

National Categorisation

Reason for this report

1. The reason for this report is to:
 - Inform the Children and Young People Scrutiny Committee of the outcomes of National Categorisation in January 2019

Background

National Categorisation

- 2.1 In May 2014, the Minister for Education and Skills announced the development of a primary grading model and a review of the secondary banding model. The application of this model results in one of four levels of support for each school categorised as green, yellow, amber or red, with schools in green requiring the least amount of challenge and support and those in red the most.
- 2.2 The national categorisation system's main purpose is to identify which schools are in most need of support. The system ensures that, in partnership with local authorities and regional consortia, we direct our support and resources to improve our school system and as a result, raise standards and performance in Wales.
- 2.3 The system is about providing support and encouraging collaborative improvement by putting schools into a position that enables them to identify the factors that contribute to their progress and achievement, or what areas to focus on to achieve further development. It is not about labelling or creating league tables.
- 2.4 The system is a three step model that is not purely data-driven but also takes into account the quality of leadership and teaching and learning in our schools. In 2017, Welsh Government did not operate Step one. The process began at Step 2.
 - **Step one:** A broad range of performance information is provided by the Welsh Government to inform schools' self-evaluation of their capacity to improve in relation to teaching and learning. This year we have changed the process so that we will no longer calculate or publish a standards group for schools. Instead a broader set of information will be considered when evaluating how schools are doing, which will take into account their local circumstances. This will also form the starting point of discussions between schools and their regional consortium challenge advisor about their performance and areas for improvement. This change has been made as a result of our work to change accountability within our education system and make sure that schools, and their learners, are given the right support at the right time so they can fully achieve their potential.

- **Step two:** Challenge advisers from regional consortia evaluate the school's capacity to improve, taking account of evidence about the standards achieved and the quality of leadership and learning and teaching. They will also use information from the Welsh Government to inform this evaluation and discussions with schools.

- **Step three:** The outcomes from step two are used to decide on each school's final support category. The final categorisation is a colour code that shows the level of support a school needs and triggers a tailored programme of support, challenge and intervention. The support categories are green, yellow, amber or red (with the schools in the green category needing the least support and those in the red category needing the most intensive support).

- 2.5 The coloured support category for each primary, middle and secondary school is now available.
- 2.6 The system is co-constructed between regional consortia and Welsh Government.
- 2.7 As part of the agreed National Model for Regional Working, Welsh Government, local government, regional consortia and the Welsh Local Government Association (WLGA) have worked together to ensure a national and consistent approach to the categorisation of schools.

Primary overview

- 2.8 In the primary and nursery sector, the proportion of schools in the green category is 56.4%. This represents 57 out of 101 schools, and is an increase of two schools compared to 2018 (54.4%). The proportion of schools in the yellow category is 31.6%. This represents 32 schools, and is a decrease of four schools compared to January 2018 (35.6%). Across Wales, the proportion of primary schools (the categorisation of maintained nursery schools across Wales is not published by Welsh Government) in the green category is 43.1% and 45.3% are in the yellow category.
- 2.9 The proportion of schools in the amber category is 10.8%. This represents 11 schools, and is an increase of three schools compared to 2018 (7.9%). There is one red primary school (0.9%), compared to two in 2018. Across Wales, 9.6% of schools are categorised as amber and 2.1% are categorised as red in 2019.

Secondary overview

- 2.10 In the secondary sector, the proportion of schools in the green category is 50%. This represents nine out of 18 schools, and is an increase of two schools compared to 2018 (38.8%). The proportion of schools in the yellow category is 33.3%. This represents six schools, and is a decrease of three schools compared to January 2018 (50%). Across Wales, the proportion of secondary schools in the green category is 31.1%, and 38.3% are in the yellow category.

- 2.11 The proportion of schools in the amber category is 11.1%. This represents two out of 18 schools, and is an increase of one school compared to 2018 (5.5%). There has been no change to the proportion of red secondary schools in 2019 (one school – 5.5%). Across Wales, 11.2% of secondary schools are in the red category.

Special overview

- 2.12 In the special sector, the proportion of schools in the green category is 50%. This represents four out of eight schools (seven special schools and one Pupil Referral Unit). The remaining four schools are categorised as yellow. No special schools are categorised as amber or red. In 2018, three schools were categorised as green (37.5%), three as yellow (37.5%), and two were amber. Across Wales in 2019, 51.2% of special schools are categorised as green, 39% as yellow, and 9.8% as amber. No special schools were categorised as red.

Inspection Outcomes of Cardiff Schools

- 3.1 In September 2017, new arrangements for inspecting all schools, independent specialist colleges, pupil referral units and work-based learning providers came into effect. Schools are being judged in five inspection areas:
- Standards
 - Wellbeing and attitudes to learning
 - Teaching and learning experiences
 - Care, support and guidance
 - Leadership and management
- 3.2 Outcomes from Estyn inspections are reported, using a four-point scale:
- Excellent – Very strong, sustained performance and practice;
 - Good – Strong features, although minor aspects may require improvement;
 - Adequate and needs improvement – Strengths outweigh weaknesses, but important aspects require improvement;
 - Unsatisfactory and needs urgent improvement – important weaknesses outweigh strengths.
- 3.3 72.35% of all Cardiff schools inspected by Estyn, during the seven-year inspection cycle ending as at the last academic year, were judged to be Good or Excellent for Standards or Current Performance.

Primary overview of inspections

- 3.4 During the 2017/18 academic year, Estyn inspected 16 primary schools. An overview of the primary school outcomes from the five key inspection areas can be seen in the table below:

Cardiff Primary Schools	Standards	Wellbeing and attitudes to learning	Teaching and learning experiences	Care, Support and Guidance	Leadership and Management
Excellent	3	2	2	4	3
Good	11	13	9	11	9
Adequate and needs improvement	2	1	5	1	5
Unsatisfactory and needs urgent improvement	0	0	0	0	0

- 3.5 Of the 16 schools, six were asked to submit case studies for their excellent practice. Four of the schools went into Estyn Review following the visit – Roath Park Primary School, Hawthorn Primary School, Ysgol Coed y Gof and Ton-Yr-Ywen.
- 3.6 Of the primary schools inspected in previous academic years, as at November 2018, two schools remain in Estyn follow up (Baden Powell Primary School and St. Fagans Primary School). Pentyrch Primary School has been removed from Special Measures and Glan-Yr-Afon has been removed from Estyn monitoring.
- 3.7 Since September 2018, 10 primary schools and one nursery school have been inspected:
- Ysgol Pen Y Pil
 - St Peters. RC Primary School
 - Meadowlane Primary School
 - Marlborough Primary School
 - Bishop Childs' Primary School
 - Radyr Primary School
 - Grangetown Primary School
 - Millbank Primary School
 - Tremorfa Nursery School
 - St John Lloyd RC Primary School
- 3.8 One school has been placed into an Estyn follow-up category (St. Peter's – Special Measures). An overview of outcomes from inspections reports that have been published can be seen in the table below:

School	Standards	Wellbeing and attitudes to learning	Teaching and learning experiences	Care, Support and Guidance	Leadership and Management	Estyn follow up
Ysgol Pen Y Pil	Good	Good	Good	Adequate and needs improvement	Good	
St Peters Primary School	Adequate and needs improvement	Adequate and needs improvement	Adequate and needs improvement	Unsatisfactory and needs urgent improvement	Unsatisfactory and needs urgent improvement	Special Measures
Meadowlane Primary School	Good	Good	Adequate and needs improvement	Good	Good	
Marlborough Primary School	Good	Good	Good	Good	Good	
Bishop Childs' Primary School	Good	Good	Good	Good	Good	

Secondary overview

- 3.9 During the 2017/18 academic year, Estyn inspected three secondary schools (Ysgol Bro Edern, The Bishop of Llandaff and Willows High School). An overview of the secondary school outcomes can be seen in the table below:

Cardiff Secondary Schools	Standards	Wellbeing and attitudes to learning	Teaching and learning experiences	Care, Support and Guidance	Leadership and Management
Excellent	1	2	2	1	1
Good	1	0	0	2	1
Adequate and needs improvement	1	1	1	0	1
Unsatisfactory and needs urgent improvement	0	0	0	0	0

- 3.10 Of the three schools, two were asked to submit case studies for their excellent practice. One school went into Estyn Review - Willows High School.
- 3.11 Of the secondary schools inspected in previous academic years, as at November 2018, no schools are in an Estyn follow up category.
- 3.12 Since September 2018, two secondary schools have been inspected (Cardiff West Community High School and St. Illtyd's Catholic High School). Cardiff West Community High School was placed in Estyn Review. The report for St. Illtyd's has not yet been published.

Special overview

- 3.13 No special schools were inspected in the 2017/18 academic year, or have received notice of inspection since September 2018.

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Appendix 1 – Outcomes from National Categorisation

Primary

School name	2017 Step Two: Improvement Capacity	2017 Step Three: Support Category	2018 Step Two: Improvement Capacity	2018 Step Three: Support Category
Millbank Primary School	A	Green	A	Yellow
Adamsdown Primary	B	Yellow	B	Yellow
Albany Primary School	B	Yellow	B	Yellow
Allensbank Primary School	C	Amber	B	Yellow
Baden Powell Primary School	C	Amber	C	Amber
Birchgrove Primary School	A	Green	A	Green
Trelai Primary School	C	Amber	C	Amber
Fairwater Primary School	B	Yellow	B	Yellow
Gabalfa Primary	A	Green	A	Green
Kitchener Primary School	A	Green	A	Green
Lansdowne Primary School	A	Green	B	Yellow
Moorland Primary	A	Green	A	Green
Radnor Primary School	A	Green	A	Green

Rhydypenau Primary School	A	Green	A	Green
Roath Park Primary School	C	Amber	C	Amber
Greenway Primary School	A	Green	A	Green
Stacey Primary School	A	Green	A	Green
Ton-yr-Ywen Primary School	B	Yellow	C	Amber
Peter Lea Primary School	B	Yellow	B	Yellow
Bryn Hafod Primary School	A	Green	A	Green
Pen-y-Bryn Primary School	B	Yellow	B	Yellow
Coed Glas C P School	A	Green	A	Green
Lakeside Primary School	A	Green	A	Green
Pentrebane Primary School	B	Yellow	B	Yellow
Mount Stuart Primary School	B	Yellow	B	Yellow
Llanishen Fach Primary School	A	Green	A	Green
Rhiwbeina Primary School	A	Green	A	Green
Llanedeyrn Primary School	A	Green	A	Green
Springwood Primary School	A	Yellow	A	Green
Ninian Park Primary School	A	Green	A	Green

Coryton Primary	B	Yellow	B	Yellow
Bryn Celyn Primary School	B	Yellow	A	Green
Y G G Gwaelod Y Garth	A	Green	A	Green
Radyr Primary School	A	Green	A	Green
Tongwynlais Primary School	A	Green	A	Green
Llysfaen Primary School	A	Green	A	Green
Bryn Deri Primary	A	Green	A	Green
Oakfield Primary School	A	Green	A	Green
Ysgol Gymraeg Melin Gruffydd	A	Green	A	Green
Ysgol Y Wern	A	Green	A	Green
Ysgol Gymraeg Coed Y Gof	B	Yellow	B	Amber
Ysgol Bro Eirwg	B	Yellow	B	Yellow
Ysgol Treganna	B	Green	B	Green
Willowbrook Primary School	A	Green	A	Green
Pentyrch Primary	D	Red	C	Amber
Thornhill Primary School	A	Green	A	Green
Ysgol Pencae	A	Green	A	Green

Meadowlane Primary School	A	Green	A	Green
Ysgol Mynydd Bychan	A	Green	A	Green
Creigiau Primary School	A	Green	A	Green
Ysgol Gymraeg Pwll Coch	B	Yellow	B	Yellow
Ysgol Y Berllan Deg	B	Green	B	Green
Gladstone Primary School	B	Yellow	B	Yellow
Glan Yr Afon Primary School	C	Amber	C	Amber
Grangetown Primary School	B	Yellow	B	Yellow
Herbert Thompson Primary	A	Green	A	Green
Ysgol Glan Morfa	B	Yellow	B	Yellow
Ysgol Pen Y Pil	B	Yellow	B	Yellow
Ysgol Gymraeg Nant Caerau	B	Yellow	B	Yellow
Rumney Primary	A	Green	A	Green
Windsor Clive Primary	A	Green	A	Green
Severn Primary	A	Green	B	Yellow
Hawthorn Primary	B	Yellow	B	Amber
Danescourt Primary	A	Green	A	Green

Hywel Dda Primary School	A	Green	A	Green
Ysgol Gynradd Gymraeg Pen-Y-Groes	B	Yellow	B	Green
Trowbridge Primary	C	Amber	B	Yellow
Ysgol Glan Ceubal	B	Yellow	B	Yellow
Marlborough Primary	A	Green	A	Green
Pencaerau Primary	A	Green	A	Green
Glyncoed Primary	A	Green	A	Green
Whitchurch Primary	A	Green	A	Green
Pontprennau Primary	B	Yellow	C	Amber
Howardian Primary School	B	Yellow	B	Yellow
Ysgol Gynradd Gymraeg Hamadryad	B	Yellow	B	Yellow
St. Mellons Church In Wales Primary	A	Green	A	Green
St Alban's Rc Primary School	D	Red	C	Amber
St Cuthbert's Rc Primary	B	Yellow	B	Yellow
St. Joseph's RC Primary School	B	Yellow	B	Yellow
St. Mary's R.C. Primary School	B	Yellow	B	Yellow
St Patrick's R C School	B	Yellow	B	Yellow

St. Peter's Primary School	B	Yellow	D	Red
St Cadoc's Catholic Primary	A	Green	A	Green
St Monicas C/W Primary School	A	Green	A	Green
St.Paul's C/W Primary School	B	Yellow	A	Green
Tredegaville C/W Primary	A	Green	A	Green
Llandaff City Primary School	C	Amber	B	Yellow
Christ The King Primary School	A	Green	A	Green
St John Lloyd	A	Green	A	Green
Holy Family R.C. Primary	B	Yellow	A	Green
St Mary The Virgin C/W Primary School	B	Yellow	B	Yellow
All Saints C/W Primary	B	Yellow	B	Yellow
St Fagans Church In Wales	C	Amber	B	Yellow
St Bernadettes Primary School	B	Yellow	A	Green
St David's C/W Primary School	B	Yellow	C	Amber
Bishop Childs C/W Primary	A	Green	A	Green
St Philip Evans Primary School	A	Green	A	Green
St. Francis R. C. Primary Sch.	A	Green	A	Green

Grangetown Nursery School	A	Green	B	Yellow
Tremorfa Nursery	A	Green	A	Green
Ely And Caerau Children's Centre	A	Green	A	Green

Secondary

School name	2017 Step Two: Improvement Capacity	2017 Step Three: Support Category	2018 Step Two: Improvement Capacity	2018 Step Three: Support Category
Cardiff High School	A	Green	A	Green
Willows High School	B	Yellow	C	Amber
Fitzalan High School	A	Green	A	Green
Cantonian High School	B	Yellow	A	Yellow
Llanishen High School	B	Yellow	A	Green
Cathays High School	A	Green	A	Green
Radyr Comprehensive School	B	Yellow	A	Yellow
Ysgol Gyfun Gymraeg Glantaf	C	Amber	B	Yellow
Ysgol Gyfun Gymraeg Plasmawr	B	Yellow	B	Yellow
Ysgol Gyfun Gymraeg Bro Edern	A	Green	A	Green

Cardiff West Community High School	C	Red	C	Red
Eastern High School	B	Yellow	B	Yellow
St. Illtyd's Catholic High School	B	Yellow	C	Amber
Mary Immaculate High School	A	Green	A	Green
Bishop Of Llandaff Church In Wales High School	A	Green	A	Green
St Teilo's C-In-W High School	B	Yellow	A	Green
Corpus Christi Catholic High School	A	Green	B	Yellow
Whitchurch High School	B	Yellow	B	Yellow

Special

School name	2017 Step Two: Improvement Capacity	2017 Step Three: Support Category	2018 Step Two: Improvement Capacity	2018 Step Three: Support Category
Greenhill Special School	A	Green	A	Green
Meadowbank Special School	B	Yellow	A	Yellow
Riverbank School	B	Yellow	B	Yellow
The Court School	B	Amber	B	Yellow
The Hollies School	B	Yellow	A	Green

Ty Gwyn Special School	A	Green	A	Green
Woodlands High School	C	Amber	B	Yellow
Bryn Y Deryn School and Student Support Unit	A	Green	A	Green