

Lynne Neagle MS
Cabinet Secretary for Education

22 May 2025

School improvement and learner attainment and other work

Dear Lynne,

At our recent meeting on 14 May, we discussed your request to reschedule the planned evidence session on school improvement and learner attainment to the early autumn. After careful consideration, we have agreed to move this work to the start of the autumn term. This decision was made with the expectation that you will be in position to answer fully our questions.

As I have previously highlighted, this means that we will be calling you to Committee three times over the first half term of the autumn term. All of which are on important topics. In scheduling these sessions we have balanced the impact on your diary with the Committee's agreed work commitments.

To confirm, the dates are:

- Wednesday 17 September 09:30-11:00: Teacher recruitment and retention
- Wednesday 8 October 09:30-11:30: School improvement and learner attainment.
- Thursday 23 October 09:30-11:30: Implementation of education reforms.

We hope that you are able to confirm attendance for each of these sessions soon.

School improvement and learner attainment

Before starting this piece of work, we identified our particular areas of interest, which are:

- The future of school improvement arrangements and how the Welsh Government, local authorities and relevant partners work together to deliver the highest possible standards of education.
- Educational outcomes of learners and gaps in attainment between groups of pupils.
- Factors impacting on educational progress such as pupil absence, deprivation, funding and workforce capacity.

In advance of the session on this topic, we would appreciate if you could send a written brief on the work the Welsh Government is doing, in particular an update on the School Improvement Partnership Programme and the latest position in each of the previous four regions. We would also appreciate if this paper could indicate the areas where improvements in learner attainment are starting to be bear fruit, as well as the areas where more work is needed, and what further steps are being taken to improve learner attainment and school standards.

We would appreciate this response by 24 September. If you envisage any issues with this date, please let the Committee Clerk know as soon as possible.

Yours sincerely,



Buffy Williams MS
Chair
Children, Young People and Education Committee

Croesewir gohebiaeth yn Gymraeg neu Saesneg.

We welcome correspondence in Welsh or English.