

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



Llywodraeth Cymru  
Welsh Government

Ein cyf/Our ref KW/05344/16

Mike Hedges AM  
Assembly Member for Swansea East  
Chair - Petitions Committee  
Ty Hywel  
Cardiff Bay  
Cardiff  
CF99 1NA

government.committee.business@wales.gsi.gov.uk

11 July 2016

Dear Mike

Thank you for bringing to my attention the petition received by the Committee about the inclusion of Political Science as a compulsory element of the school curriculum. I have set out below details of how we are working to shape the future curriculum for the children and young people of Wales.

The four purposes, as articulated in Successful Futures, will be at the heart of the design of the new curriculum. One of those four purposes is to ensure our children and young people will be ethical, informed citizens who understand and exercise their human and democratic responsibilities and rights.

The design of the new curriculum is being taken forward by a network of Pioneer Schools. They are working together as a national network of schools to co-design, consult, inform, support and build capacity in schools across Wales, working in an all-Wales partnership with Welsh Government, Estyn, Higher Education, business and other key partners.

During the development process there will be opportunities for the Pioneer Schools to consider the content and structure of the six Areas of Learning Experience (AoLEs), including Humanities, which is where Political Science would likely sit. Work on the AoLEs is scheduled to begin in the autumn and it is envisaged that there will be mechanisms for stakeholders to feed into this process over time. Ahead of any legislative changes that may be needed to underpin our new approach and the new curriculum, the Welsh Government will consult to seek the views of stakeholders and interested parties.

Bae Caerdydd • Cardiff Bay  
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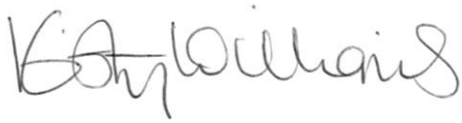
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Rydym yn croesawu derbyn gohebiaeth yn Gymraeg. Byddwn yn ateb gohebiaeth a dderbynnir yn Gymraeg yn Gymraeg ac ni fydd gohebu yn Gymraeg yn arwain at oedi.

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 aim is for the new curriculum to be available from September 2018 and used to support learning and teaching from September 2021.

Yours sincerely

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

**Kirsty Williams AC/AM**

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Cabinet Secretary for Education