

## PA37 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

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

### 1. Reasons

This is a personal account, prior to COVID I had a happy confident teenager, thrived in school and loved the routine that school life held. COVID hit the first lockdown was very stressful, my child found the change from face to face teaching to the hap hazard but of work put onto Google classroom, no support from staff in the early days how to adjust to this new way of learning! My child completely lost confidence in their own abilities, started to become withdrawn and a complete shell of their 'normal' self! . Roll onto the return to school, the anxiety behind this return was palpable. My child went from a happy child loving school to literally crying every day not wanting to go. Missed so much work. Roll on to year 11 having missed two years of full time education my bright clever child became a shadow of her former self . Is no under the care of CAHMS because her mental health deteriorated so much, the pressures of having to sit GCSE's I thought would tip her over the edge. I have put no pressure on to her to pass with flying colours, her predicted grades were A\* , and A's there's no way she'll attain that. Not only did she have anxiety and depression caused by COVID isolation she developed COVID in October 2021 and has been suffering from short term memory ever since.

So to the question why is absence so high post COVID..... COVID has had a massive effect on so many peoples lives and the incidence of teenage mental health is at an all time high. There are days when my child physically can not leave the house the anxiety is overwhelming!! Parents shouldn't be fined for child absence, they should be supported to look at the root cause.

### 2. Risks and consequences

N/A

### 3. Impact

The home schooling was so inadequate in the early days of lockdown, my child found it so stressful having been a confident capable child. The online support was almost none existent initially and caused a lot of distress. The lack of support caused my child to lose interest in certain subjects. My daughter is one of the more able children, I hate to think the effect it has had on children who have little motivation in the first place.

### 4. Effectiveness of policies

Not well initially, communication has got better over time.

## 5. Other

N/A