

Pentrebane Primary School Post-Estyn inspection 2023 Q&A

What is Estyn?

Estyn is the body that inspects schools and other education and training settings in Wales.

When did Estyn visit Pentrebane Primary School?

Estyn inspectors visited Pentrebane Primary School in June this year. They spent time speaking to staff, pupils, parents and governors, observing lessons and seeing how the school operates on a day-to-day basis.

What did Estyn's report say?

Estyn's report was published on August 21st. It concluded that special measures were required and it included five recommendations. You can view the report in full on the Estyn website, and there is also a summary report for parents and carers: <https://www.estyn.gov.wales/provider/6812075>

What does special measures mean?

Special measures is a category that a school is put into when Estyn has concerns following an inspection. It is the most intensive level of follow-up activity. It means Estyn will monitor the school's progress on a termly basis following the publication of the inspection report. The local authority – Cardiff City Council – and the local education consortium – The Central South Consortium (CSC) will support the school during this process.

What happens now?

The school will draw up an action plan to show how it is going to address the report's recommendations. This draft plan will be submitted to Estyn by September 29 and a summary shared with parents once it has been approved. Estyn will closely monitor the school's progress, usually every four to six months.

Is my child safe at Pentrebane Primary School?

Yes. Estyn's report said Pentrebane's staff have created an "inclusive, nurturing environment where pupils feel safe and cared for." It also said: "Overall, the school has an appropriate culture of safeguarding, although inspectors did identify a few safeguarding issues during the inspection." These safeguarding issues mainly related to out-of-date play equipment, which has now been removed, and entry and access points to the school site. Most of the issues have already been addressed and the rest are being addressed as a matter of urgency.

News reports have called the Estyn report 'damning' – is this true?

Estyn's report does raise several concerns, which the school is addressing, but to say it is 'damning' is an exaggeration. The report praises the school for several things, including the behaviour of many pupils, the positive and nurturing relationships between adults and pupils and the effective way staff support pupil well-being.

How are you responding to the report?

The school's governing body and senior leadership team are drawing up an action plan to address the report's recommendations. This will ensure that standards are raised so our children receive the education and have the learning environment they deserve. With those improvements in place, we look forward to Estyn seeing the school in a much more positive light on their next visit.