

Cyflwynwyd yr ymateb hwn i ymgynghoriad y [Pwyllgor Plant, Pobl Ifanc ac Addysg](#) ar [Flaenoriaethau'r Chweched Senedd](#)

This response was submitted to the [Children, Young People and Education Committee](#) consultation on [Sixth Senedd Priorities](#)

CYPE SP 71

Ymateb gan: Hazel Turner-Lyons

Response from: Hazel Turner-Lyons

Beth yn eich barn chi yw'r prif flaenoriaethau neu'r materion y dylai'r Pwyllgor eu hystyried yn ystod y Chweched Senedd? Os oes modd, nodwch eich barn o ran sut y gallai'r Pwyllgor fynd i'r afael â hyn.

What do you consider to be the main priorities or issues that the Committee should consider during the Sixth Senedd? Where possible, please set out your view about how the Committee could address them.

Thema 1: Addysg oedran ysgol | Theme 1: School-age education

A priority for the sixth Senedd ought to be responding to the revelations of the *Everyone's Invited* campaign, which highlighted unacceptable levels of abuse and intimidation from boys to girls happening in UK schools (<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-wales-politics-57428624>). 91 Welsh schools were named on the site making tackling this an obvious top priority. Access to a good education will be denied to girls if the Welsh Government does not immediately get to grips with this issue. This means girls must be guaranteed privacy in properly sex-segregated spaces wherever they need it, especially in toilets and changing rooms. Too many Welsh schools are responding to legally incorrect advice to have mixed sex-toilets and too many schools are allowing male students to identify as female and have access to girl-only spaces. There is no scientific or legal basis for doing this and knowing how much sexual harassment girls are suffering in schools, it is vital that boundaries are strengthened not weakened at this point in time. Gender non-conforming children who wish to wear any permutation of school uniform should be allowed but use the facilities which correspond to their sex. Anti-bullying policies must be strengthened/enforced to ensure GNC children do not suffer for their choices. Another serious issue fanning the flames of sexual harassment and abuse is boys' access to pornography. According to a 2017 study, the average age that males first saw porn was 13.37 years old. This means that by Year 9, the majority of boys will have seen porn. The same study showed that the younger boys are when they



first watch porn, the more they wish to exert power over girls (<https://www.independent.co.uk/life-style/gadgets-and-tech/news/porn-age-first-viewed-young-old-women-relate-playboy-promiscuous-power-exert-a7875481.html>). This is a challenge for schools but much can be done to educate learners and their parents about the effects and dangers of accessing online pornography. Girls' specific needs around their bodies need to be understood and incorporated into school policy, specifically the need for menstrual products and, again, privacy to be able to access the products and change. Girls should not suffer if their families cannot afford to buy products as period poverty can cause girls to miss time from school. Young people are experiencing an epidemic of mental ill-health but there is much schools can do to support them. Keeping young people safe from bullying, sexual harassment and abuse, giving them access to single-sex provisions, menstrual products and keeping them away from harmful sexual imagery and practices is, in my opinion as a parent and experienced youth worker, a very good place to start, especially as children and young people are self-reporting their struggles with these issues.

Thema 2: Addysg bellach ac addysg uwch | Theme 2: Further and higher education

Same as in Theme 1

Thema 3: Iechyd a lles, gan gynnwys gofal cymdeithasol (i'r graddau y maent yn ymwneud â phlant a phobl ifanc) | Theme 3: Health and well-being, including social care (as they relate to children and young people)

As highlighted in Theme 1 – menstrual health for girls, challenging pornography use and culture for boys, freedom from sexual harassment and abuse, access to single-sex provisions and strengthened/enforced anti-bullying policies and access to mental health support.

Thema 4: Plant a phobl ifanc | Theme 4: Children and young people

Same as in Theme 1

