

CYNGOR SIR POWYS COUNTY COUNCIL

County Council
15 July 2021

REPORT AUTHOR: County Councillor Phyl Davies, Portfolio Holder for Education and Property

SUBJECT: Question from County Councillor Gwilym Williams

With regard to Dolau School the last inspection by Estyn put the school in green, which means it's of a high standard in education. The two nearest primary schools are not in green, therefore can the Cabinet member for education tell me and members is it illegal for children from Dolau School to be sent to either of these primary schools that are not in the green?

Response

It is important to understand that there is a difference between Estyn inspections and National Categorisation.

In the last Estyn inspection for Llanfihangel Rhydithon in 2019, the school was judged to be good for standards, provision and leadership.

Llanbister Primary School was inspected by Estyn in 2019 and was also judged to be good for standards, provision and leadership.

Crossgates School was inspected in 2016, and was placed in Estyn review.

However, within a year they had addressed the recommendations and were removed from any form of follow up.

National Categorisation identifies the amount of support a school will receive on an annual basis. The last categorisation took place in the autumn term 2019. Since that period, Welsh Government have suspended categorisation. There are four colours for categorisation (Green and Yellow are seen as self-improving schools; Amber and Red are schools in need of significant support).

Llanfihangel Rhydithon was classified as Green, Llanbister and Crossgates were categorised as Yellow in 2019.

However, although there is no National Categorisation for schools, the local authority has continued to work closely to support these schools. All three schools are strong schools for standards, provision and leadership and have responded well to the challenges of providing education over the pandemic period. This has reinforced the view of the local authority that the schools are self-improving schools and provide education that is equitable.

Pupils would not be disadvantaged by attending other schools in the area.