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## Ymateb i Ymgynghoriad / Consultation Response

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<b>Pwnc / Subject:</b>	<b>Code of Professional Conduct and Practice review (EWC)</b>

### Background information about Estyn

Estyn is the Office of Her Majesty's Inspectorate for Education and Training in Wales. As a Crown body, Estyn is independent of the Welsh Government.

Estyn's principal aim is to raise the standards and quality education and training in Wales. This is primarily set out in the Learning and Skills Act 2000 and the Education Act 2005. In exercising its functions, Estyn must give regard to the:

- Quality of education and training in Wales;
- Extent to which education and training meets the needs of learners;
- Educational standards achieved by education and training providers in Wales;
- Quality of leadership and management of those education and training providers;
- Spiritual, moral, social and cultural development of learners; and,
- Contribution made to the well-being of learners.

Estyn's remit includes (but is not exclusive to) nurseries and non-maintained settings, primary schools, secondary schools, independent schools, pupil referrals units, further education, adult community learning, local government education services, work-based learning, and teacher education and training.

Estyn may give advice to the Welsh Parliament on any matter connected to education and training in Wales. To achieve excellence for learners, Estyn has set three strategic objectives:

- Provide accountability to service users on the quality and standards of education and training in Wales;
- Inform the development of national policy by the Welsh Government;
- Build capacity for improvement of the education and training system in Wales.

This response is not confidential.

## Response

### Introduction

We believe that the Education Workforce Council's Code of professional conduct and practice provides a clear and succinct set of expectations of the workforce. However, we welcome this opportunity to review the Code and suggest that it may be updated and strengthened in a few key areas, as detailed below.

### Consultation questions

In September 2019, following an extensive period of consultation and engagement work, the EWC Code of Professional Conduct and Practice was published.

In legislation, we will review the Code every three years. Since the current version was implemented, it appears to have stood the test of time in the way it was written, the content and the fact it can be used by practitioners across all 7 registrant groups.

As such, this review will be a light touch one and, to inform it, I would like to invite you to share any comments or observations that you may have in relation to the existing Code. I would be grateful if you would provide them by email to me and David Browne ([david.browne@ewc.wales](mailto:david.browne@ewc.wales)), Head of Fitness to Practise by Tuesday 7 June 2022.

### Comment from Estyn

- It is beneficial to have one code to which applies to all practitioners in Wales. However, it may be helpful if there were explicit links in the Code to the professional expectations of various standards for practitioners, such as the in the Professional standards for teachers and leaders (*'values and dispositions'*), the Professional Standards for further education teachers and work-based learning practitioners in Wales (*'values, knowledge and skills'*) and the National Occupational Standards for youth workers.
- 1.4 in the Code states that:  
*registrants:*  
*have a duty of care for learners' safety, physical, social, moral and educational well-being:*
  - *acting on anything which might put a learner's safety or welfare at risk;*
  - *reporting, in line with 4.3 below, any safeguarding issue, or any other issue which may potentially harm a learner's safety or welfare.*

This section would benefit from an additional bullet point that identifies the registrant's responsibility to foster and contribute to the safeguarding culture of the educational setting in which they work (as reference to Keeping learners safe' guidance, Welsh Government, 2021, p. 24: *All those working in education settings should be aware of their responsibilities in identifying children at risk and contribute to the safeguarding culture of the education setting in which they work*).

- To align the Code with the Welsh Government's Cymraeg 2050: Welsh language strategy, 2021, it would be helpful to add an additional bullet point to the first key principle, *Personal and professional responsibility*, requiring the registrant to demonstrate a commitment to the strategy.