

Kirsty Williams AS/MS
Y Gweinidog Addysg
Minister for Education



Llywodraeth Cymru
Welsh Government

Eich cyf/Your ref P-05-950
Ein cyf/Our ref KW/03384/20

Janet Finch-Saunders MS
Chair, Petitions Committee

6 July 2020

Dear Janet,

Thank you for your letter dated 18 June regarding the Petition (P-05-950) Agriculture and Countryside Education for 4-16-year olds in our schools. The Petitions Committee has asked what work is being done to develop teaching resources on subjects, including those brought to the attention of the Committee, and when these resources will be made available for teachers.

Your letter is very timely as education in Wales is changing. In January 2020 the first iteration of the new Curriculum for Wales was launched. At the heart of the new curriculum are the four purposes which set out the aspirations for all children and young people. By the age of 16, they should be confident, ethical individuals who play an active part in their community and society.

The curriculum will be available for first teaching in September 2022; it provides a framework to support all schools to design their own curriculum at a local school level. This is significant departure from the previous top down prescriptive approach.

As part of the *Keep Education Safe: guidance on learning over the summer term* issued on 10 June 2020, schools have been advised to maximize the time learners spend outdoors. The physical, mental and educational benefits of outdoor learning approaches are:

- learning 'in' the outdoors has been shown to support both physical and mental health and well-being
- learning 'about' the outdoors provides a context to develop ambitious, capable learners (particularly though science and humanities)
- learning 'for' the outdoors can be about understanding the climate emergency and environmental sustainability, leading to the development of ethical, informed citizens.

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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.

A wide range of organisations provide resources to support schools and settings when considering outdoor learning which accessed via Hwb, as well as through the Wales Council for Outdoor Learning, including their guidance on 'High Quality Outdoor Learning for Wales':

<https://hwb.gov.wales/repository/discovery>

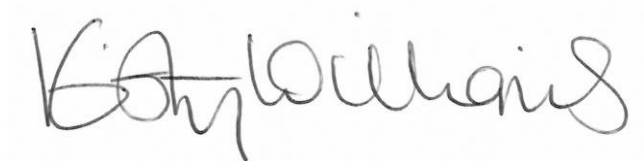
<https://www.walescouncilforoutdoorlearning.org/activity-ideas/>

As part of its on-going activities Natural Resources Wales has developed on-line resources which cover issues including trees and woodlands to sustainable development. The resources highlight the importance of sustainability in managing our natural resources, the environment and local communities:

<https://naturalresources.wales/guidance-and-advice/business-sectors/education-learning-and-skills/looking-for-learning-resources/?lang=en>

I hope this information has been helpful.

Yours sincerely

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

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