

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



Llywodraeth Cymru
Welsh Government

Ein cyf/Our ref LN/00013/26

Carolyn Thomas MS
Chair - Petitions committee

09 February 2026

Dear Carolyn,

Thank you for your email of 6 January 2026 concerning Petition P-06-1560: Reinstate single sex toilet provision in educational settings.

I appreciate the concerns raised by the petition regarding the provision of single sex toilets in schools, and I am aware of the Merched Cymru report. I would like to clarify that in Wales, schools are legally required to provide separate single-sex washrooms for boys and girls aged eight and over, as stated in [The Education \(School Premises\) Regulations 1999](#). Local authorities, diocesan authorities, schools and governing bodies must ensure compliance with the legislation governing the provision and design of toilets.

The 2025 consultation on the *Rights, respect, equality anti-bullying* guidance asked “*To what extent do you agree that the Education (School Premises) Regulations 1999 should be amended to make clear that schools may provide gender-neutral toilets in addition to sex-separated toilets?*”. Responses to the consultation were analysed and published on the [Welsh Government website](#). The final version of the *Rights, respect, equality anti-bullying* guidance will be published before the end of this term of government.

I expect school governing bodies to develop sensible policies for the use of toilets during the school day which take into account pupils’ needs. It is equally important that all learners feel safe to use toilet facilities at any time.

Where there are concerns about toilet provision in schools there are local approaches that can be effective in resolving them, such as feedback to the headteacher or governing body, or through the school’s formal complaints procedure where necessary.

Yours sincerely,

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

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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.