

Senedd Cymru  
Y Pwyllgor Plant, Pobl Ifanc ac Addysg

Ymchwiliad i effaith argyfwng Covid-19  
ar blant a phobl ifanc yng Nghymru

COV 06  
Ymateb gan: Athro arbenigol ysgol  
gynradd

Welsh Parliament  
Children, Young People and Education  
Committee

Inquiry into the impact of the Covid-19 outbreak  
on children and young people in Wales

COV 06  
Response from: Specialist primary school teacher

---

I am a specialist primary school teacher for pupils' with moderate learning difficulties. These are my concerns:

Impact on vulnerable learners with special educational needs and social disadvantage

Lack of resources and equipment available/lack of stimulation in some home environments

Lack of positive role models for speech, language and communication, social interaction and reciprocal play - in some homes

One of my biggest concerns over any holiday period is the lack of kind, or positive, feedback given to some of our learners; this affects their mental health and well being significantly

Gap in attainment will widen significantly between these children and their peers

Common theme among Year 6 parents is transition; many pupils have difficulty adapting to change; carefully planned, structured transition is now not taking place. Admission meetings are being replaced by 'information gathering' phone calls. Parents are worried that children will not have the opportunity to say goodbye to peers and staff, some of whom have been together for almost four years in the setting. We are reassuring them that we will make opportunities for children to return to their primary setting in year 7, one parent talked about 'reverse transition' as a possibility

Annual Reviews - pupil and parents views are more difficult collect through the formats available to us during lock down.

Below are the views of my daughter who is a third year Engineering student at Sheffield University:

Impact on young people in higher education

End of year assessments – format has been set no discussion with students and no examples of ‘past papers’ – will be walking in to exam conditions ‘blind’

Difficult to remain motivated and be as productive in home setting as would be in academic environment/ library.

No tutorials or opportunities to discuss projects and assignments in depth with lecturers, prior to submitting, adding significantly to anxiety levels. Although some lectures are available on line, have missed most of the content of this semester as Sheffield was among one of first universities to close.

Paying rent for accommodation while living at home. Rented property will soon be empty of all students – concerns that burglars are targeting student properties in the area; not knowing when will be able to collect personal items from rented accommodation/ whether insurance is valid while property is empty

Fourth year placement in industry currently uncertain as company based in Wales has furloughed and is currently unable to confirm whether placement will go ahead in June.

Thank you for consulting with us as professionals. I have contacted parents who I think will be interested/ able to respond to this call.