

EDUCATION — WALES · ALL YEARS

Estyn — Arolygiaeth Ei Fawrhydi dros Addysg

Inspection in Welsh Primary Schools

How Estyn inspections work

1

Estyn

Her Majesty's Inspectorate for Education and Training in Wales. Independent body that inspects schools in Wales. Different from Ofsted (England), HMIE (Scotland), or ETI (NI).

2

Inspection cycle

Most Welsh primary schools are inspected every 6 years. Schools causing concern may be inspected more frequently. Core inspections typically last 3-4 days.

3

Inspection framework

Estyn's current framework (revised for CfW 2022) asks four key questions: 1. How well do learners achieve and enjoy their learning? 2. How good is the quality of learning experiences? 3. How good is the school's leadership and management? 4. How good are the school's care, support and guidance?

4

Judgement scale

Excellent / Good / Adequate / Unsatisfactory (Rhagorol / Da / Digonol / Anfoddfaol). Unlike Ofsted's 'Outstanding', Estyn's top grade is 'Rhagorol'.

5

Welsh language

Estyn specifically inspects Welsh language provision — whether schools meet their language category obligations and whether Welsh is used naturally throughout school life.

6

Self-evaluation

Estyn places significant weight on the school's own self-evaluation. Schools should have honest, evidence-based self-evaluation processes before inspection.



