



Llywodraeth Cymru
Welsh Government

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Estyn Inspections

What do you think about the rules for Estyn inspections?

6th Feb - 1st May 2013



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

Introduction

The Welsh Government wants all children and young people in Wales to have the best education and best chances in life they can have.

Estyn works with the Welsh Government to make sure that all schools in Wales are the best that they can be.

How do they do this?

Estyn sends people into schools to see how they work and if they are giving their children and young people the best education they can. Estyn then writes a report so that everyone knows how each school is doing.

Estyn inspections happen in:

- nursery schools that get money from local authorities
- primary schools
- secondary schools
- special schools
- independent schools
- pupil referral units
- further education colleges
- adult community learning
- work-based learning.

During 2012 Estyn asked people across Wales what they thought about inspections. People said that a lot of what Estyn does is really good. However there are some things that people think need to change.

An **inspection** is when someone comes to check how your school is doing.



This booklet lets you know about the changes we are thinking of making and we want to know what you think about them.



Schools can guess when their inspection will happen!

Schools are inspected every 6 years.

This means that some schools can guess when their next inspection is. Some schools have become very good at guessing when Estyn will visit. This means they can plan well for it.

Estyn can visit and inspect a school earlier than 6 years but that would mean moving other schools to another time. This is not easy to do.

The only way to stop schools guessing when their inspections happen is to get rid of the 6 year rule.

This would be good because:

- schools should be ready at any time for an inspection
- schools would be more likely to check themselves
- parents would know that schools are being the best they can be all the time
- there would be less stress on teachers.



Question 1



Inspections and visits

There are many good schools in Wales but some of the schools that Estyn inspect need to change the way they work to become better. These schools are visited more than once in 6 years.

Some people think that the schools that are doing really well should be inspected less frequently.

The reports Estyn write about schools help parents and other people to see how good the schools are in their area. If changes were made to the way schools are inspected this may mean that parents might not have a Estyn report to read about a school for a long time.



Question 2



Telling schools about a visit.

Estyn has to tell a school 20 days before it comes to visit. If they made it less than 20 days some of the positives would be:

- it could stop schools from over preparing and
- teachers could be less stressed about the visit.

However it could cause some problems.

Parents meeting

Before an inspection Estyn has to meet with parents to find out what they think about the school. This is the law. This means parents need to be told in enough time so they can come to the meeting.

Some people think that the notice given to a school could change because:

- there are other ways to get parents involved not many parents go to these meetings and some parents feel they can't talk about issues they have at that meeting.

Questionnaires

Estyn uses questionnaires about the school, classroom activities and teaching that parents and pupils can fill in and send to them.

This is good because everyone gets the chance to say what they think if they want to.

However, they can take a long time to send out, get back and write a report on.

Some people think that we could allow the schools to do their own questionnaires that then could become part of the Estyn inspection.

Just don't tell schools

Not telling a school or giving no notice of a visit at all would make it difficult for people to attend the meetings required by law.



Questions 3, 4 & 5

After the inspection

When a school is inspected by Estyn and they find that the school needs to make changes the rules say that the school's governors must prepare an action plan on how they will make any changes.

It can take Estyn 35 school days to write a report of what it found.

It can then take governors 45 school days to write their action plan
35 + 45 = 80 school days!

Some people think that this is too long before changes start to make the school better.

Thank you for reading this.

Please answer the questions below.

Did you know?

It's different when people are doing A Levels or at college. Education for people over 16 years old has different rules because of funding so their action plans are written and started just after the inspection.

Questions 6, 7, 8 & 9

Question 1

Should the '6 year rule' be changed so that schools cannot guess their next inspection time?

Yes No Don't Know

Comment

Question 3

Should Estyn keep the parents meeting as part of their school inspection?

Yes No Don't Know

Comment

Question 2

How often do you think schools should be inspected?

- Within 6 years
- Within 7 years
- Within 8 years
- Within 9 years
- Other

Comment

Question 4

Should Estyn keep their own questionnaires?

Yes No Don't Know

Comment



Question 5

Should the time Estyn tells schools before an inspection be reduced from the 20 days it is now?

No change, keep it at 20 days

Reduce to:

15 days

5 days

1 or 2 days

Other

10 days

3 or 4 days

No notice

Question 6

Should the time it takes for governors to prepare their action plan to make schools better be reduced?

Yes No Don't Know

Comment

Question 7

Should all places of education, including those who educate people over 16 years old, have the same amount of time to prepare their action plans?

Yes No Don't Know

Comment



Question 8

What is the right amount of time for action plans to be prepared after inspections reports are published?

Don't change, keep it at 45 days

Reduce to:

15 days

5 days

10 days

Other

Optional

Your name:

Age:

Organisation:

Question 9

Is there anything else that you want to tell us about the changes we are thinking of making to Estyn inspection times?

You can send your answers to:

School performance Branch
Welsh Government
Cathay's Park
Cardiff CF10 3NQ
email: SMED1@wales.gsi.gov.uk

