

Wales. Estyn (Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Education and Training)

Main innovations to school education in Wales

- Foundation Phase for 3-7 year olds
- Literacy and Numeracy Framework (LNF) - national model
- Welsh Baccalaureate (to be universally adopted at 14–19 across Wales)
- Masters in Educational Practice (MEP) - practice-based on teaching for NQTs
- Stronger focus on school self-evaluation by leadership teams and governors - need for greater classroom observation by leaders and managers
- Regional Consortia School Improvement Services replacing local authorities

Introduction of innovations and change strategies

- Minister of Education's 20 point action plan, with national targets by 2015
- LNF to be supported by Regional Consortia and CfBT (external agency)
- Roll out of Masters in Educational Practice
- Inspection outcomes: Primary schools mostly good, with few excellent. 26% of schools inspected are below quality threshold of good or better. Secondary schools polarized with 14% excellent, 14% unsatisfactory. 54% below threshold.

Role of inspection

- Estyn's Strategic Objectives aligned to national priorities (literacy, numeracy and tackling poverty):
- Providing public accountability - Inspection
- Informing Policy - Advice and Guidance
- Building Capacity - Best Practice, Training, Working with Regional Consortia
- Common Inspection Framework - Core and Follow-Up inspection arrangements
- Stronger focus on outcomes and leadership
- Key focus on literacy and numeracy in inspections
- Use of Peer Inspectors, Nominees and Lay Inspectors in inspection teams to build capacity in leadership and teaching workforce
- All inspections led by HMI or Estyn Additional Inspectors (External contractors phased out by September 2012)

Changes to the model of inspection

- Currently out to public consultation on changes to:
- Length of the statutory - inspection cycle/period - 6 years to ?
- Length of notice before an inspection - 3 months to 2 weeks?
- Use of learners and parent questionnaires - how useful?
- Pre-inspection meeting with parents - continue or not?
- Current cycle runs from 2010 - 2016 - Evolution of existing CIF from 2016?
- Two Government reviews currently working on structures of education provision in Wales (one will report in June 2013 and the other in December 2013)