

Meeting of:	Learning and Culture Scrutiny Committee
Date of Meeting:	Thursday, 09 November 2023
Relevant Scrutiny Committee:	Learning and Culture
Report Title:	Summary of Estyn inspection outcomes for summer term 2023 and update on schools in statutory follow-up.
Purpose of Report:	To update Members on Estyn outcomes of schools inspected during the summer term 2023 and progress of schools in statutory follow-up
Report Owner:	Carys Pritchard, Principal Improvement Partner, Central South Consortium
Responsible Officer:	Paula Ham, Director of Learning and Skills
Elected Member and Officer Consultation:	Councillor Rhiannon Birch, Cabinet Member for Education, Arts and the Welsh Language Morwen Hudson, Head of Standards and Provision
Policy Framework:	The recommendations of this report are within existing policy framework and budget
<p>Executive Summary:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Estyn inspects quality and standards in education across Wales. During the summer term 2023, three primary schools (Y Bont Faen Primary, St Joseph’s Roman Catholic Primary and Albert Primary) were inspected. None of the three schools are in statutory follow-up (Significant Improvement and Special Measures) or Estyn Review. One case of interesting or innovative practice was identified at Y Bont Faen Primary. • Two schools from the Vale of Glamorgan, Ysgol Pen y Garth and Pencoedre High School, remain in Estyn statutory follow-up category. Both schools are in Special Measures following their inspections during the autumn term 2022. The Post-Inspection Action Plan and statement of action for both schools have been approved by Estyn. The progress of both schools is monitored by Estyn on a termly basis. Llanfair Primary is in Estyn review following their inspection in spring 2023. Progress the school has made towards addressing their recommendations will be reviewed about 12-18 months after the publication of the inspection report. 	

Recommendations

1. That Members note the inspection outcomes of the three schools inspected during the summer term and congratulate the schools where there is no Estyn follow-up activity.
2. That Members consider the progress of the two schools in Special Measures.

Reasons for Recommendations

1. In order that Members are aware of Estyn findings about schools in the Vale of Glamorgan.
2. In order for Members to be aware of the progress of the two schools in Special Measures.

1. Background

- 1.1 Between October and December 2019, Estyn conducted a public consultation asking people about their views on Estyn's inspection arrangements for maintained schools and Pupil Referral Units (PRUs).
- 1.2 Following this consultation, a revised framework has been developed by Estyn which takes account of education reforms.
- 1.3 Due to the impact of Covid-19, the piloting of this revised framework with schools was delayed until the second half of the spring term 2022.
- 1.4 During the autumn term 2021, Estyn invited all maintained schools and PRUs to put themselves forward for a pilot inspection in the spring term 2022 using the revised framework.
- 1.5 In spring 2022, the revised inspection arrangements were piloted in a small sample of schools and PRUs across Wales, including three school from the Vale of Glamorgan.
- 1.6 In summer 2022, the revised inspection arrangements continued to be piloted. During this term Estyn identified the schools to be inspected; these schools did not put themselves forward to be inspected.
- 1.7 From September 2022 onwards, Estyn have continued to identify schools to be inspected using the revised inspection arrangements.

2. Key Issues for Consideration

- 2.1** Three schools from the Vale of Glamorgan were inspected by Estyn during the summer term 2023: Y Bont Faen Primary, St Joseph's Roman Catholic Primary and Albert Primary.
- 2.2** A summary of the inspection findings for each school is appended to this report (Appendix 1).
- 2.3** Appendix 2 provides an overview of the schools and non-maintained settings inspected by Estyn since the introduction of the pilot inspection framework in spring 2022.
- 2.4** School inspections are governed by the Education Act 2005 and related regulations. Inspections must be conducted by teams of inspectors, led by an HMI, additional inspector or registered inspector, and must result in a written report. Section 28 of the Education Act 2005, says that inspectors must report on:
- the educational standards achieved by the school
 - the quality of education provided by the school
 - how far education meets the needs of the range of pupils at the school
 - the quality of leadership in and management of the school, including whether the financial resources are managed efficiently
 - the spiritual, moral, social and cultural development of pupils at the school
 - whether the provision promotes health eating and drinking
 - the contribution of the school to the wellbeing of pupils
- 2.5** When conducting school inspections, the main forms of evidence considered are:
- sample of pupils' work
 - discussions with pupils, staff, leaders, managers, governors, parents and other
 - observation of teaching and other activities, including evidence gathered through learning walks
 - pre-inspection questionnaire responses
 - documentary or electronic evidence, e.g. information on pupils' progress
 - information from the local authority/regional consortium where appropriate
- 2.6** The reporting inspector is responsible for producing a final inspection report that is clear to a lay audience and helpful to the school.
- 2.7** With the revised framework, the notice period for schools has been reduced from 15 to 10 working days.
- 2.8** The inspection reports from spring 2022 onwards will not include summative grades but instead there will be greater detail on strengths and areas for improvement to support stronger evaluation and promote improvement.
- 2.9** The five inspection areas are:

- learning
 - wellbeing and attitudes to learning
 - teaching and learning experiences
 - care, support and guidance
 - leadership and management
- 2.10** During all core inspections, the inspection team will consider whether the school needs any follow-up activity.
- 2.11** There are three types of follow-up category:
- Estyn review
 - significant improvement
 - special measures
- 2.12** All follow-up work involves activity by Estyn inspectors. The activity involves increasing levels of intervention in proportion to need.
- 2.13** No follow up work was identified by Estyn in relation to the three primary schools inspected in the Vale of Glamorgan during summer term 2023.
- 2.14** Where Estyn identifies interesting or innovative practice during an inspection, schools are invited to prepare a written case study which will be published by Estyn and shared with other schools. Y Bont Faen Primary have been invited by Estyn to write a case study on its work in relation to developing creativity through its curriculum. The case study has not yet been published by Estyn.
- 2.15** Since March 2022, five case studies of interesting or innovative practice have been published from Vale of Glamorgan schools and information about these case studies is included in Appendix 3.
- 2.16** Two schools in the local authority remain in a statutory follow up category. During the autumn term 2022, Ysgol Pen y Garth and Pencoedtre High were placed in Special Measures.
- 2.17** Ysgol Pen y Garth and Pencoedtre High have written their Post-Inspection Action Plans to address their Estyn recommendations and these plans have been approved by Estyn.
- 2.18** The local authority has prepared a written statement of action in relation to Pencoedtre and Ysgol Pen y Garth. The statement of action proposes the action the local authority will take in light of the inspection reports. Both plans have been approved by Estyn.
- 2.19** For both Pen y Garth and Pencoedtre, progress in relation to the action plans and statement of action continue to be monitored on a half-termly basis involving representatives from the schools, local authority and Central South Consortium. Estyn are also monitoring progress of both schools on a termly basis.
- 2.20** For Pencoedtre, as a secondary school in special measures, a multi-agency panel has been established that includes an Estyn HMI, representatives from the

school, local authority and regional consortia. Two meetings of this panel were held during the summer term 2023.

- 2.21** Estyn undertook a monitoring visit to Pencoedtre in July 2023 with a particular focus on the recommendations to:
- Improve strategic leadership and accountability at all levels, including the school's approach to self-evaluation and improvement planning) and recommendation.
 - Improve the strategic leadership and quality of the provision for pupils with additional learning needs (ALN), and the general oversight of the range of provisions offered to all pupils in need of additional support.
- 2.22** As part of the monitoring visit, Estyn recognised the work of the interim executive headteacher, and the appointments and secondments made to strengthen the senior leadership team. It was noted that roles and responsibilities of the senior leadership team are now more clearly defined and more closely aligned to school improvement priorities. Estyn also acknowledged that line management procedures have been strengthened and are more consistent across the school; this is ensuring that leaders at all levels are focusing on common priorities.
- 2.23** In terms of governance, the local authority, through use of statutory powers, have appointed two additional governors to the governing body. A Regional Lead for Governance (RLG) is also working alongside the governing body. Following the resignation of the chair of governors, the RLG has undertaken the role of chair whilst developing further capacity within the governing body.
- 2.24** The appointment process for the headteacher post is underway and will be advertised this term. Significant work is ongoing in aligning staffing and roles and responsibilities at middle leader level and across the school; this remains a key focus of work for the autumn term.
- 2.25** In relation to ALN, Estyn noted that significant changes have been made to the leadership structure including the secondment of an assistant headteacher as acting deputy primarily to strengthen the ALN and inclusion provision within the school. All members of the senior leadership team are now linked to year groups and have oversight for ALN for their year group. This structure is very much in its infancy, and it is too early to monitor its impact. Regular line management meetings and professional development has been provided to support key members of staff with their new roles and responsibilities.
- 2.26** Since the core inspection, processes to monitor attendance are more structured and are beginning to be more strategic. There is increasing engagement with parents / carers regarding attendance, particularly linked to pupils with low levels of attendance. However, levels of attendance are still a significant concern at the school.
- 2.27** Estyn will re-visit Pencoedtre High again in around four – six months to monitor progress against a sample of the recommendations.
- 2.28** The first monitoring visit to Pen y Garth will be held in October where there will be a particular focus on progress in relation to two of their recommendations:

- Strengthen leadership to operate more strategically.
 - Provide stimulating learning activities that support older pupils to develop and apply their skills purposefully over time.
- 2.29** In Ysgol Pen y Garth there has been a significant change in school leadership since the core inspection in November 2022. A new headteacher and key stage 2 lead started in post in January 2023. A new additional learning needs co-ordinator (ALNCo) started in post in September 2023.
- 2.30** In addition, the key stage 2 lead was appointed deputy in September 2023. Monitoring of progress demonstrates that there is now a clear direction for the work of the school. A clear and purposeful vision has been shared with all stakeholders. The headteacher sets high expectations for all staff and pupils. Members of the senior leadership team have an increasing understanding of their roles and are beginning to lead more confidently on different whole school aspects. Appropriate self-evaluation activities are in place, with engagement closely aligned with school priorities and activities highlighted in the Post-Inspection Action Plan.
- 2.31** Members of the senior leadership team now use findings from first-hand evidence to evaluate standards and provision with increasing effectiveness. As a result, leaders have a clear picture of progress and next steps.
- 2.32** Since the core inspection, there is a regular focus on teaching and learning as part of the professional learning programme. Pupil voice and staff opinions and discussions have led to the structuring of non-negotiable pedagogical principles which need to be apparent in all lessons.
- 2.33** During the spring and summer term 2023, an increasing number of successful school visits have been undertaken and opportunities for pupils to engage in purposeful creative activities. These are supporting the development of a more stimulating learning experience for pupils. Work is ongoing during this term on developing teachers' feedback and opportunities for pupils to improve their work.
- 2.34** Llanfair Primary also remains in Estyn review following their inspection in spring term 2023. Progress the school has made towards addressing their recommendations will be reviewed about 12-18 months after the publication of their inspection report.

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 learning, provision and leadership in non-maintained settings and 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 2023-24.
- 3.6** Welsh medium schools undergo school inspections by Estyn according to the same Inspection Framework, but through the medium of Welsh.

4. Climate Change and Nature Implications

- 4.1** There are no climate change and nature implications resulting from this report.

5. Resources and Legal Considerations

Financial

- 5.1** There are no financial implications resulting from this report.

Employment

- 5.2** There are no employment implications arising from this report.

Legal (Including Equalities)

- 5.3** There are no legal implications arising from this report.

6. Background Papers

- 6.1** None

INSPECTION FEEDBACK – Summer term 2023

LA	Vale of Glamorgan		
School	Y Bont Faen Primary School	Head teacher	Julia Adams
Date	02/06/23	Reporting Inspector	Anna Bolt

Recommendations

R1 Improve arrangements to promote healthy eating and drinking.

Follow-Up Category:

<u>No Follow-Up</u>	Estyn Review	Significant Improvement	Special Measures
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Interesting or Innovative Practice Case Study: Yes / No

If yes, please indicate the area(s) identified: Creativity in the curriculum.

LA	Vale of Glamorgan		
School	St. Josephs RC Primary School	Head teacher	Laura Taylor
Date	29/06/2023	Reporting Inspector	Sharon Randall Smith

Recommendations

R1 Sharpen self-evaluation and improvement processes to ensure that they focus on the most important areas of school improvement.

R2 Improve the consistency of teaching and provision to ensure that it is appropriate to pupils' stage and age of development and successfully develops pupils' independence.

R3 Improve pupils' writing skills.

Follow-Up Category:

<u>No Follow-Up</u>	Estyn Review	Significant Improvement	Special Measures
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Interesting or Innovative Practice Case Study: No

LA	Vale of Glamorgan		
School	Albert Primary	Head teacher	Andrew Gilbert
Date	3/07/23	Reporting Inspector	Sally-Ann Abadioru

Recommendations

R1 Improve teaching to ensure that all pupils develop strong independent, critical, creative, and problem-solving skills

R2 Develop the school curriculum to include relevant and authentic learning experiences that meet the needs of learners

R3 Strengthen self-evaluation processes and include staff and governors

Follow-Up Category:

<u>No Follow-Up</u>	Estyn Review	Significant Improvement	Special Measures
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Interesting or Innovative Practice Case Study: No

School and non-maintained settings inspected by Estyn since introduction of the revised common inspection framework in spring 2022

Schools

Spring 2022	
Stanwell School	https://www.estyn.gov.wales/system/files/2022-05/Inspection%20report%20Stanwell%20School%202022_0.pdf
Whitmore High School	https://www.estyn.gov.wales/system/files/2022-05/Inspection%20report%20Whitmore%20High%20School%202022_0.pdf
Llandough Primary	https://www.estyn.gov.wales/system/files/2022-05/Inspection%20report%20Llandough%20Primary%202022.pdf
Summer 2022	
Ysgol y Ddraig	https://www.estyn.gov.wales/system/files/2022-06/Inspection%20report%20Ysgol%20y%20Ddraig%202022.pdf
Peterston Super Ely CiW	https://www.estyn.gov.wales/system/files/2022-07/Inspection%20report%20Peterston%20Super%20Ely%20C.I.W.%20Primary%202022.pdf
Ysgol Iolo Morganwg	https://www.estyn.gov.wales/system/files/2022-08/Inspection%20report%20Ysgol%20Iolo%20Morganwg%202022_0.pdf
Sully Primary	https://www.estyn.gov.wales/system/files/2022-07/Inspection%20report%20Sully%20Primary%20School%202022_0.pdf
Autumn 2022	
St Helen's Roman Catholic Primary	https://www.estyn.gov.wales/system/files/2022-11/Inspection%20report%20St%20Helen%27s%20Catholic%20Primary%20School%202022.pdf
Pendoylan Church in Wales Primary	https://www.estyn.gov.wales/system/files/2022-11/Inspection%20report%20Pendoylan%20C.I.W.%20Primary%20School%202022.pdf
South Point Primary	https://www.estyn.gov.wales/system/files/2023-01/Inspection%20report%20South%20Point%20Primary%20School%202023.pdf
Ysgol Pen y Garth	https://www.estyn.gov.wales/system/files/2023-01/Inspection%20report%20Ysgol%20Pen%20Y%20Garth%202023.pdf
Pencoedtre High	https://www.estyn.gov.wales/system/files/2023-01/Inspection%20report%20Pencoedtre%20High%20School%202023_0.pdf

Spring 2023	
Llanfair Primary	https://www.estyn.gov.wales/system/files/2023-04/Inspection%20report%20Llanfair%20C.P.%20School%202023.pdf
Summer 2023	
Y Bont Faen Primary	https://www.estyn.gov.wales/system/files/2023-08/Inspection%20report%20Y%20Bont%20Faen%20Primary%20School%202023_0.pdf
St Joseph's RC Primary School	https://www.estyn.gov.wales/system/files/2023-07/Inspection%20report%20St%20Joseph%27s%20R.C.%20Primary%20School%202023_0.pdf
Albert Primary	https://www.estyn.gov.wales/system/files/2023-08/Inspection%20report%20Albert%20C.P.%20School%202023_0.pdf

Non-maintained settings

Spring 2022	
Swallow Playgroup	https://www.estyn.gov.wales/system/files/2022-04/Inspection%20report%20Swallow%20Playgroup%202022_3.pdf

Interesting or innovative case study

School	Stanwell School
Date of inspection	4 March 2022
Effective practice	The range of opportunities that pupils receive in order to develop their leadership skills and get their voice heard
Link	https://www.estyn.gov.wales/effective-practice/range-opportunities-pupils-receive-order-develop-their-leadership-skills-and-get

School	Stanwell School
Date of inspection	4 March 2022
Effective practice	Supporting learners to make informed choices for the future
Link	https://www.estyn.gov.wales/effective-practice/supporting-learners-make-informed-choices-future

School	Whitmore High
Date of inspection	18 March 2022
Effective practice	A whole – school approach to securing high standards of teaching and learning
Link	https://www.estyn.gov.wales/effective-practice/whole-school-approach-securing-high-standards-teaching-and-learning

School	Whitmore High
Date of inspection	18 March 2022
Effective practice	Developing an effective culture for learning
Link	https://www.estyn.gov.wales/effective-practice/developing-effective-culture-learning

School	Pendoylan Church in Wales Primary
Date of inspection	20 October 2022
Effective practice	Developing and designing a curriculum for Wales.
Link	https://www.estyn.gov.wales/effective-practice/ bespoke-and-collaborative-curriculum-journey

