

PA13 Individual

Senedd Cymru

Y Pwyllgor Plant, Pobl Ifanc ac Addysg

Absenoldeb Disgyblion

Ymateb gan Unigolyn

Welsh Parliament

Children, Young People and Education Committee

Pupil absence

Evidence from Individual

Record your views against the inquiry's terms of reference, which have been grouped into 5 themes.

1. Reasons

Children have become disillusioned with school. After 2 years of relative isolation they find the overcrowding in schools overwhelming. Girls are pushed around by bigger boys in the lunch queues and general behaviour has deteriorated making school an uncomfortable place to be. There is nowhere for quieter pupils to get away from the mayhem and they feel safer at home.

If they do have a cough or a cold the advice is to stay at home whereas previously they would have gone into school with minor ailments.

2. Risks and consequences

Some year 11s are leaving school with no plans for their future because career services and evenings were cut back in covid. Vulnerable children are more at risk

3. Impact

N/A

4. Effectiveness of policies

The Welsh government policies stopped school trips, sports, musical concerts etc. all the fun parts of school that made it a community stopped during covid and haven't restarted properly. Kids looked forward to school trips that were cancelled over and over again so that they are too frightened to look forward to things again for fear of more disappointment. These things are important and without them education becomes a drudgery and kids lose their spark and become disillusioned.

5. Other

Bring back school trips, ensure funding is available for disadvantaged kids too. Ensure inter school activities including athletics can go ahead. Give kids the chance to do something they enjoy and give them somewhere - more space in school so they can get away from the crowds if they need to. Too many people forced into a small area after months of isolation will make people feel anxious.

