innovative effective practice that are worthy of sharing with others, even if the Inspection Area overall has not received a judgement of excellent. In such cases, Estyn will invite the school to prepare a written case study on the agreed areas of effective practice. The case study should not relate directly to an Inspection Area that receives lower than 'Good' overall.

2. Key Issues for Consideration

- 2.1** Since September 2017, eleven Vale of Glamorgan schools have been invited by Estyn to write a case study of effective practice.
- 2.2** Twelve case studies of effective practice from Vale of Glamorgan schools have been published. Case studies have been published from Oak Field Primary, Cadoxton Primary, Gladstone Primary, Cogan Primary, Ysgol Sant Curig, Ysgol Gymraeg Bro Morgannwg, Cowbridge Comprehensive, Barry Island Primary and Cogan Nursery. Information about the case studies is included in Appendix 3.
- 2.3** Two case studies have been published by Cadoxton Primary, Cogan Primary and Cogan Nursery.
- 2.4** All Saints Church in Wales Primary and Ysgol Sant Baruc have been invited to write case studies by Estyn. These case studies have not yet been published. Information about the effective practice identified in these schools is included in Appendix 4.

3. How do proposals evidence the Five Ways of Working and contribute to our Well-being Objectives?

- 3.1** The Well-being of Future Generations Act 2015 (“the 2015 Act”) requires the Council to think about the long-term impact of their decisions, to work better with people, communities and each other and to prevent persistent problems such as poverty, health inequalities and climate change.
- 3.2** Support for learners contributes to the Council's Wellbeing Objectives drawn from the Corporate Plan 2020-25. There is specific alignment with our wellbeing objectives to work with and for our communities and to support learning, employment and sustainable economic growth.
- 3.3** This report recognises the importance of identifying best practice in standards, provision and leadership in schools which will meet the needs of young people over the long term.
- 3.4** The report recognises the importance of involving people with an interest in achieving the outcome and those people reflect the diversity of the area which the report addresses. All relevant stakeholders have been involved in the consultation process through this report
- 3.5** This report supports the objectives listed in the Service Plan for Standards and Provision 2021-22.
- 3.6** Welsh medium schools undergo school inspections by Estyn according to the same Common Inspection Framework, but through the medium of Welsh.

4. Resources and Legal Considerations

Financial

4.1 There are no financial implications resulting from this report.

Employment

4.2 There are no employment implications resulting from this report

Legal (Including Equalities)

4.3 There are no legal implications resulting from this report.

5. Background Papers

None.

Common Inspection Framework from September 2017



Inspection Areas	Aspects
01 Standards	1.1 Standards and progress overall 1.2 Standards and progress of specific groups 1.3 Standards and progress in skills
02 Wellbeing and attitudes to learning	2.1 Wellbeing 2.2 Attitudes to learning
03 Teaching and learning experiences	3.1 Quality of teaching 3.2 The breadth, balance and appropriateness of the curriculum 3.3 Provision for skills
04 Care, support and guidance	4.1 Tracking, monitoring and the provision of learning support 4.2 Personal development 4.3 Safeguarding
05 Leadership and management	5.1 Quality and effectiveness of leaders and managers 5.2 Self-evaluation processes and improvement planning 5.3 Professional learning 5.4 Use of resources



Please refer to the relevant inspection guidance for your sector for further information on the Common Inspection Framework at <https://www.estyn.gov.wales/inspection/inspection-guidance>.

**Summary of school inspection activity since introduction of
new common inspection framework in September 2017**

Summary of judgements					
School	Inspection area 1: Standards	Inspection area 2: wellbeing and attitudes to learning	Inspection area 3: teaching and learning experiences	Inspection area 4: care, support and guidance	Inspection area 5: leadership and management
Autumn 2017					
Oak Field Primary School	Good	Good	Good	Excellent	Good
Cadoxton Primary School	Good	Excellent	Good	Excellent	Excellent
All Saints CiW Primary School	Good	Excellent	Good	Excellent	Good
Spring 2017					
Gladstone Primary School	Good	Good	Good	Good	Good
Fairfield Primary School	Good	Good	Good	Good	Good
Colcot Primary School	Good	Good	Good	Adequate	Good
Summer 2018					
Ysgol Sant Baruc	Good	Excellent	Good	Good	Good
Cogan Primary School	Good	Good	Good	Excellent	Excellent
Autumn 2018					
High Street Primary	Good	Good	Good	Good	Good
Ysgol Sant Curig	Good	Excellent	Good	Excellent	Excellent
Spring 2019					

Appendix 2

Llangan Primary School	Good	Good	Adequate	Good	Adequate
St Illtyd Primary	Adequate	Good	Adequate	Good	Adequate
Wick & Marcross Primary School	Good	Good	Good	Good	Good
Ysgol Gymraeg Bro Morganwg	Good	Excellent	Good	Excellent	Good
Y Daith PRU	Adequate	Good	Adequate	Good	Adequate
Cowbridge Comprehensive	Excellent	Excellent	Excellent	Excellent	Excellent
Summer 2019					
Jenner Park Primary	Good	Adequate	Good	Good	Good
St David's C.I. W. Primary	Good	Excellent	Good	Excellent	Good
Autumn 2019					
Holton Primary	Good	Good	Good	Good	Good
Cogan Nursery	Excellent	Excellent	Excellent	Excellent	Excellent
Barry Island Primary	Good	Excellent	Good	Excellent	Excellent
Spring 2020					
St Cyres	Adequate	Good	Adequate	Good	Adequate

Appendix 3: Effective practice case studies

School	Oak Field Primary
Date of inspection	September 2017
Effective practice	Improving pupil outcomes through highly effective nurture provision
Description	The nurture, emotional, wellbeing and skills room at Oak Field Primary ensures that all pupils have access to the support they need to be ready to learn.
Link	https://www.estyn.gov.wales/effective-practice/improving-pupil-outcomes-through-highly-effective-nurture-provision

School	Cadoxton Primary
Date of inspection	November 2017
Effective practice	Learning through play in a real-life context
Description	The creation of a 'village' at Cadoxton Primary School encourages children in the foundation phase to develop many skills by providing experiences in a real-life context.
Link	https://www.estyn.gov.wales/effective-practice/learning-through-play-real-life-context

School	Cadoxton Primary
Date of inspection	November 2017
Effective practice	Creating a nurturing school through an inclusive approach to wellbeing
Description	Cadoxton Primary School's positive approach to wellbeing has created a nurturing community where pupils are ready to learn.
Link	https://www.estyn.gov.wales/effective-practice/creating-nurturing-school-through-inclusive-approach-wellbeing

School	Gladstone Primary School
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Date of inspection	January 2018
Effective practice	Supportive nurture programme increases levels of pupils' self-esteem
Description	Gladstone Primary School are committed to supporting their pupils. Having breakfast clubs and designated areas allow pupils to talk openly about any physical or emotional concerns.
Link	https://www.estyn.gov.wales/effective-practice/supportive-nurture-programme-increases-levels-pupils%E2%80%99-self-esteem

School	Cogan Primary
Date of inspection	May 2018
Effective practice	School develops innovative learning experience for pupils
Description	Cogan Primary School has improved standards and wellbeing throughout the school. Their learning culture has given staff the confidence to share approaches that result in better learning opportunities for pupils. A buddy initiative allows pupils to share their work and discuss their enjoyment for learning. It also provides an efficient source of informal monitoring for teachers.
Link	https://www.estyn.gov.wales/effective-practice/school-develops-innovative-learning-experience-pupils

School	Cogan Primary
Date of inspection	May 2018
Effective practice	School encourages caring and inclusive learning environment
Description	Pupils at Cogan Primary School benefit from a positive learning environment. It helps pupils to feel secure and enhances their learning. The school provides specific help to pupils with hearing difficulties and encourage pupils and staff to use signing and other visual communication tools on a daily basis. The school celebrates diversity and inclusion by giving pupils the opportunity to learn about different cultures and religions.
Link	https://www.estyn.gov.wales/effective-practice/school-encourages-caring-and-inclusive-learning-environment-0

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School	Ysgol Sant Curig
Date of inspection	November 2018
Effective practice	Using wellbeing activities to nurture pupils
Description	Staff at Ysgol Gymraeg Sant Curig have excellent working relationships with their pupils. This helps to create a learning environment where pupils' confidence and independence are developed. The school has a range of wellbeing activities which support and nurture pupils and give them opportunity to develop life skills, such as cooking or sewing. Sessions on mindfulness are offered to provide a calm period after a busy lunchtime and to develop their ability to understand and express feelings. Pupils' wellbeing and attitudes to learning are excellent and pupils show high levels of motivation, interest and pride in their work.
Link	https://www.estyn.gov.wales/effective-practice/using-wellbeing-activities-nurture-pupils

School	Ysgol Gymraeg Bro Morgannwg
Date of inspection	March 2019
Effective practice	Promoting the use of the Welsh language
Description	Pupils and staff at Ysgol Gymraeg Bro Morgannwg have a strong sense of pride in their Welsh community. Staff encourage the use of the Welsh language throughout the school. There is a 'Welshness Committee' which promotes the social use of the Welsh language. The school welcomes speakers and celebrities to discuss the language's importance and ignite pupils' pride. Curriculum Cymreig is used to develop awareness of Welsh culture and history.
Link	https://www.estyn.gov.wales/effective-practice/promoting-use-welsh-language

School	Cowbridge Comprehensive School
Date of inspection	April 2019

Effective practice	Improving the quality of teaching through professional learning
Description	Cowbridge Comprehensive School has a professional learning programme. It's shaped to ensure that all staff are able to address improvement successfully. This approach has created a culture of collaboration and an understanding of the importance of continuous learning. Teachers create inspiring and engaging learning opportunities, which impact positively on pupil achievements. The quality of teaching at the school has improved, which has resulted in exceptionally high levels of attainment
Link	https://www.estyn.gov.wales/effective-practice/improving-quality-teaching-through-professional-learning

School	Barry Island Primary School
Date of inspection	November 2019
Effective practice	Pupils bringing history alive through school's partnership with museum
Description	Barry Island Primary School leaders established a working partnership with St Fagans Museum of Welsh History to trial elements of the new curriculum as part of staff development. Classes were allocated a period of history to explore during visits to the museum, gathering information to create digital resources, and scripting a documentary film. Pupils were challenged to apply knowledge and skills in a real-life historical setting and given an opportunity to showcase their work at a celebration event for families and stakeholders.
Link	https://www.estyn.gov.wales/effective-practice/pupils-bringing-history-alive-through-schools-partnership-museum

School	Cogan Nursery
Date of inspection	November 2019
Effective practice	Children's interests lead learning activities
Description	After research, staff at Cogan Nursery School devised activities that build on children's interests. Practitioners support children to explore planned activities, which are updated weekly. Open ended questions help develop skills in all areas of learning. Children take on new learning opportunities with confidence.

	Most are willing to take appropriate risks, particularly in the outdoor area, and are developing resilience well.
Link	https://www.estyn.gov.wales/effective-practice/childrens-interests-lead-learning-activities

School	Cogan Nursery
Date of inspection	November 2019
Effective practice	Ensuring high-quality Foundation Phase teaching
Description	There are high expectations of practitioners at Cogan Nursery. Leaders provide support to enable staff to work as an effective team. Individual strengths are shared to develop understanding and practice. There are robust procedures in place to manage the performance of practitioners. Leaders ensure there are opportunities for professional development for all.
Link	https://www.estyn.gov.wales/effective-practice/ensuring-high-quality-foundation-phase-teaching

Appendix 4: Schools invited to write effective practice case study but not yet published by Estyn

School	Date of inspection	Effective practice identified
All Saints CiW Primary School	December 2017	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • work in relation to wellbeing
Ysgol Sant Baruc	May 2018	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • work in relation to ensuring high standards of Welsh oracy across the school • developing pupils' mature attitudes towards learning by the top end of key stage 2