

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/05873/16

Mike Hedges AM  
Chair - Petitions Committee  
National Assembly for Wales  
Ty Hywel  
Cardiff Bay  
Cardiff  
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11 October 2016

Dear Mike

Thank you for your letter dated 4 October asking if I would consider issuing guidance to local authorities and whether further research is needed and if Welsh Government would support such research.

As I advised in my response of 15 August, the responsibility for determining school session times lies with the school governing body. Decisions to change school session times can be made by the governing body or the local authority following consultation with key stakeholders and taking into account a range of issues including transport arrangements. Consequently this is not something for the Welsh Government or Welsh Minister to decide or to provide guidance.

It would appear from the link that the Petitioner provided that the project referred to has not yet concluded and is much broader than just session times in schools. I think it would be sensible to await the conclusions of this project.

You may wish to advise the Petitioner that within the context of wider Education areas, the current school curriculum provides opportunities for schools to address matters such as wellbeing through personal and social education (PSE). PSE forms part of the basic curriculum for all registered pupils in maintained schools and the non-statutory PSE framework for 7 to 19-year-old is the key document that schools should use in planning their PSE programme.

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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.

There are five key themes within the PSE framework, these are: Active Citizenship; Health and Emotional Well-being; Moral and Spiritual Development; Preparing for Lifelong Learning; and, Sustainable Development and Global Citizenship.

Through the Health and Emotional Well-being theme, schools are encouraged to include teaching and learning strategies which use interactive and experimental approaches. Learners are helped to maintain their physical health and wellbeing, sustain their growth and development. Learners are given opportunities understand the factors that affect physical development, such as proper nutrition, exercise, hygiene, safety and healthy choices. Central to the process is equipping them with the knowledge and skills to make informed decisions in these areas.

Essentially it is the responsibility of schools to plan and deliver a broad, balanced programme of PSE to meet the specific needs of learners and we encourage schools to work with organisations that could enhance the provision they already provide.

The PSE framework will be considered as part of the design and development of a new curriculum for Wales which is taking place following the publication of the 'Successful Futures' report written by Professor Graham Donaldson. In his report, Professor Donaldson identifies 4 key purposes of the education – one of which is that it should support all our children and young people to become healthy, confident individuals. In addition, his report sets out 6 Areas of Learning and Experience (AoLE) as central to the structure of the new curriculum, and one of these AoLEs is Health and Well-being. The design of the new curriculum is being taken forward by a network of Pioneer Schools 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 AoLEs, including Health & Wellbeing, and there will be mechanisms for stakeholders to feed into this process over time. 'A curriculum for Wales - a curriculum for life' sets out the high level timeline for taking these recommendations forward, with a view to the new curriculum to being made available in 2018 and used to support learning and teaching in schools and settings by 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