



## **Pupil Referral Unit Management Committees**

**Report title:**

Pupil Referral Unit Management Committees

**Report details**

The review was commissioned by the Welsh Government Education Directorate to evaluate how effectively pupil referral unit (PRU) management committees carry out their roles and responsibilities. In particular, the review considered how management committees have responded to the Welsh Government's 'A Handbook for Management Committees of Pupil Referral Units'<sup>1</sup> to support improvement.

**Summary of main findings**

The review found that around half of management committees understand their roles and responsibilities well and that management committees are effective when the roles and responsibilities of committee members for improving their PRU are clear. In the best cases, members make good use of the 'Handbook for Management Committees of Pupil Referral Units'. It found that a PRU management committee works best in partnership with its local authority and when they share a common vision for the PRU. This shared understanding usually leads to strong working relationships and to clear expectations for learner outcomes.

The review found that a minority of management committees are unaware of the Handbook or do not use it well enough. Estyn found that the lack of awareness of this publication contributes to inconsistent practice across PRU management committees.

The review found that where management committees have a detailed understanding of their PRU, members are able to challenge and support the leadership of the PRU well. Successful management committees have a membership that reflect the needs of their PRU, as well as meeting regulatory requirements.

Many PRUs find it difficult to recruit a broad range of members to their management committees, the review felt that this had an impact on the breadth of knowledge and experience available to the committee and makes delegating specific responsibilities difficult. Securing parental representation, in particular, is one of the more challenging recruitment issues.

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<sup>1</sup> <https://gov.wales/sites/default/files/publications/2018-11/handbook-for-management-committees-of-pupil-referral-units.pdf>

Regulations set out a joint responsibility for the local authority and the management committee to develop a relevant curriculum for the pupils. Successful PRUs and management committees work well with the local authority on this aspect. Where the local authority is working strategically with the PRU management committee, this supports the PRU to be more responsive to the needs of its learners. The most effective practice is based on a collaborative working relationship.

Training and development of management committee members are the responsibility of the local authority. The review found that in the most effective management committees, the local authority and regional consortium work closely with committee members to provide relevant, consistent and worthwhile training opportunities, but this practice occurs only in a few PRUs. The report notes that appropriate training and support are needed for the changes proposed in the Draft Additional Learning Needs Code for Wales to be implemented successfully.

**The Welsh Government should:**

**R5 Raise awareness among all management committees of the Handbook for Management Committees of Pupil Referral Units**

**Accept** – In July 2019, communication was sent to all teachers in charge of PRUs, reminding them the handbook had been published. To raise awareness of the handbook, we will publish an article in the Dysg newsletter.

Based on the findings of the review, in terms of the usefulness of the handbook in supporting the effective operation of management committees, we will be communicating directly with the chairs of each management committee to encourage the use of the handbook.

**The report sets out the following recommendations for schools, governing bodies and local authorities:**

**Management committees should:**

R1 Use the Handbook for Management Committees of Pupil Referral Units to improve their work

R2 Work closely in partnership with their local authority, regional consortium and other stakeholders to develop a common vision for their PRU.

**Local authorities and regional consortia should:**

R3 Provide an annual programme of training and development opportunities for PRU management committee members

R4 Ensure that local authorities and regional consortia officers understand the role and function of their PRUs fully so as to improve their joint working with management committees

The Education Directorate's Support for Learners Division will write to local authorities to draw their attention to the recommendations placed on them and on management committees by this report.

**Publication details.**

The report was published on 13 February and can be found on Estyn's website: <https://www.estyn.gov.wales/>

Mae'r ddogfen yma hefyd ar gael yn Gymraeg.  
This document is also available in Welsh.



Digital ISBN 978-1-80038-162-9

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WG40019