

Lord Dubs

British–Irish Parliamentary Assembly

27 June 2019

Dear Lord Dubs,

### **Compulsory teaching of Welsh**


During our evidence session with Committee D of the British and Irish Parliamentary Assembly on 24 June 2019, a question was raised in relation to the compulsory element of Welsh as a subject at Key Stage 4. We promised to provide some additional information to provide clarity on the situation here in Wales.

Sections 105 and 106 of the [Education Act 2002](#) make provisions for Welsh (as a subject) to be a compulsory element in the National Curriculum in both Welsh and English–medium schools until the end of Key Stage 4 (that is until the age of 16). The National Curriculum is only applicable to maintained schools in Wales.

At Key Stage 4, schools register pupils for either first language or second language Welsh GCSE, or for no qualification at all. Although Welsh is a compulsory subject in the national curriculum, it is not compulsory to enter learners to sit a GCSE or other qualification. Although the study of Welsh or Welsh second language is compulsory, making a decision on a particular qualification is a matter for schools and is done at a local level. However, the [Welsh Second Language subject Order](#) (July 2015) states that there should be appropriate assessment and accreditation available to all learners.

I hope the above information and the evidence session was helpful to your inquiry, and please contact us if you would like any further clarification on areas raised.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Bethan Sayed." The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Bethan Sayed

**Chair of the Committee**