

Kirsty Williams MS, Minister for Education

Dyddiad | Date: 21 July 2020

Pwnc | Subject: **Curriculum and Assessment (Wales) Bill**

Dear Kirsty,

Thank you for attending Committee on 14 July to give evidence as the Member in charge of the Curriculum and Assessment (Wales) Bill.

Due to time constraints, Members were unable to ask all the questions we wished to pose to you about the Bill's provisions as they relate to Religion, Values and Ethics ("RVE") and Relationships and Sexuality Education ("RSE").

The Committee would be grateful to receive a written response to the questions below, to inform our scrutiny of the Bill's general principles.

- The Bill makes no provision for parents to be able to withdraw their children from RVE or RSE. Are you satisfied that this is compatible with parents' rights to respect for their religious and philosophical convictions under Article 2 Protocol 1 (right to education) and their right to freedom of thought, conscience and religion under Article 9 of the European Convention on Human Rights?
- What safeguards exist within the Bill (or more widely) to seek to ensure that both the RVE and RSE curricula are designed and delivered in a way that is objective, critical and pluralistic?
- Why does the Bill not place a requirement on all schools to design and teach RVE having regard to the agreed syllabus?
- Will schools with a religious character be required to design two syllabi, one denominational and the other having regard to the agreed syllabus? If so, how will schools be able to deliver this in practice where they are required to teach both?
- Is there a risk, given that the Bill requires a pupil to be provided with non-denominational RVE in a voluntary aided school where their parent requests it, certain schools with a religious



Senedd Cymru
Bae Caerdydd, Caerdydd, CF99 1SN

✉ SeneddPPIA@senedd.cymru

☎ 0300 200 6565

Welsh Parliament
Cardiff Bay, Cardiff, CF99 1SN

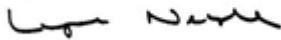
✉ SeneddCYPE@senedd.wales

☎ 0300 200 6565

character could end up in breach of their trust deeds where a majority of parents make such a request?

- Can you confirm whether the Welsh Government intends to undertake a further consultation on the statutory guidance to local authorities regarding agreed syllabi for RVE and that the current consultation (ending 28 July 2020) is a preliminary step to this? When do you anticipate undertaking any additional consultation on RVE?

Yours sincerely,



Lynne Neagle MS

Chair

Croesewir gohebiaeth yn Gymraeg neu Saesneg | We welcome correspondence in Welsh or English.

