



Jack Sargent MS
Chair
Petitions Committee
By email

17th June 2024

Dear Chair

Review the inadequate funding for Schools in Wales

We are writing to you in support of the above petition, prepared by the Chair of Governors Association for Wales.

We agree wholeheartedly that a review of the level of funding for education in Wales.

We have recently updated the School Cuts Cymru website, which highlights the cuts in school funding in Wales since 2010. The updated School Cuts Cymru¹ website shows that funding cuts implemented by the UK Government have resulted in 69% of comparable maintained schools in Wales facing real-terms cuts since 2010/11.

In total 922 schools in Wales have faced cuts, with real terms per pupil funding falling by £343 (7%) for primary pupils, £388 (7%) for secondary and £411 (2%) for special schools.

As the organisations behind the School Cuts website, we are collectively calling for all political parties to commit to a plan to invest the funding needed in education to eradicate all school cuts. To restore funding back to 2010/11 levels in real terms for all schools in Wales would require an investment of £154 million.

¹ <https://schoolcuts.cymru/>

We understand that the Welsh Government does not hold all the levers in terms of funding, but none-the-less, education must be a priority.

Further to those issues outlined within the petition, which are caused by insufficient funding, we believe that in order to fully implement the huge numbers of education reforms (including those to the curriculum, qualifications and additional learning needs), additional funding is needed.

Additional funding would allow time outside of the classroom (through funding backfill), to ensure teachers have sufficient time for planning, assessment, professional learning and collaboration. Without this, we could see the opportunities which the new curriculum affords us lost.

Further more, more funding could help support additional time for ALNCos to fulfil the requirements of the ALNET Act, for schools to employ teams to help focus on attendance and for there to be sufficient resources in each and every classroom. Our members tell us they are turning to parents' groups for extra money for basic resources, such as pens, glue sticks and sand.

In FE, classes are getting bigger, and funding is getting smaller, whilst they too grapple with the additional responsibilities of the ALNET Act, and the introduction of Medr.

We would welcome the opportunity to give oral evidence to the committee on this critical issue, as like the petitioners, we believe that "Our children deserve the best education and must not suffer through funding cuts."

Yours sincerely,

Eithne Hughes,
Director, ASCL Cymru

Laura Doel,
National Secretary, NAHT Cymru

Nicola Fitzpatrick,
Acting Wales Secretary, NEU Cymru

Cc. Buffy Williams MS, Chair, Children, Young People and Education Committee.