

**Jeremy Miles AS/MS**  
**Gweinidog y Gymraeg ac Addysg**  
**Minister for Education and Welsh Language**



**Llywodraeth Cymru**  
**Welsh Government**

Eich cyf/Your ref P-06-1278  
Ein cyf/Our ref JMEWL/00917/22

Jack Sargeant MS  
Chair - Petitions committee  
Senedd Cymru  
Cardiff Bay  
Cardiff  
CF99 1SN  
Government.Committee.Business@gov.wales

26 May 2022

Dear Jack,

Thank you for your letter of 29 April about the petition the Committee received which is currently collecting signatures, Petition P-06-1278, which is calling for the curriculum to introduce parenting lessons and basic life skills for all high school learners.

All children and young people should be well prepared for their future lives – their careers, relationships, health and well-being. That does not just mean focusing on attainment but all the skills, experiences and attributes that help them thrive.

The school has a key role in achieving this, but the home environment and the wider community are also significant influences. We want all schools in Wales to be Community Focused Schools - responding to the needs of their community, building a strong partnership with families / carers and collaborating effectively with other services. By working collaboratively across school, home and the community we can support our children and young people more effectively.

Over the coming months we will invest £3.84m in increasing the number of Family Engagement Officers employed by schools. These roles will be important in acting as a bridge between the school and the home, providing much needed support to families. We will also provide £660k funding to trial the appointment of Community Focused Schools Managers and £20m capital investment to allow schools to develop further as community assets.

The new curriculum from September 2022 will include a Health and Well-being Area of Learning and Experience which will enhance the focus on the health and well-being of learners. For the first time, Health and Well-being will have equal status in law to other important areas of the school curriculum.

Bae Caerdydd • Cardiff Bay  
Caerdydd • Cardiff  
CF99 1SN

Canolfan Cyswllt Cyntaf / First Point of Contact Centre:  
0300 0604400

[Gohebiaeth.Jeremy.Miles@llyw.cymru](mailto:Gohebiaeth.Jeremy.Miles@llyw.cymru)  
[Correspondence.Jeremy.Miles@gov.wales](mailto:Correspondence.Jeremy.Miles@gov.wales)

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.

This innovative Area of the new curriculum will support learners to understand and appreciate how the different components of health and well-being are interconnected recognising that good health and well-being are important to enable successful learning. It is concerned with developing the capacity of learners to navigate life's opportunities and challenges. The fundamental components of this Area are physical health, mental health and emotional and social well-being.

What matters in this Area has been expressed in five statements which support and complement one another to achieve a holistic approach. The curriculum Framework provides professionals with flexibility to cover a range of important skills, including support on money management, basic first aid, and the importance of healthy eating. These skills will enable learners to develop life-long positive behaviours which supports their health and well-being.

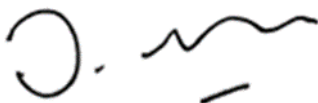
This Area also contributes to preventative education by a focus on healthy relationships and mandatory Relationships and Sexuality education (RSE). RSE is designed to safeguard all our children and young people, supporting them to develop knowledge, skills and behaviours that will assist in protecting them throughout their lives and enhance their well-being. High-quality, holistic and inclusive RSE is associated with a range of positive and protective outcomes for all learners and their communities including recognising abusive or unhealthy relationships and increased awareness, knowledge and understanding of gender-based and sexual violence.

Statutory safeguarding duties are owed to all children and young people at risk of harm, abuse or neglect up to the age of 18 and to adults at risk of harm, abuse or neglect who are 18 or over. These duties are set out in our legislation through the Social Services and Well-being (Wales) Act 2014 and related statutory guidance to set out the requirements for identifying and responding to children at risk.

The Act also established a National Independent Safeguarding Board and regional Safeguarding Children Boards to support evidence-based safeguarding practice across agencies and across Wales. These arrangements are now well established.

The Wales Safeguarding Procedures and All Wales Practice Guides are owned by the Safeguarding Boards and were issued in 2019. They promote consistent, evidence-based safeguarding practice across agencies and across Wales. Training has been provided on the Procedures and guides, facilitated by the Safeguarding Boards. The Wales Safeguarding Procedures are accessible to all via an app and also via [Social care Wales \(safeguarding.wales\)](https://www.gov.wales/safeguarding.wales).

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'J. Miles', with a stylized flourish underneath.

**Jeremy Miles AS/MS**

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