

Kirsty Williams AC/AM
Y Gweinidog Addysg
Minister for Education



Llywodraeth Cymru
Welsh Government

Lynne Neagle AM
Chair
Children, Young People and Education Committee
National Assembly for Wales
Ty Hywel
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29 March 2019

Dear Lynne

I am writing to thank the Children, Young People and Education Committee for its comprehensive response to the consultation on the draft Additional Learning Needs (ALN) Code.

I am grateful for the Committee's thorough scrutiny of the draft ALN Code and pleased that the Committee's direct engagement with stakeholders through the establishment of a working group has been beneficial to this process. This approach is consistent with the way that we have worked with stakeholders throughout the history of the development of the ALN transformation programme, with a strong focus on co-construction and collaboration. It is clear that stakeholders continue to feel passionate about this critical area of education reform.

Alongside the Committee's response, we have received almost 700 responses from an extensive range of stakeholders. We also have the findings from the eight regional consultation events to consider, along with the views of children, young people and parents gathered at the series of workshops we commissioned. A 'summary of responses' report will be published in due course, alongside reports on the findings from the workshops. I also intend to issue a formal Written Statement outlining the next steps in terms of how the Code and regulations may need to be revised.

There is indeed then, a large amount of information to now consider and officials are working to a tight timescale to meet my commitment of laying the ALN Code and regulations before the National Assembly for Wales by the end of 2019. This is with a view to the provisions of the Act and regulations commencing from September 2020. Despite the challenge, the wealth of information that has been provided is invaluable in helping us to get the Code and regulations right so we deliver a new system that fully supports children and young people with ALN.

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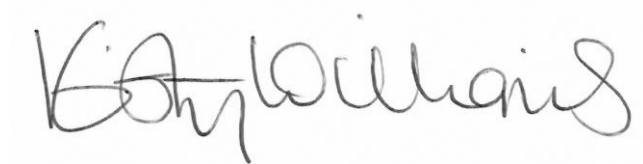
Rydym yn croesawu derbyn gohebiaeth yn Gymraeg. Byddwn yn ateb gohebiaeth a dderbynnir yn Gymraeg yn Gymraeg ac ni fydd gohebu yn Gymraeg yn arwain at oedi.

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.

The Welsh Government will now give a full and proper consideration of all the consultation responses and evidence received. At this point in the process, I do not intend to respond to each of the substantive points the Committee has raised as these will need to be considered alongside the views of other consultees as part of the full consultation analysis.

I look forward to continuing to work with the Committee on these and other matters over the coming months.

Yours sincerely

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

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