



Llywodraeth Cymru  
Welsh Government



**Estyn**

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



## **Evaluation and Improvement Arrangements**

### **Key update - 2019 Key Stage 4 examinations**

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**To: Chairs of Scrutiny, Cabinet Members, Directors of Education, Chief Executive Officers, Managing Directors of Regional Education Consortia**

**Dear Colleague**

This is a joint communication from the Welsh Government, the WLGA and Estyn regarding handling of the Key Stage 4 examination unverified results in August and implementation of the new interim performance measures.

Together, we are delivering a shared ethos which supports our ambitious reform journey, in particular to help the move towards the new evaluation and improvement arrangements.

As you will know, we are moving away from a disproportionate emphasis on one or two isolated performance measures. Instead, we will have a wider range of indicators which better capture the progress of all learners, the whole learning experience and our ambitions for the new curriculum.

Steve Davies, the Government's Director of Education wrote to schools on 18 July to set out more detail.

We look to schools, local authorities and regions to engage with the wider policy and curriculum intentions that sit behind these changes and be mindful of the need to offer a broad and balanced curriculum to all learners.


To facilitate the culture change needed to create the right conditions for success, the Welsh Government, Estyn and the WLGA have jointly agreed and committed to a new protocol as we move to the interim measures.

It is counter-productive for schools to be placed under disproportionate pressure on the basis of individual measures. It is not in the interest of school improvement and risks undermining the ongoing change in culture that we are working together to achieve. We expect local authorities and regional consortia to support schools to make appropriate decisions about their curriculum to avoid narrowing choice for learners.

Collectively, we have agreed that this is the right approach to take and strongly advise you to use a broad range of un-aggregated data and information to enable you to discharge your duties when reporting on school performance. Evaluating the performance of individual schools rather than generating aggregated data at local authority level will be more helpful to supporting and challenging individual schools with their improvement.

Detailed guidance on the interim measures and the changes to the analyses provided for schools have recently been published and can be found here: <https://gov.wales/interim-key-stage-4-school-performance-arrangements>

A copy of the letter to schools is also attached for information.

The image shows three handwritten signatures in black ink. From left to right: a signature that appears to be 'S. Davies', a signature that reads 'Meilyr Rowlands', and a signature that reads 'Chris Llewellyn'.

**Steve Davies**  
**Director of Education**  
**Welsh Government**

**Meilyr Rowlands**  
**Her Majesty's Chief Inspector**  
**Estyn**

**Chris Llewellyn**  
**Chief Executive**  
**WLGA**