

Senedd Cymru  
Y Pwyllgor Plant, Pobl Ifanc ac Addysg

Welsh Parliament  
Children, Young People and Education Committee

Ymchwiliad i effaith argyfwng Covid-19 ar blant  
a phobl ifanc yng Nghymru

Inquiry into the impact of the Covid-19 outbreak on  
children and young people in Wales

COV 182  
Ymateb gan: Unigolyn

COV 182  
Response from: Individual

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I am writing to give my feedback to your consultation into the scrutiny of Covid-19 and its impact on children and young people. My feedback is generally in relation to education.

I am a full time working mother of two bright and normally happy children aged 8 and 9 years old, who attend Broughton Primary School. My husband is a key worker and not able to work from home. I am a Managing Director of a Software company, normally reliant on the school's breakfast and after school club when I travel with work, at the moment I am working from home short term until approximately September. I have no one to look after my children when I start travelling again.

I have done my very best for my children, but as each week goes on, we struggle more. I have tried twice to request Broughton Primary School take my children into their hub facility as we have one key worker parent and I am not able to give them much interaction whilst working. Both were rejected. We are doing the school work each day, but I am not sure of the value of it as my children are not very receptive to it at home. It has become a daily trial to squeeze the work into short timescales in between my daily meetings or late at night when everyone is tired. Our home environment has changed from happy to very stressed and unhappy. My children are basically being left to their own devices every day whilst I work and feel rejected when they come into to see me, but I'm on a call and can't react to them. I get them out for a walk every day, keep them fed and watered, but feel extremely cruel about ignoring them for the rest of the time. I have taken holiday (as has my husband) but there is only so much we can take.

My daughter's behaviour has gone downhill, she doesn't want to leave the house and she constantly tells me that I am ignoring her and she hates school work (she normally loves school). My son is wetting his bed nightly (he has a history of this, but it had become under control before the pandemic and has now got worse).

Both children are only receiving 3 tasks each day from school through Google classroom and mostly this links to things like BBC Bitesize learning. There have been no online lessons or any interaction with teachers other than the odd comment 'well done' when work is handed in.

My children don't appear to be worried about the virus itself, they realise it is unlikely to harm them, but they could carry it and pass it to others and are happy to social distance and wash hands regularly.

Parents like me and their children are struggling through but the Government and Broughton Primary School must do more. Every person with power within the education sector must work together to get ALL children back to school from September. I am terrified of the lasting impact this time will have on my children both educationally and the damage to their mental health and well being.

It is unfair that other children, such as private school children have been getting online lessons and mine have missed out as the school don't offer them. It is unfair that just 5 miles away from us, in England all children will be back to their routine and every day schooling from September and mine won't. I believe if we seriously can't get all children in schools in September, they should be rotated and those not in class should have the right to dial in to watch the lessons online. That will ensure they have some routine, interaction with other people, structure, same level of teaching consistent with their friends.

I also fear for the parents who can't work and become unemployable given there are no options for childcare at a time when children would normally be in school. Job losses from inability to show up to work will put more children into poverty in Wales.

I am happy to speak to anyone in relation to this and I hope it goes some way to encouraging the powers that be to do more to get our children online lessons and back into school as quickly as possible.