



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

News release

27 January 2009

Standards in education and training in Wales broadly improving, but key challenges need to be tackled urgently to improve progress

Generally, standards of achievement across all sectors of education and training in Wales are at least good according to the Annual Report of Her Majesty's Chief Inspector of Education and Training in Wales 2007-2008. The report highlights evidence of some outstanding practice, however around 30% of inspections show that providers are not doing well enough.

In his report published today, HM Chief Inspector Dr Bill Maxwell highlights the successes in education and training over the year 2007-2008. He points out longer term trends over the current inspection cycle and makes comparisons to the previous cycle. The findings shows that generally, providers inspected in 2007-2008 have improved since when they were last inspected six years ago.

In particular, there are positive signs of progress in the schools sector. In primary schools, standards are much better than they were six years ago, with 84% of the lessons seen judged to be good or very good. And most pupils in secondary schools receive teaching which is at least good or better.

In further education, standards as judged during inspections have exceeded targets set by the Welsh Assembly Government, whilst in work-based learning the improving trend continues from last year.

Launching his report today (27 January) at Coleg Llandrillo Cymru, the Chief Inspector will outline four key challenges that he believes need to be addressed if education and training in Wales is to be world class.

“I’m pleased to report that there are positive messages, but despite these achievements, there is still a lot of work to be done. Our first challenge is to make sure that all learners can reach their potential, particularly those who are underachieving as a result of poverty or social disadvantage. In so doing, we also need to ensure that our most talented learners have every opportunity to excel, whatever their background,” says Dr Bill Maxwell.

“Secondly, there’s a clear need to raise the standards of teaching and learning in Welsh as a second language. We also need to generate many more opportunities for learners to use and develop their skills in Welsh in the post 16 sector.

“Estyn has promoted the development of self-evaluation across all sectors. Education and training providers must now firmly embed this throughout their work. They need to continue to build on their strengths and tackle their weaknesses to improve the quality of what they do.

“The final challenge is to ensure that we all work together to make things better for learners. Partners from different sectors and different geographical areas need to share information and skills more actively than ever before so that the learner can truly benefit.

“These challenges are not all unique to Wales, but that doesn’t lessen the need to address them vigorously. Bringing about change to achieve excellence for all learners is the collective responsibility of us all - learners, front-line staff, managers of provision, local authorities, national policy makers and indeed Estyn.”

ENDS

Notes to Editors:

A full copy of the Annual Report 2007-2008, its summary version, Excellence for All and a webcast from the Chief Inspector is published on the Estyn website at www.estyn.gov.uk

Estyn is the Education and Training Inspectorate for Wales. Our aim is to achieve excellence for all in learning in Wales. We do this by providing an independent, high-quality inspection and advice service.

Our vision is to be recognised through the expertise of our staff as an authoritative voice on learning in Wales.

We are independent from, but funded by the Welsh Assembly Government (under Section 104 of the Government of Wales Act 1998).

For further information please visit our website www.estyn.gov.uk

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