parents' pages

your child's education matters

Estyn

Rhagoriaeth i bawb ~ Excellence for all

Arolygiaeth Ei Mawrhydi dros Addysg a Hyfforddiant yng Nghymru

Her Majesty's Inspectorate for Education and Training in Wales

January 2012

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Estyn is responsible for inspecting standards and quality of education and training in Wales.

Every year our inspectors visit over **300** schools, colleges and training providers. They report on how well learners are doing, their wellbeing and the quality of education and training.

Ann Keane, Estyn's Chief Inspector, publishes a report every year looking at performance in education across Wales. The full report is available on the Estyn website.

This newsletter is designed for parents and carers. It provides a brief overview of how well primary, secondary and special schools are doing, the quality of teaching and what needs to improve to ensure all children and young people in Wales get the best education.

Iechyd ar Waith Health at Work

INVESTORS IN PEOPLE | Gold

www.estyn.gov.uk

Primary schools

This year, **we inspected 238** primary schools and we found that:

- most children enjoy the **exciting activities** offered by the **Foundation Phase**;
- **four out of five** primary schools are providing mainly **good standards of education** where **pupils are doing well**;
- in **nearly all** primary schools, pupils are **healthy, happy and enjoy learning** in a caring, supportive environment;
- in **many** primary schools, **teaching** is mainly **good**;
- in **three out of four** primary schools, **leaders** are doing a **good job**;
- children's **reading** and **writing** skills are **not good enough** in nearly a **third** of primary schools; and
- in a **quarter** of primary schools, **governors are not fulfilling their role** effectively.

In more than **four out of ten primary and secondary schools**, there are some aspects of provision that are **not as good as they should be.**
We will carry out follow-up activity in these schools to monitor the progress they are making.

Special schools

This year, **we inspected 8** maintained special schools and we found that:

- in special schools for pupils who have the most **complex learning disabilities**, pupils achieve **good or better** standards and make good progress across the curriculum;
- in **most** schools, **teaching** is at least **good**;
- pupils' **wellbeing** is at least **good** in **all** the schools inspected;
- **most** schools provide a **good range of learning experiences** for their pupils; and
- **most** schools have developed **strong partnerships** with other providers and pupils have valuable opportunities to develop their **skills** in other settings such as schools, colleges and the local community.

Tell us what you think!
When Estyn inspects your child's school, simply complete a questionnaire or attend the pre-inspection meeting.

Click **here** to read the full Annual Report online

Secondary schools

This year, **we inspected 31** secondary schools and we found that:

- **two out of three** secondary schools are providing mainly **good standards of education** where **pupils are doing well**;
- **most** young people **feel safe** at secondary school, have a good understanding of **healthy living** and take part in a broad range of **physical activities**;
- pupils' **behaviour** and **attitudes** to learning are **good** in **many** schools and **very good** in about a **third** of schools;
- **nearly all** secondary schools provide a **caring, supportive environment**;
- even in schools where standards are mainly good the **quality of lessons can vary**;
- headteachers and other leaders demonstrate **strong leadership** in the **majority** of secondary schools but **in a minority,** not all staff understand their role and managers do not tackle **underperformance** properly;
- **spelling, punctuation and grammar** are a **concern** in about a **quarter** of secondary schools;
- **a minority** of secondary schools **need to improve** how they co-ordinate and monitor the development of pupils' **skills** across the curriculum;
- there are **inconsistencies in marking** which prevent pupils from understanding how well they are doing and how they can improve; and
- in a **quarter** of secondary schools, **governors are not fulfilling their role** effectively.

Get in touch with...

Estyn for:

inspection reports OR to feedback your views about inspections.

02920 446448

www.estyn.gov.uk

Your local authority for:

all aspects of school life from term dates to transport OR to feedback your views or concerns about your school (maintained schools only).

http://bit.ly/yv5pZl

Welsh Government (Education and Skills) for:

information on school policies, banding, consultations & parents'/ carers guidance.

http://bit.ly/l9ezsz

Parents' pages is produced by Estyn's Stakeholder Engagement team and we'd really like to know what you think of it. Simply email communications@estyn.gov.uk or call 02920 446317.