

Senedd Cymru
Y Pwyllgor Plant, Pobl Ifanc ac Addysg

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

COV 170
Ymateb gan: Unigoln

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 170
Response from: Individual

I have gone from being patient and understanding as a parent and healthcare worker, to increasingly angry at the vast inequity of remote learning/support available to our children. In the Vale of Glamorgan, none of our 3 children has had any direct (non-typed) contact with their teachers throughout the whole 14 weeks of lockdown. My 12 & 14 year olds' maths lessons consist of a link to a nationally auto-marked website. Our usually conscientious children are now barely engaging and becoming anxious about interacting with their peers.

We are told that videos and live streaming present safeguarding issues and prejudice those with less digital access. Why then is that not the case in other parts of the country? It feels as though our children are being punished.

I fail to understand the lack of universal personal contact outside of email with our children. Even once a week? The impact of this additional lack of social connection - already fractured - is untold on their confidence and wellbeing. The newly commenced 3h/week check in is too little too late before the long summer holidays.

Throughout lockdown, other schools have been having up to 6 hours per day of virtual lessons, and weekly phonecalls to ALL pupils from their teachers, to check on wellbeing/understanding of worksheets set.

That the Vale and Unions cannot even agree on 1 extra week of term at a time of national emergency is unfathomable. Like NHS workers, I had thought education was a vocation that required flexibility to meet the needs of those in our care. After all, we do not have the same worries over long term job security that many of those trying to maintain their livelihoods

(whilst homeschooling) do. I feel bitterly disappointed in the Vale of Glamorgan Council and WAG leadership over this