

Lynne Neagle AS/MS
Ysgrifennydd y Cabinet dros Addysg
Cabinet Secretary for Education



Llywodraeth Cymru
Welsh Government

Buffy Williams MS
Chair
Children, Young People and Education Committee
Senedd Cymru

21 November 2025

Dear Chair,

Outcome of the UK Education Ministers' Council meeting

In accordance with the inter-institutional relations agreement, I am writing to inform you of outcome of the sixth UK Education Ministers Council (EMC) meeting, which took place in Cardiff on the 13 November 2025.

As lead Cabinet Secretary for this Interministerial Group, I attended and chaired the meeting on behalf of the Welsh Government.

The meeting was attended by Paul Givan MLA, Minister of Education for the Northern Ireland Executive; Jenny Gilruth MSP, Cabinet Secretary for Education & Skills for the Scottish Government; and Baroness Jacqui Smith MP, Minister of State in the Department for Education for the UK Government.

Discussions focused on the Curriculum, recognising that each Nation is at a different stage of review and reform. This provided an important opportunity to share progress and exchange best practice.

Ministers also acknowledged the rise in challenges in behaviour in schools since the COVID-19 pandemic and outlined effective approaches being implemented to address this.

The group considered the role of Artificial Intelligence in education and online safety, with particular emphasis on preparing learners for an increasingly AI-driven world.

Finally, Ministers welcomed the successful collaborative efforts that ensured the safe arrival of Chevening and full scholarship students from Gaza to commence their studies across the UK this autumn. These students are expected to play a significant role in rebuilding Gaza in the future. While this matter falls outside the Northern Ireland Education Minister's departmental responsibilities, it was noted for information.

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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.

It was agreed that the Scottish Government would host the next the next meeting. Officials will collaborate with their counterparts to set the theme and agenda.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read 'Lynne Neagle'.

Lynne Neagle AS/MS
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Cabinet Secretary for Education