

START WELL SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

Minutes of a Remote meeting held on 6th July 2026.

The meeting papers are available [here](#).

The recording of the meeting is available [here](#).

To view the presentation and subsequent discussion for any Part I agenda item, please click the hyperlink contained in its title below.

Present: Councillor S.J. Haines (Chair); Councillors: A. Asbrey, J. Aviet, W. Gilligan, S.M. Hanks, N.P. Hodges, J. Lynch-Wilson, N.B. Marshallsea, H.M. Payne and R.R. Thomas.

Co-Opted Members: M. Werrett (Church in Wales) and K. Riddick (Parent Governor – Secondary Sector)

Also present: Councillors R.M. Birch (Cabinet Member for Education, Arts and the Welsh Language), I.R. Buckley, G. John (Cabinet Member for Leisure, Sport and Wellbeing), Dr. I.J. Johnson and E. Williams (Cabinet Member for Social Care and Health).

128 ANNOUNCEMENT –

Prior to the commencement of the business of the Committee, the Chair read the following statement: “May I remind everyone present that the meeting will be live streamed as well as recorded via the internet and this recording archived for future viewing”.

129 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE –

This was received from Councillors W.A. Hennessy (Vice-Chair) and B. Dodd; and Dr. M. Price (Roman Catholic Church)

130 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST –

Councillor S.J. Haines declared personal interest in relation to Agenda Item 6 – Update on St. Athan Primary School. The nature of the interest was that Councillor Haines was a Governor for the School and remained in the meeting for the duration of the item.

Councillor J. Lynch-Wilson declared a personal interest in relation to Agenda Item 5 - Summary of Estyn Inspection Outcomes for Spring Term 2026 and Update on Schools in Statutory Follow-up and Agenda Item 6 – Update on St Athan Primary

School. The nature of the interest was that Councillor Lynch-Wilson was a Governor for St. Athan Primary School and Llantwit Major School. She remained in the meeting for the duration of the items.

K. Riddick declared a personal interest in relation to Agenda Item 5 – Summary of Estyn Inspection Outcomes for Spring Term 2026 and Update on Schools in Statutory Follow-up. The nature of the interest was that she was a Governor for Pencoedtre High School and remained in the meeting for the duration of the item.

131 MINUTES –

RECOMMENDED – T H A T the minutes of the meeting held on 18th May 2026 be approved as a correct record.

132 TO CONFIRM VOTING RIGHTS FOR CO-OPTED MEMBERS OF THE START WELL SCRUTINY COMMITTEE –

RECOMMENDED – T H A T the voting rights for those Co-Opted Members present at the Committee meeting be noted.

Reason for recommendation

To confirm the agenda items and voting rights for those Co-Opted Members present at the meeting with voting rights.

133 SUMMARY OF ESTYN INSPECTION OUTCOMES FOR SPRING TERM 2026 AND UPDATE ON SCHOOLS IN STATUTORY FOLLOW-UP (DLS) –

Estyn inspected quality and standards in education across Wales. A new inspection framework was introduced in September 2024. From September 2024, Estyn would be engaging more regularly with schools. Schools would now have a core inspection and an interim visit within the 6-year inspection period (2024 – 2030).

During the spring term 2026, six schools from the Vale of Glamorgan received a core inspection: Cowbridge School, St Nicholas Church in Wales Primary, Llantwit Major School, All Saints Church in Wales Primary, Cadoxton Primary and Llansannor and Llanharry Church in Wales Primary School.

No follow up work was identified by Estyn in relation to five out of the six schools that received a core inspection during the spring term. Llantwit Major School had been placed in the Estyn statutory follow up category of special measures.

In terms of schools in a statutory follow up, Pencoedtre High School remained in special measures. The progress of the school was monitored by Estyn on a termly basis.

Fairfield Primary and St Richard Gwyn Catholic High were both in the statutory follow up category of significant improvement. Progress in both schools would be reviewed by Estyn 12-18 months following publication of their inspection reports. Fairfield's report was published in May 2025, and St Richard Gwyn in July 2025.

RECOMMENDED –

(1) T H A T the Committee congratulate Cowbridge School, St Nicholas Church in Wales Primary, All Saints Church in Wales Primary, Cadoxton Primary and Llansannor and Llanharry Church in Wales Primary on achieving core inspections with no follow-up activity.

(2) T H A T the progress made by Pencoedtre High School, Fairfield Primary and St Richard Gwyn Catholic High School in addressing its Estyn recommendations and the initial work undertaken to support Llantwit Major High to address their Estyn recommendations be acknowledged.

Reasons for recommendations

(1) To congratulate the schools.

(2) Following the progress being made by schools within Estyn statutory follow-up categories in addressing their recommendations.

134 UPDATE ON ST ATHAN PRIMARY SCHOOL (DLS) –

The report updated Members on the school's recovery following fire damage to the site.

It was noted that a Committee visit to the school would be arranged shortly after the new building block had been completed.

RECOMMENDED – T H A T the Chair of the Start Well Scrutiny Committee write a letter to St. Athan Primary School expressing the Committee's appreciation and thanks for the response, reaction and support provided in an exceptional circumstance.

Reason for recommendation

To offer the Committee's thanks and appreciation.