

News release

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Are learners being listened to?

Today Estyn, the education and training inspectorate for Wales, publishes a report that maps out how the National Children and Young People's Participation Standards for Wales relate to Estyn's Common Inspection Framework¹.

The report is intended to help staff in schools and other providers to review their self-evaluation procedures and to consider whether children and young people are sufficiently involved in the process.

Participation has been defined by The Welsh Assembly Government and the Children and Young People's Participation Consortium for Wales as the right "to be involved in making decisions or planning and reviewing an action that might affect me. Having a voice, having a choice."

Dr Bill Maxwell, Her Majesty's Chief Inspector for Education and Training in Wales said, *"Together, the National Children and Young People's Participation Standards for Wales and Estyn's Common Inspection Framework provide a useful tool for evaluating the extent and effectiveness of learner participation."*

Estyn has published a series of reports on children and young people's participation in recent years:

- a report in 2006 on opportunities for young people aged 11-25 to participate in decision making in youth support services²;
- a report in 2007 on participation in primary schools³; and

¹ <http://www.estyn.gov.uk/publications/CommonInspectionFramework.pdf>

² http://www.estyn.gov.uk/publications/Young_Peoples_remit_report.pdf

³ http://www.estyn.gov.uk/publications/Remit_report_Decision_making.pdf

- a report in 2008 on participation and school councils in secondary schools⁴.

In 2004, Estyn's introduced the Common Inspection Framework (CIF) for inspecting schools and has standardised how inspections are carried out. The CIF features seven key questions which apply to the education or training provider, as well as to aspects of its work such as areas of learning, subjects, courses, programmes and occupational areas.

This report goes on to discuss how each one of the seven key questions relates to the seven National Children and Young People's Participation Standards for Wales.

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For further information please contact the Communications, Media and Marketing Team on 02920 446464 or e-mail communications@estyn.gsi.gov.uk

Notes to editors

- Estyn's report 'Inspecting participation: Mapping the Common Inspection Framework against the National Children and Young People's Participation Standards for Wales' was commissioned by the Welsh Assembly Government and is available in full at www.estyn.gov.uk
- Estyn is the education and training inspectorate for Wales. Estyn commissions independent inspectors (registered, team and lay inspectors) and Her Majesty's Inspectors of Education and Training to carry out inspections across the full range of education and training providers.
- Estyn inspects nursery schools and settings that are maintained by, or receive funding from, local education authorities (LEAs), primary schools, secondary schools, special schools, independent schools, further education, adult community-based learning, youth support services, local education authorities, teacher education and training, work-based learning, offender learning, careers companies, and the education, guidance and training elements of the Department for Work and Pensions funded training programmes.

⁴ http://www.estyn.gov.uk/publications/Having_your_say_young_people_participation_and_school_councils.pdf