



03 March 2022

Dear friends,

THE BIGGEST ROOM IN THE WORLD

Despite the rain, it has been lovely to welcome pupils back to school this week. Slowly but surely, school operations edge closer towards normality as COVID control-measures have again been relaxed by the Welsh Government. By way of reminder, pupils are now asked to wear face coverings on buses and in corridors only.

In my first letter to you as Headteacher, in September 2019, I wrote: "My new leadership team is overseeing an exciting programme of change which will build on existing strengths and bring about further improvement." The two years that followed were not quite what I expected! Yet, our ambitious agenda for change remains and is moving forward apace.

But change cannot happen in isolation. We each have a part to play as co-constructors of the school's development programme and the voices of governors, staff, parents and (most importantly) pupils must all be heard. To assist with this planning, I have volunteered the school for a pilot inspection with the schools inspectorate, Estyn. I am told that inspections are something to be feared! However, it is my view that the more help the school can receive the better for children and young people. I welcome this pilot inspection, the findings of which will assist in improvement planning immeasurably. In the inimitable words of former German Chancellor, Helmut Schmidt, "The biggest room in the world is the room for improvement."

In the following pages, you can find out a little bit more about Estyn. If you wish, you are invited to attend a meeting with inspectors on Monday 14 March 2022 at 5pm in the school to share your views. As a minimum, I would be most grateful if you would provide feedback by way of a questionnaire. Simply [click here](#) or scan the QR code below. If you have any questions about this process, please do not hesitate to ask!

Should you need to reach out to me, please email headteacher@stteilos.com.

As ever,

Mr I Loynd
Headteacher



Understanding inspections in schools: A guide for parents and carers

Estyn is responsible for inspecting a wide range of education and training provision in Wales, and will soon be inspecting your child's school.

How do inspectors take account of my views of the school?

Estyn wants to know your views on the school. You can do this by:

- **completing an online questionnaire** via the direct link or QR code provided by the school. The questionnaire is the easiest way of making inspectors aware of your views.
- **attending a meeting with inspectors.** The school will inform you of the date and time.

How will an inspection benefit my child?

An inspection tells you about the standards and quality at your child's school. It gives the school an expert view on its work, outlining what it does well and helps it to improve.

Who inspects the school?

The inspection team is led by a Reporting Inspector who has considerable experience of teaching and education. Each inspection team also includes a lay inspector and a peer inspector. Lay inspectors have not worked as teachers in a school, while peer inspectors are headteachers or managers from another school. Each school may nominate someone to liaise directly with the inspection team to keep the inspectors informed about the school and its work.

How will the school be inspected?

Inspectors follow Estyn's inspection guidance. <https://www.estyn.gov.wales/inspection/inspection-guidance>

How will inspectors take account of my child's view of the school?

During the inspection, inspectors will ask groups of children how they feel about the school, their work and how well they are getting on. All learners in key stage 2 and above will have the opportunity to complete an online questionnaire before the inspection.

How will I know the inspectors' views on the school?

Inspection reports are published on the Estyn website 45 working days after the start of the inspection. The governing body will also send you details of the report.

What will be included within the report?

The report will have overall evaluations on:

- learning, wellbeing and attitudes to learning
- teaching and learning experiences
- care, support and guidance
- leadership and management

What happens after an inspection?

All schools must produce an action plan based on the recommendations in the inspection report.

The inspection team will consider and report whether the school requires any follow-up activity. The three types of follow-up activity are:

Special measures: this is the most intensive level of statutory follow-up. It involves a small team of Estyn inspectors making regular visits to review the school's progress following the publication of the inspection report

Significant improvement: involves a small team of Estyn inspectors visiting the school to monitor progress about 12-18 months after the publication of the inspection report

Estyn review: this is the lightest touch of follow-up, as it is not statutory. It involves reviewing the progress the school has made towards addressing the recommendations highlighted in the report about 12-18 months after the publication of the inspection report

How can I contact Estyn?

Email: ic@estyn.gov.wales

Tel: 02920 446446

Feedback about inspections:
feedback@estyn.gov.wales



Arolygiaeth Ei Mawrhydi dros Addysg a Hyfforddiant yng Nghymru
Her Majesty's Inspectorate for Education and Training in Wales

For further information on Estyn please visit our website -
<http://www.estyn.gov.wales>