

Kirsty Williams AC/AM
Ysgrifennydd y Cabinet dros Addysg
Cabinet Secretary for Education



Llywodraeth Cymru
Welsh Government

Ein cyf / Our Ref: MA(P)/KW/1080/19

Lynne Neagle AM
Chair
Children, Young People and Education Committee
National Assembly for Wales

21 March 2019

Dear Lynne,

Developing the new curriculum for Wales

Thank you for your letter dated 22 February following the Children Young People and Education Committee's recent evidence session which I attended on 10 January and subsequent correspondence with the WLGA and ADEW.

I welcome the Committee's ongoing commitment to scrutinising progress of our education reforms and would like to thank the Committee for its recent work in gathering views from our key partners and stakeholders on development to date of the new curriculum for Wales.

This is an exciting time in our education reforms, with our schools and partners all taking action to support our national mission, helping achieve our ambitions for an education system that is a source of national pride and enjoys public confidence. Our White Paper proposals for a new legislative framework are out for consultation and all Areas of Learning and Experience are being prepared for publication of the draft curriculum in April. As you say in your letter, we are close to the date when the draft curriculum content and associated publications will be available for feedback, and I know that my officials are working with you to ensure that there is an early opportunity for committee members to see all the documentation together as one draft curriculum.

I note the Committee's concerns over the range of opinion in the evidence submitted and comments on the apparent disconnect between Welsh Government and local government on this area of reform. In my written evidence to the Committee I outlined my firm belief that the way we work in partnership across the sector with schools and our partners is a key strength which supports sustainable change. I know that our ambitions to improve outcomes for all learners in Wales are shared with our partners, and I am pleased to see the WLGA and ADEW's support and commitment to the development and delivery of the new curriculum in Wales.

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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.

Local government has a critical role to play and I am grateful to ADEW and the WLGA for their constructive feedback and continued engagement in our programme of reforms. The autumn term saw enormous movement with the intensity of work on the new curriculum and we have discussed this with ADEW.

I believe we have robust programme governance in place, and I share the view that communication and engagement can be improved in both directions. My officials met with Local Authority Directors of Education last week to go through the principles of the new curriculum and we will continue to work in partnership with local government to achieve our shared ambitions for education in Wales.

Our programme governance includes representation from the middle tier including ADEW, the WLGA, Estyn, regional consortia and Qualifications Wales and we provide regular programme updates for members on key areas of reform. I would be happy to share some of this information with you to assist the Committee with its ongoing monitoring of progress against our educational reforms, and I look forward to the Committee's continued engagement, scrutiny and support on our programme of educational reform.

Yours sincerely

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

Kirsty Williams AC/AM
Y Gweinidog Addysg
Minister for Education