

P-06-1264 For school transport guaranteed for all comprehensive children – Correspondence from the Petitioner, 02 November 2024

Please accept my apologies, I have been very unwell the last 2 weeks with Covid.

I would ask if it's possible to pass on my comments to the petition committee. Today Saturday the 2nd of November I attended surgery with County Councillor Richard Granville, Councillor Elaine Winstanley, County councillor and leader of the Bridgend County Borough Councillor John Spanswick, alongside the MP for Aberavon Steven Kinnock.

In attendance were some parents and children, discussing the lack of bus services to travel to and from school, and the voices of the children describing those children's experience of walking over 2.5 miles to get to school.

To the petition committee, please be the voices for these young children, I can't tell you how heartbreaking it was to hear the distress of children walking to school.

One child told us all of the discomfort she feels if she has walked to school and it rains, She is not allowed to wear any weather proof coat because it does not comply with school uniform. She is unable to wear socks over her tights to try and keep her feet warm, most of the time she can't wait to get to school just to try and warm up, which she doesn't because the classrooms are never warm. She says she sits there with wet feet because the rain has gotten into her shoes, she can't even go to the toilets because they are locked and only open if they give a pass to use them. This was a similar story of some of the other children that were in attendance, they said nobody cares. They spend the day cold, sometimes their books get wet if the rain is heavy as their bags are not waterproof these children are so unhappy that they don't even want to go to school and it takes most of them 50 minutes to walk to school and 50 minutes back, and even though there is a suggested route it is not suitable to all, extending their journeys so numerous amounts of children are crossing the A48 that runs through Pyle.

Just for one second please consider how you would feel if you had to walk that amount of time to work, carrying your laptops ect and not having the facilities to change or warm up. Why are we treating our children so poorly, I understand that cuts have to be made, but can't you consider working hand in hand with local councils to bring the school buses back on line to within the 2 mile, that was in place numerous years ago.

With a new budget being passed down from the central government that information was supplied by Stephen Kinnock please please consider opening a new discussion into home school transport and let's put a stop to these children in our country suffering in this way. The children that were there today would love to come and tell you how they feel. Please support this petition and do something

good and positive. as we are all losing faith that the people that represent us are looking out for us.

Thank you

With Kind regards

Emma Jane Granville