

Senedd Cymru
Y Pwyllgor Plant, Pobl Ifanc ac Addysg

Welsh Parliament
Children, Young People and Education Committee

Ymchwiliad i effaith argyfwng Covid-19
ar blant a phobl ifanc yng Nghymru

Inquiry into the impact of the Covid-19 outbreak on
children and young people in Wales

COV 176
Ymateb gan: Unigolyn

COV 176
Response from: Individual

The impact on the well-being and mental health of my child during this time has been huge. She is 4 years old and suddenly one day she is told her nursery school is closed. Indefinitely. We say goodbye to friends/teachers on the Friday with no idea when she will return. Belongings are left there as at this time we are all hopeful of a return before the end of year.

Lockdown.... we are now confined to walking up and down the A48 as there is no where else to walk that is close to our house. Jumping out of the way of other people. Initially the roads are quiet but they gradually build up with traffic and it's now not safe for my 4 year old and my 1 year old screams in terror as the lorries speeding past are loud and scare him. So we are confined to the house. At the start of lock down we video called friends, by a week/ 2 weeks in, she doesn't want to. She's withdrawn/quiet but then has flashes of anger and crying.

We started off "homeschool" following the learning sent from school. However it's not as much fun doing it on her own with mummy. 15 weeks ago we started by managing to do a bit everyday, very hard whilst trying to also look after a one year old. In order to sit with her I'm almost ignoring him. Tasks at home take far longer than they would in school as she loses concentration. After a month in we are managing one/two tasks a week but she has zero interest and it ends in tears. We stopped "homeschool" after about 2 months. It ends up in frustration and meltdowns. Before this she was bright/engaged and happy to learn and loved the "learning" we did together. Now she won't even pick up a pencil. This is not sustainable for a long term period. I will soon have to go back to work and won't even be able to try to "Home school".

Half of her nursery year has been stolen from her, a time that was meant to prepare them for school. Now we face the prospect that she may not even get to start in Reception in September and even if she does for what? 3 hours once a week? Sat on her own at a desk? No contact with friends. The prospect is hideous. We should now be preparing for her start of school, finding out her teacher, buying her uniform. Instead... nothing!! As a nursery

pupil she has been offered 30 mins on the last week of term to come and collect her belongings and say goodbye to her nursery teacher... that is it!! So no, not every child in Wales has been able to come back to school. (Most school nurseries haven't even offered this so I am "lucky").

A "blended" approach is not acceptable. Whatever you call it, it's part time school.

In addition to the school side. Our children are still being denied friends/ play and family. Why are playgrounds still closed? In England they are open. Why are we disadvantaging our children? We can't see family still.... unless you can "bubble" with them but what if a grand parent doesn't want to choose one set of grandchildren over the others? How can you expect a 4 and a 1 year old to keep 2m away from their family?

The impact on my 4 year old child has been massive. Also on my 1 year old.

He has had no contact with children his own age to learn to share/play.

Our children are being denied many of their rights... to be educated, to play to name just 2. Most activities that children take part in are still closed... playgrounds/swimming pools/sports clubs/ play centres etc This is only a small part of the impact of covid-19 on my children.