



Eich cyf/Your ref P-05-1133
Ein cyf/Our ref KW/00717/21

Janet Finch-Saunders MS
Chair, Petitions Committee

Dear Janet,

2 February 2021

Thank you for your letter regarding Petition P-05-1133 submitted by Tracey Jones.

Initial Teacher Education (ITE) has undergone major reform in recent years. Teaching Tomorrow's Teachers <https://gov.wales/review-initial-teacher-training-2015-teaching-tomorrows-teachers> identified the need for reform of content and delivery of ITE programmes to prepare trainees to support the four purposes of the new curriculum for Wales and address the six areas of learning and experience (AoLE) in order to develop future teachers to meet the needs of all learners.

The criteria for the accreditation of initial teacher education programmes have been updated to reflect the changes required and set the framework within which ITE programmes need to be developed and as such we do not prescribe or mandate the specific content required to meet these criteria. The criteria can be viewed at <https://gov.wales/sites/default/files/publications/2018-09/criteria-for-the-accreditation-of-initial-teacher-education-programmes-in-wales.pdf>

The accreditation of ITE Programmes is an independent process undertaken by the Education Workforce Council through the Teacher Education Accreditation Board (TEAB) which determines whether a proposed programme addresses accreditation criteria and meets the vision for ITE in Wales.

Within the criteria there is a requirement for programmes to provide student teachers with the opportunities to develop up-to-date theoretical knowledge and understanding as well as practical insight into how children and young people develop and learn. This should, inter alia, include:

- children's and young people's cognitive, social and emotional development

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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.


- how children and young people learn
- the factors that can promote or hinder effective learning including the impact of learners' backgrounds, identities, values and beliefs
- the need to provide for the holistic development of the learner
- the centrality of well being to effective learning.

To support this we have commissioned our partners in Universities to develop enrichment modules that ITE students and existing practitioners will be able to access. These modules will be available in the near future and will address

- Adverse childhood experiences
- Wellbeing – overview of resources
- Role of the Teaching Assistant in supporting learner well-being
- Modelling approaches to whole school and cluster level engagement with well-being
- Additional Learning Needs
- Accessing services and provision mapping
- Emotional and mental well-being
- Leadership for teacher well-being
- Behaviour
- Child development
- Neurodevelopment and pedagogy

Together, in conjunction with other training available, these measures are designed to prepare the workforce to be able to understand the development of learners and help them build resilience in meeting the challenges they will face.

Yours sincerely

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

Kirsty Williams AS/MS
Y Gweinidog Addysg
Minister for Education