

Lynne Neagle AS/MS
Ysgrifennydd y Cabinet dros Addysg
Cabinet Secretary for Education



Llywodraeth Cymru
Welsh Government

Carolyn Thomas MS
Chair - Petitions committee
Senedd Cymru
Cardiff Bay
Cardiff
CF99 1SN

7 May 2025

Dear Carolyn,

Thank you for sharing the copy of your recent report regarding Petition P-06-1482 Ban smartphones in all schools in Wales (with exemptions for exceptional circumstances).

Over the past two years, we have engaged with the education workforce unions, Local Authorities, Schools, children and young people, families, and representatives from other sectors regarding the issues and impact smart phones are having in schools and on young people's behaviour. Your report clearly sets out the complexity of the issues at play, and the range of views on this matter.

I am due to meet with Ofcom shortly to further discuss mobile phone and social media usage. The Children's Commissioner for Wales also published the findings of research they carried out in October 2024 with children and young people for their thoughts about the use of smartphones in school which provided us with further valuable insight.

I have included with this letter our formal response to your report, and I am pleased to say we are fully accepting three of the recommendations in full. To enable this, I will be bringing together key partners and experts to look at these issues with the two remaining recommendations accepted in principle subject to their discussions.

I welcome the Committees continued work on these important issues.

Yours sincerely

Lynne Neagle AS/MS
Ysgrifennydd y Cabinet dros Addysg
Cabinet Secretary for Education

Canolfan Cyswllt Cyntaf / First Point of Contact Centre:
0300 0604400

Bae Caerdydd • Cardiff Bay
Caerdydd • Cardiff
CF99 1SN

Gohebiaeth.Lynne.Neagle@llyw.cymru
Correspondence.Lynne.Neagle@gov.wales

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.