

Senedd Cymru
Y Pwyllgor Plant, Pobl Ifanc ac Addysg

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

COV 132a
Ymateb gan: UsForThem Cymru team

Welsh Parliament
Children, Young People and Education Committee

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

COV 132a
Response from: UsForThem Cymru team

We want to express our concerns regarding the confusing message that was issued by Welsh Government yesterday in their new guidance .

Before Summer term started you may recall that KW stated that all schools will return full time with limited social distancing , please see below

<https://gov.wales/education-minister-announces-back-school-plans-september>

Yesterday , an announcement around masks was given and in the statement the Minister stated that social distancing WOULD be required in schools , please see statement below - in particular the statement - *As part of the risk assessment we recommend that staff, students, families and unions are engaged. Social distancing is still required in the classroom, so face to face teaching without coverings can continue. The overall interests of the young person must be given priority in these assessments and there must be no risk of exclusion from transport to school. Face coverings may need to be provided to young people who don't have them, if they are recommended locally.*

<https://gov.wales/statement-face-coverings-schools?fbclid=IwAR1wYESSXd9bEKh2-ascJQ51N87twKOla8ZAHzfl-My7zBtKWTPPx6SqDRU>

However , on Radio Wales today the Minister stated that masks don't need to be worn yet and could cause children to be bullied in schools - please see link below .

- <https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-wales-politics-53930223>

Given that transmission rates are falling in Wales , and also what we know of how this virus now acts on what basis is the decision to wear masks being requested , and is it being requested or not ?

Has social distancing in schools been reintroduced , as before Summer it was "limited social distancing " and on what grounds has this been changed ?

Our members are confused and upset regarding this messaging , with only 2 days until children had anticipated a full return to school Welsh Government , without consultation has thrown the back to school reopening into confusion and chaos which ultimately only results in MORE stress for our children and young people .

Please can this matter and email urgently be responded too .