

Senedd Cymru  
Y Pwyllgor Plant, Pobl Ifanc ac Addysg

Welsh Parliament  
Children, Young People and Education Committee

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

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

COV 169  
Ymateb gan: Unigolyn

COV 169  
Response from: Individual

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I wanted to share my views on the detrimental impact of exclusion from classrooms, and in some cases schools, of children and young people.

I am a teacher working in England, where keyworker children accessing the childcare element can also attend classes with their peers on the relevant days. I understand this is also the case in parts of Wales, namely Swansea, Pembrokeshire, Carmarthenshire and Denbighshire that I know of. I live in Powys, where my children attend school.

In Powys, children whose parents need to have them looked after to do their critical jobs can't attend classroom sessions with their friends and teachers, even though there are only five children per room in some schools. Some are not even allowed into the school building and are being looked after in leisure centres instead. Many of these children are having no teacher input at all.

Welsh Government's own guidance on the reopening of schools makes explicit the entitlement of all children to check up sessions. It also refers to the importance of re-establishing social relationships for emotional well-being.

I had not anticipated this scenario, given my own experience teaching in England and my familiarity with WG and Powys's own guidance on reopening. My children were badly affected when I had to tell them they wouldn't be with their friends in school; so much so that I have temporarily withdrawn them from the childcare element but will be unable to do so in September.

I feel strongly that the exclusion of some children from social contact and even teaching is discriminatory. I am looking at transferring my own children to English schools if they can't be fully included in September.