

# Consultation - Estyn's inspection arrangements for schools and pupil referral units from September 2024

## Introduction

We are currently reviewing how we inspect across all sectors to make sure our work keeps pace with changes in Wales and that learners' best interests continue to be our priority.

From September 2024, we will be introducing new inspection arrangements for schools and pupil referral units (PRUs). Now is an important time for us to reflect and review so that we can ensure our work has the biggest impact where it's needed the most. Further information can be found here: <https://www.estyn.gov.wales/inspection/inspecting-future-2024-2030>

We are keen to reflect, review and develop our new arrangements in partnership with our stakeholders. We value the views of everyone involved in education and the wider community. We strongly believe in making inspection a positive experience, ensuring the best for learners, offering leaders and staff a professional and constructive dialogue and sharing our broad experiences from across Wales to build capacity and support improvement.

## Who is this consultation for?

This consultation is for all who will have an interest in the new inspection arrangements for schools and pupil referral units, including:

- Teacher, governors and leaders from schools (primary, secondary, all age, independent, special)
- Staff from pupil referral units
- Education professionals and leaders across the sector, including staff from school improvement services
- Parents and carers
- Public and voluntary sector stakeholders

This will inform how we can best shape a new and effective inspection process/framework, from 2024 onwards.

We want to hear everyone's ideas about our early proposals for schools and PRUs. We will consult separately with local government education services and post-16 education and training sectors during the autumn term of 2023.

This consultation for all schools and PRUs will close on **26 June 2023**.

## Data Protection and Confidentiality

The information you provide will be held by Estyn. If you disclose your identity, it will be treated in confidence, in line with the Data Protection Act 2018.

Estyn will use an independent company to assist with general data analysis, this will not include the transfer of personal information about individuals. The analysis report will include only general information and will not name or identify any individuals. The information will be used to help improve how we inspect education and training in Wales.

Here is a link to our Privacy Notice at [https://www.estyn.gov.wales/system/files/2022-02/Privacy Notice.pdf](https://www.estyn.gov.wales/system/files/2022-02/Privacy%20Notice.pdf).

## 2. Key information about you

1. Please choose one option below which best describes the capacity in which you are completing this questionnaire.

- Headteacher / teacher in charge / principal
- Senior leader
- Teacher
- Support staff
- School governor
- School pupil
- Parent or carer
- Other (please specify):

**2. Which sector do you represent? Please select all relevant options.**

- Primary school
- Secondary school
- All age school
- Independent school
- Special school
- Pupil referral unit
- Local authority
- Regional consortia / school improvement service
- Voluntary sector
- Other (please specify):

### **3. Part 1: Arrangements for inspecting schools and pupil referral units**

**3. We propose that we change the number of areas that we consider on inspections from five to three. This will help us to make better links between the quality of work and the impact for pupils. It also helps us to avoid some duplication in our guidance and reports where we evaluate provision and its impact on pupils.**

The inspection areas we <i>currently</i> use are:	The <i>proposed</i> three inspection areas are:
IA1 Learning IA2 Well-being and attitudes to learning IA3 Teaching and learning experiences IA4 Care support and guidance IA5 Leadership and management	IA1 Teaching and learning IA2 Care, support, and well-being IA3 Leading and improving

**Independent school inspections are governed by the Education Act 2002 and related regulations: the Independent School Standards (Wales) Regulations 2003. We are required to make a report to the Welsh Government on the extent to which the school meets the standard. Therefore, for independent schools we will evaluate the school's performance using the same three areas as maintained schools, but will also focus on the Independent School Standards (ISSR).**

**What are your views on this proposal?**

- Strongly agree
- Agree

- Disagree
- Strongly disagree
- Unsure / no opinion

Please use the box below to give us your opinions and state the reason(s) why you chose the option above:

**4. We propose that we maintain the ten-day notice period which schools and PRUs have before an inspection. This gives us sufficient time for questionnaires and for the schools and PRUs to upload relevant documentation etc.**

**What are your views on this proposal?**

- Strongly agree
- Agree
- Disagree
- Strongly disagree
- Unsure / no opinion

Please use the box below to give us your opinions and state the reason(s) why you chose the option above:

**5. We propose that we engage more frequently with schools and PRUs with inspection activity.**

**What are your views on this proposal?**

- Strongly agree
- Agree
- Disagree
- Strongly disagree
- Unsure / no opinion

Please use the box below to give us your opinions and state the reason(s) why you chose the option above:

**6. We propose to visit every independent school at least twice during an inspection cycle.**

**One of these visits would be a core inspection and the other would be a visit focussing on compliance with the Independent School Standards and Regulation (Wales).**

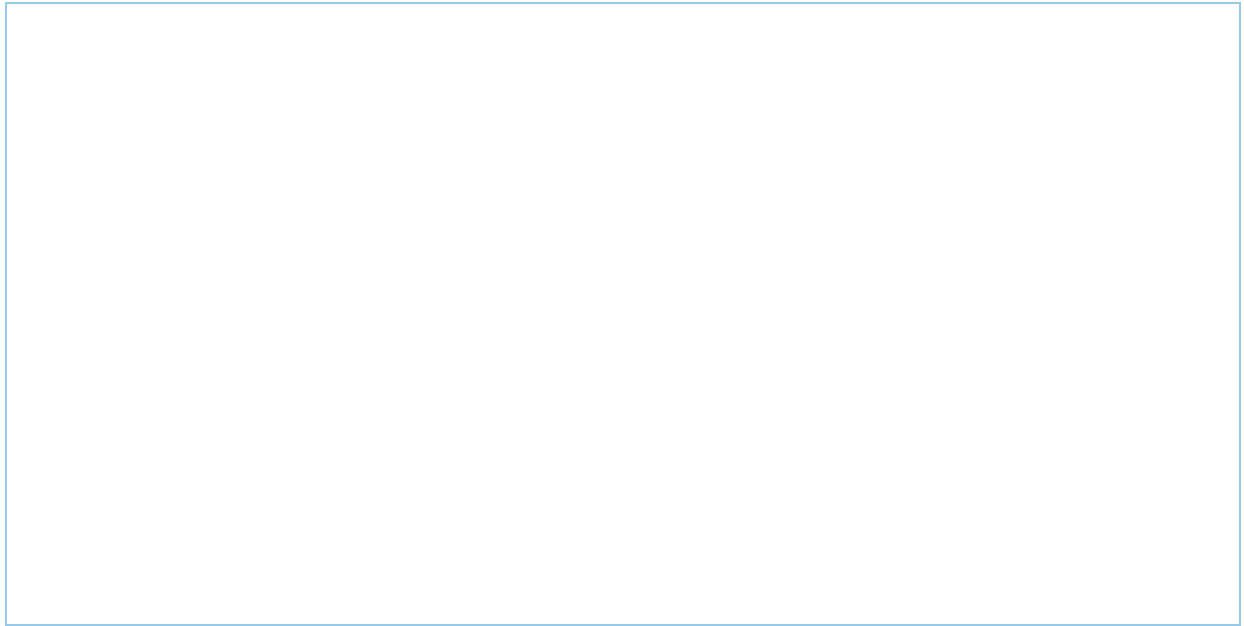
**What are your views on this proposal?**

- Strongly agree
- Agree
- Disagree
- Strongly disagree
- Unsure / no opinion

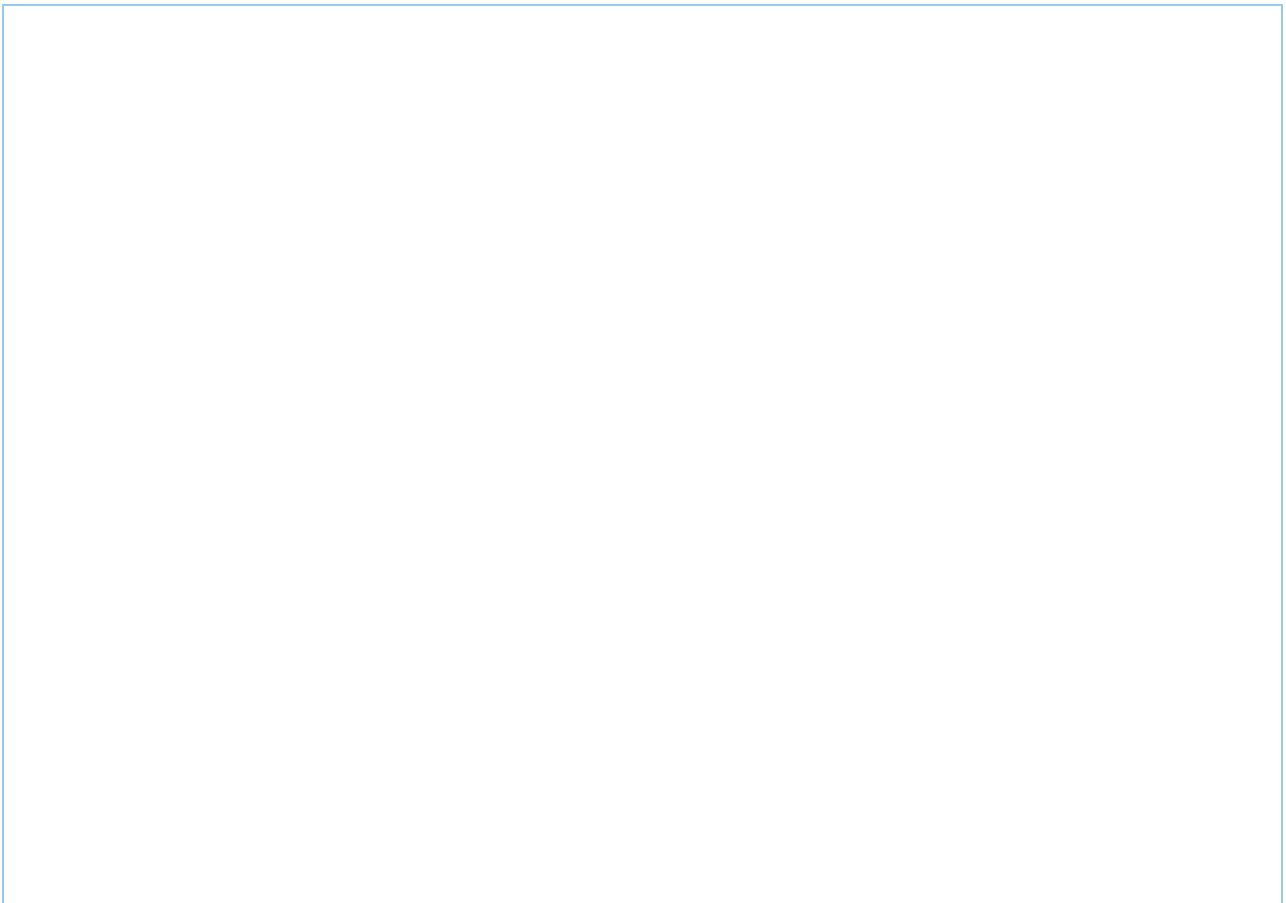
Please use the box below to give us your opinions and state the reason(s) why you chose the option above:

**7. How should we involve parents, carers, children and young people in the new inspection arrangements, from 2024 onwards? Please use the box below to share your views.**

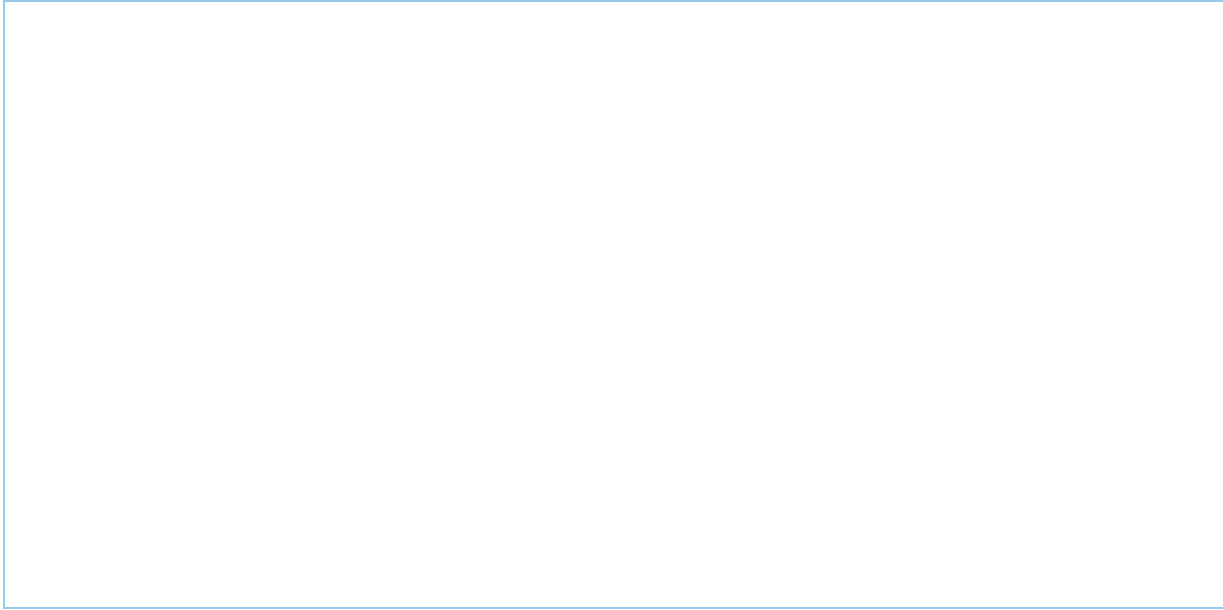




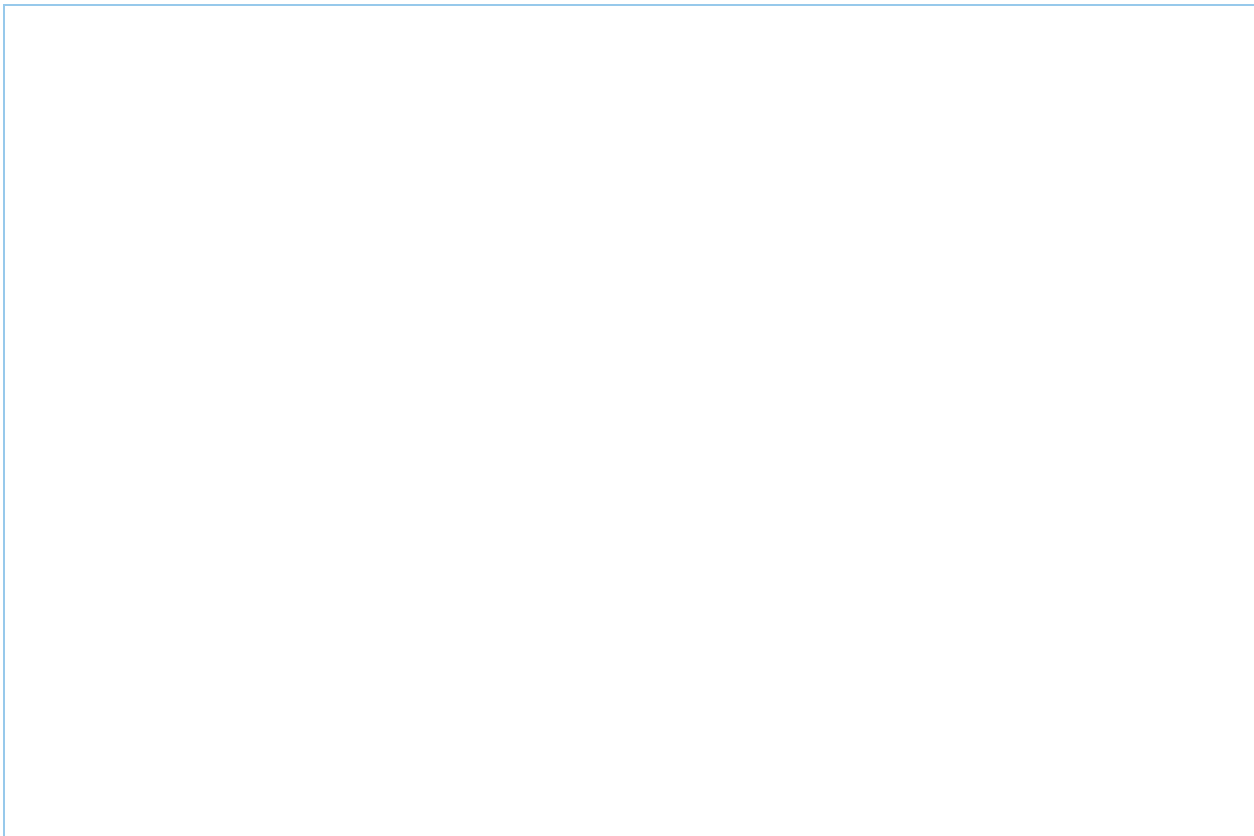
**8. As part of the new inspection process from 2024 onwards, what information would be helpful to include in an inspection report?**



**9. What other methods should we use to feedback messages from an inspection report, to different audiences?**



**10. We want to find new ways of sharing effective practice found during inspections, which encourages learning from each other. What are your ideas on how we should do this?**



#### **4. Part 2: General comments**

We are committed to improving the way we work and are interested in your views on how we can carry out our work more effectively.

**11. Please use the box below to provide feedback on any other aspects of Estyn's inspection arrangements.**

**12. We would like to know your views on the effects that the proposals in this consultation would have on the Welsh language, specifically on: Opportunities for people to use Welsh Treating the Welsh language no less favourably than the English language. What effects do you think there would be?**

**How could positive effects be increased, or negative effects mitigated?**

**13. We would like to know your views on the effects that the proposals in this consultation would have on issues of equality, discrimination, promotion of equality of opportunity and fostering of good relationships between different people.**

**What effects do you think there would be?**

**How could positive effects be increased, or negative effects be mitigated?**

## **5. Additional information**

**14. If you are responding on behalf of an organisation, please use the box below to state the name of the organisation.**

**15. If you are happy for Estyn to contact you again in relation to your comments, please provide your contact details below.**

## **6. Thank you!**

Thank you for taking part in our consultation. We will use the information we receive to develop our inspection work. Soon, we will begin to test slightly different approaches to inspection with a few providers across each sector. Feedback from these trials will inform the next stage of development. We are reviewing what and how we inspect to make sure our work keeps pace with changes in Wales and meets the needs of the next generation of learners. The new inspection arrangements will start in September 2024.

If you have any questions regarding the consultation, please email us at:  
[consultation@estyn.gov.wales](mailto:consultation@estyn.gov.wales)