

CYPE(5)-23-20 - Paper to note 6  
Kirsty Williams AS/MS  
Y Gweinidog Addysg  
Minister for Education



Llywodraeth Cymru  
Welsh Government

Eich cyf/Your ref:

Lynne Neagle MS,  
Chair of Children, Young People and Education Committee  
Senedd Cymru

5 October 2020

Dear Lynne

### **Children, Young People and Education Committee – Report on remote teaching and COVID-19**

Thank you for the copy of your commissioned review into remote teaching and learning, undertaken by Professor Sofya Lyakhova of Swansea University. I have read with interest the report and have passed it onto my officials; those leading on the operation of schools and those working on wider policy issues linked to maintaining Continuity of Learning and our Accelerating Learning Programme.

Like you, I am committed to ensuring that our approaches are underpinned by sound evidence and the latest research, drawing not just from our own experiences but also building on international evidence and examples from other countries.

I am pleased to note the correlation of the findings of this piece of work with the emerging evidence from the work my officials are undertaking across the system with our Higher Education Institutions and other partners and with international organisations such as the OECD.

My officials are also working closely with middle tier organisations to co-construct a National Strategy for Education Research and Enquiry. This Strategy will support the wider education reform programme, including the new school curriculum and the priorities set out in Our National Mission.

One initiative already underway linked to this work is a project to fund collaborative research by our Initial Teacher Education (ITE) partnerships. This project will enable universities and schools to enhance provision for student teachers. The ITE settings are working with one another, having formed collaborative partnerships, to examine particular aspects of COVID's impact on ITE and will use their findings to draw inferences about its impact more widely.

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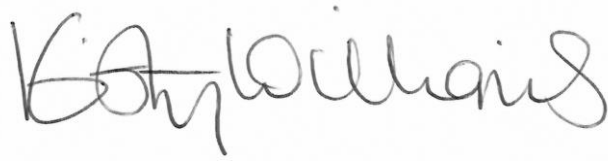
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Rydym yn croesawu derbyn gohebiaeth yn Gymraeg. Byddwn yn ateb gohebiaeth a dderbynnir yn Gymraeg yn Gymraeg ac ni fydd gohebu yn Gymraeg yn arwain at oedi.

We welcome receiving correspondence in Welsh. Any correspondence received in Welsh will be answered in Welsh and corresponding in Welsh will not lead to a delay in responding.

I note the committee's views on the re-opening of schools and agree that keeping our schools colleges and settings open is a key priority. I will do all I can to support this moving forward.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Kirsty Williams', written in a cursive style.

**Kirsty Williams AS/MS**

Y Gweinidog Addysg  
Minister for Education