

INSPECTION OF SCHOOLS – SCHOOL LEADERS

Introduction

This document provides a checklist to help teachers ensure that:

- (a) inspectors comply with Estyn guidance for inspectors on the inspection of schools;
- (b) regional consortia provide appropriate support and challenge to schools prior to and post inspection;
- (c) their school responds appropriately to inspection, including identifying what works well, and what needs to be done to avoid unnecessary bureaucracy and workload.

It also provides an overview of inspection. The NASUWT has produced comprehensive guidance on Estyn inspection:

- *Estyn inspection advice document – Guidance for teachers*
- *Estyn inspection advice document – Guidance for school leaders*
- *Estyn inspection advice document – Guidance for NASUWT Representatives*

This guidance can be downloaded from the NASUWT website at **www.nasuwt.org.uk/Inspection**.

Alternatively, members can request a hard copy of the publication from the NASUWT.

An overview of inspection

All schools will be inspected during a six-year cycle. The size of the inspection team and the length of inspection will depend on the size of the school. In the case of secondary schools, inspection will normally last one week.

Schools must indicate how well they are meeting statutory requirements in their self-evaluation report. Inspectors use the report when forming judgements and identifying issues. Failure to meet statutory requirements may limit the judgement that a school receives.

The Common Inspection Framework asks three key questions and provides ten quality indicators

1. How good are outcomes? i) standards, and ii) wellbeing.
2. How good is provision? i) learning experiences, ii) teaching, iii) care, support and guidance, and iv) learning environment.
3. How good are leadership and management? i) leadership, ii) improving quality, iii) partnership working, and iv) resource management.

Inspectors will make judgements against these questions and quality indicators. Judgements and summary judgements will be made using a four-point scale: Excellent, Good, Adequate, and Unsatisfactory.

INSPECTION CHECKLIST

Inspectors' judgements and practice

School leaders should contact the NASUWT for advice if the answer to any of the following questions in 'yes':

	Yes	No
1 Did inspectors grade individual lessons they observed?	☐	☐
2 Did inspectors request copies of lesson plans?	☐	☐
3 Did inspectors comment on the need for more marking of pupils' work?	☐	☐
4 Did the inspection report enable individual staff to be identified?	☐	☐
5 Did inspectors question or challenge the extent of pay progression of teachers at your school?	☐	☐

School policy and practice, and inspection

School leaders should contact the NASUWT for advice if the answer to any of the following questions is 'yes':

	Yes	No
1 Does school self-evaluation include 'mini'/departmental self-evaluations?	☐	☐
2 Does the school undertake mock inspections?	☐	☐
3 Does the school use Estyn grades to judge the quality of lessons observed?	☐	☐
4 Are inspection grades/outcomes used to inform decisions about teacher performance and capability?	☐	☐

School policy and practice following inspection

School leaders should contact the NASUWT for advice if the answer to any of the following questions is 'yes':

	Yes	No
1 Has an inspection judgement placed your school under pressure to introduce detailed systems of planning, marking and assessment?	☐	☐
2 Has an inspection judgement resulted in your school increasing the amount of classroom observations?	☐	☐
3 Has your school introduced a narrower curriculum offer as a result of an inspection judgement?	☐	☐
4 Has an inspection judgement led to your school procuring/ commissioning consultancy services?	☐	☐
5 Has the performance and capability of you or other members of the school's leadership team been subject to additional scrutiny, question of challenge as a result of an inspection?	☐	☐
6 Have you been subject to a capability or disciplinary procedure (formal or informal) as a result of your school's last inspection?	☐	☐
7 Have you or other members of the school's leadership team been asked to 'step down' or give up some/all of your pay or responsibilities?	☐	☐

Telephone: **029 2054 6080** or email **rc-wales-cymru@mail.nasuwt.org.uk**.

Inspect the Inspectors



The NASUWT collects evidence about the inspection process and encourages teachers and school leaders to complete an online survey, Inspect the Inspectors, following an inspection.

Go to:

www.nasuwt.org.uk/InspectTheInspectors

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