

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



Llywodraeth Cymru
Welsh Government

Eich cyf/Your ref P-05-694
Ein cyf/Our ref KW/05520/16

Mike Hedges AM
Assembly Member for Swansea East
Chair - Petitions Committee
Ty Hywel
Cardiff Bay
Cardiff
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government.committee.business@wales.gsi.gov.uk

15 August 2016

Dear Mike

Thank you for your letter dated 27 July seeking my views on a petition received by the Petitions Committee from Cai Ellerton calling for schools to start an hour later in the morning. Cai refers to a test in England that has shown that students achieve better exam results if a school starts an hour later.

Although not clear from the petition, the 'test' referred to appears to relate to a year long project funded by the Education Endowment Foundation and the Science Charity the Wellcome Trust which commenced in September 2015. This involved year 10 and 11 pupils at more than 100 schools in England which were divided into 2 groups, one starting at 10 and the other following the usual school timetables. It appears from the timescales outlined that this study has yet to be concluded.

The responsibility for determining school session times lies with the school governing body. However where a local education authority considers that a change in any maintained school's session times is necessary or expedient to promote the use of sustainable modes of travel or to improve the efficiency or effectiveness of its travel arrangements, it can determine the time the school's first session begins and its second session ends (or if there is only one session, its start and end). Consequently this is not something for the Welsh Government or Welsh Ministers to decide.

Bae Caerdydd • Cardiff Bay
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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.

Where the local authority or governing body (as applicable) proposes to change the school session times, they must follow procedures set out in the Changing of School Sessions Times (Wales) Regulation 2009. This includes undertaking an appropriate consultation, holding a meeting with parents and others and giving a period of notice of the change in accordance with the regulations. The regulations also set out when the school session times have effect.

I have attached a link to the Regulations for your information.

<http://www.legislation.gov.uk/wsi/2009/572/contents/made>

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Kirsty Williams'.

Kirsty Williams AC/AM

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