

**Jeremy Miles AS/MS**  
**Gweinidog y Gymraeg ac Addysg**  
**Minister for Education and Welsh Language**



**Llywodraeth Cymru**  
**Welsh Government**

Eich cyf/Your ref P-05-924  
Ein cyf/Our ref JMEWL/01203/22

Jack Sargeant MS  
Chair - Petitions committee  
Senedd Cymru  
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23 June 2022

Dear Jack,

Thank you for your letter of 7 June regarding Petition (P-05-924) regarding school wellbeing ambassadors. I note this petition was originally submitted in 2019 and at the time the previous Minister for Education wrote to you outlining our plans to support wellbeing and tackle bullying. Following your meeting on 23 May, you are now seeking an update on this activity and specifically whether the anti-bullying guidance and the whole school approach framework is in place.

In relation to tackling bullying, the Welsh Government's suite of guidance '[Rights, respect, equality](#)' provides statutory guidance for both governing bodies of maintained schools, and local authorities to help address and prevent bullying and harassment in education settings. This is supported by training for school leaders, practitioners and governors focussed on anti-bullying, and which implements our anti-bullying guidance and is delivered by two leading anti-bullying charities – the Anti-Bullying Alliance and Kidscape. We have also committed to update our anti-bullying guidance by the beginning of the next academic year, we will build on this guidance further by working with the Children's Commissioner for Wales over the next few months, to engage with the lived experiences of children and young people, as well as our teachers and education practitioners.

As for our whole school approach. In March 2021, the Welsh Government published the [Framework on embedding a whole school approach to emotional and mental well-being](#). The framework is statutory guidance and ensures consistent approaches for schools to review their wellbeing needs; put in place strategies to build on their strengths and address gaps; and review activity. The framework complements the new curriculum which, from September 2022, includes the Health and Well-being Area of Learning and Experience, ensuring the new curriculum's focus on the health and wellbeing of learners.

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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.

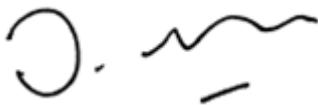
We welcome receiving correspondence in Welsh. Any correspondence received in Welsh will be answered in Welsh and corresponding in Welsh will not lead to a delay in responding.

To ensure the Whole School Approach Framework is effectively implemented I, together with the Deputy Minister for Mental Health and Wellbeing, have agreed to make available £12.2m this year, part of a total investment of over £43m over the next three years, specifically to support wellbeing in schools. Part of the funding is being used to support implementation coordinators, supported by Public Health Wales and embedded within the Welsh Network of Healthy School Schemes, who will support schools in embedding the Framework. Funding is also being used to improve and extend the provision of school counselling; provide universal and targeted wellbeing interventions; train teachers and other school staff on children's wellbeing; and roll out across Wales the CAMHS school in-reach service, which sees dedicated mental health practitioners in schools providing consultation, liaison, advice and training to school staff.

At the heart of the Framework is co-construction and ensuring that children and young people are fully engaged in developing school wellbeing strategies. I believe wellbeing ambassadors and peer mentors are already established in many schools and are a valuable part of supporting our learners. Such initiatives should form part of the school's assessment of its wellbeing needs and support needed, as required by our Framework.

I would be pleased to provide you with further updates as activity progresses.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, consisting of a large 'J' followed by a series of wavy lines and a short horizontal stroke at the end.

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