

Meeting of:	CABINET
Date of Meeting:	22 OCTOBER 2024
Report Title:	OUTCOMES OF ESTYN INSPECTIONS OF SCHOOLS IN BRIDGEND DURING SUMMER TERM 2024
Report Owner / Corporate Director:	CORPORATE DIRECTOR – EDUCATION, EARLY YEARS AND YOUNG PEOPLE
Responsible Officer:	SUE ROBERTS GROUP MANAGER SCHOOL SUPPORT
Policy Framework and Procedure Rules:	There is no impact on the Council’s policy framework or procedure rules.
Executive Summary:	This report contains information about the inspection of two primary schools that took place in May 2024. The report also provides an update about the progress Nantymoel Primary School has made since their core inspection.

1. Purpose of Report

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to inform Cabinet of the outcomes of the Estyn inspection visits during summer term 2024 to Ffaldau Primary School and St Robert’s Roman Catholic Primary School.
- 1.2 The report will also inform Cabinet of the outcome of the Estyn review meeting with Nantymoel Primary School.

2. Background

- 2.1 Ffaldau Primary School was previously inspected in September 2014. St Robert’s Roman Catholic Primary School was previously inspected in April 2015. Both schools were previously inspected under the old Estyn inspection framework.
- 2.2 Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, Estyn had suspended inspections across all schools for a one-year period.
- 2.3 During the spring and summer terms 2022, Estyn piloted inspection arrangements that support renewal and reform in education in Wales. Inspection reports no longer include summative gradings, but instead detail how well providers are helping a child to learn.

2.4 Nantymoel Primary School was previously inspected in January 2023 and, following this inspection, Estyn decided to work with the local authority to review the school's progress.

3. Current situation / proposal

3.1 During May 2024, Estyn visited Ffaldau Primary School and St Robert's Roman Catholic Primary School, who were both inspected using the new approach. The full text of these reports is available on the Estyn website: www.estyn.gov.uk.

Ffaldau Primary School

3.2 Ffaldau Primary School was inspected by Estyn in May 2024 and the report was published on 16 July 2024.

3.3 Estyn noted the following as strengths of the school:

- The school has high expectations and clear guidelines to promote positive behaviour. An outstanding feature of the school is the positive manner in which pupils behave in lessons and as they move around the school.
- Teachers use highly effective questioning to assess pupils' understanding in the moment and to support or extend pupils' learning. The oral and written feedback provided by staff has a positive impact on pupils' progress. They provide valuable opportunities for pupils to respond and improve their work.
- A notable feature of the school's provision is the support for pupils with additional learning needs (ALN). The ALN co-ordinator effectively ensures that there is appropriate support for those with identified needs, and parents value this.
- Ffaldau Primary School is a caring school where the well-being of pupils and their prospects are central to all it does. This is due to the strong, agile and effective leadership provided by the executive headteacher and the unwavering support she receives from the deputy headteacher in her role as head of school.

3.4 Ffaldau Primary School's Estyn inspection report included the following recommendations:

Recommendation number	Recommendation
Recommendation 1	Improve pupils' ability to write at length across the curriculum and at a suitably challenging level.
Recommendation 2	Improve pupil attendance.

3.5 Estyn inspectors concluded that the school is making sufficient progress, and no follow-up action is required.

3.6 The local authority, along with Central South Consortium, will support the school in drawing up an action plan to show how the recommendations will be addressed.

St Robert's Roman Catholic Primary School

3.7 St Robert's Roman Catholic Primary School was inspected by Estyn in May 2024 and the report was published on 23 July 2024.

3.8 Estyn noted the following as strengths of the school:

- Overall, most pupils at St. Robert's Roman Catholic Primary school make very good progress from starting points that are at or above those expected for their age. Most leave the school with strong literacy and numeracy skills.
- The school provides valuable support for pupils' emotional, health and social needs. Staff develop positive relationships with pupils and know the pupils and their families well. This strong support for well-being results in nearly all pupils behaving in line with the school's high expectations.
- Working with governors, staff, pupils and parents, the headteacher has established and communicated a clear vision for the school based firmly on its agreed values. She has created a strong team ethic across the school through maintaining high levels of collaboration and trust.
- Leaders and staff have a thorough understanding of the needs of the pupils and local community. They work with dedication to create a vibrant learning community that meets these needs well. At the core of the school is a thoughtful and inclusive culture that ensures that all pupils feel a secure sense of belonging and develop the confidence and skills to engage positively with their learning experiences.

3.9 St Robert's Roman Catholic Primary School's Estyn inspection report included the following recommendation:

Recommendation number	Recommendation
Recommendation 1	Refine teaching to enable pupils to make decisions about how they learn and use their digital skills independently.

3.10 Estyn inspectors concluded that the school is making sufficient progress and no follow-up action is required.

3.11 The local authority, along with Central South Consortium, will support the school in drawing up an action plan to show how the recommendations will be addressed.

Nantymoel Primary School

3.12 Nantymoel Primary School was inspected by Estyn in January 2023 and the report was published on 3 April 2023. At that time, Estyn inspectors concluded the school was not making sufficient progress and would be subject to a follow-up review.

3.13 The Nantymoel Primary School report included the following recommendations:

Recommendation number	Recommendation
Recommendation 1	Ensure that all staff undertake statutory 'Prevent' training.
Recommendation 2	Strengthen leadership to ensure that it identifies and addresses key areas for improvement.
Recommendation 3	Ensure consistently high expectations among staff of what pupils can achieve in Years 3 to 6.
Recommendation 4	Provide opportunities for pupils to influence what and how they learn and to develop skills as independent learners.
Recommendation 5	Develop a whole-school approach to curriculum development and provide opportunities for pupils to apply their skills in meaningful, authentic contexts.

3.14 The local authority, along with Central South Consortium, supported the school in drawing up an action plan to show how the recommendations would be addressed and held regular progress review meetings over the course of the year.

3.15 On 19 July 2024, Estyn conducted a follow-up review of the school's progress and judged that Nantymoel Primary School had made sufficient progress in addressing the recommendations from the section 28 inspection.

3.16 The school has been removed from the list of schools requiring Estyn review and there will be no further monitoring activity in relation to this inspection.

4. Equality implications (including Socio-economic Duty and Welsh Language)

4.1 The protected characteristics identified within the Equality Act, Socio-economic Duty, and the impact on the use of the Welsh Language have been considered in the preparation of this report. As a public body in Wales the Council must consider the impact of strategic decisions, such as the development or the review of policies, strategies, services, and functions. This is an information report; therefore, it is not necessary to carry out an Equality Impact assessment in the production of this report. It is considered that there will be no significant or unacceptable equality impacts as a result of this report.

5. Well-being of Future Generations implications and connection to Corporate Well-being Objectives

5.1 The Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015 Assessment provides a comprehensive summary of the outcomes expected from the implementation of the service.

Long-term	Supports the improvement of standards and outcomes in schools.
Prevention	Development of post-inspection action plans or refinement of school improvement plans helped to ensure that recommendations identified are addressed and acted upon to secure school improvement, preventing standards from slipping. The local authority and Central South Consortium will continue to monitor the school's progress.
Integration	Monitoring and acting upon school inspection reports is key to ensuring that outcomes for schools are achieved thus helping to support a successful economy.
Collaboration	The local authority works closely with schools, Estyn and with Central South Consortium to deliver the well-being objectives related to school improvement. The local authority receives the school inspection reports from Estyn and this informs the work conducted by Central South Consortium to deliver the support for school improvement services.
Involvement	This area of work involves all stakeholders in school improvement. Schools work closely with Improvement Partners from Central South Consortium to refine their improvement plans or post-inspection action plans and to identify strategic support from the local authority, Central South Consortium and elsewhere (as required) reflecting the diversity of stakeholders involved in aspects of school improvement.

6. Climate Change Implications

6.1 There are no climate change implications arising directly from this information report.

7. Safeguarding and Corporate Parent Implications

7.1 There are no safeguarding or corporate parent implications arising directly from this information report.

8. Financial Implications

8.1 There are no financial implications arising directly from this information report.

9. Recommendation

9.1 It is recommended that Cabinet notes the content of this report.

Background documents

None.