

Kirsty Williams AC/AM
Ysgrifennydd y Cabinet dros Addysg
Cabinet Secretary for Education



Llywodraeth Cymru
Welsh Government

Eich cyf/Your ref P-05-708
Ein cyf/Our ref KW/05559/16

Mike Hedges AM
Assembly Member for Swansea East
Chair - Petitions Committee
Ty Hywel
Cardiff Bay
Cardiff
CF99 1NA

government.committee.business@wales.gsi.gov.uk

16 August 2016

Dear Mike

Thank you for bringing to my attention the petition received by the Committee about the inclusion of compulsory mental health education in the new curriculum.

As I mentioned in a recent reply (P-05-695), our plan for realising the new curriculum and assessment arrangements in Wales 'A curriculum for Wales: A curriculum for life' was published last October. The design, as stated in the report, will be taken forward by a network of Pioneer Schools working within an all-Wales partnership with education experts, Welsh Government, Estyn, Higher Education, business and other key partners. It is their collective expertise that will shape the new curriculum and they will consider evidence for all topics, including mental well-being.

Our plan builds on the independent review of curriculum and assessment arrangements in Wales, *Successful Futures*, which recommended that legislation for the new curriculum should not specify detailed prescription of content but provide guidance to allow greater flexibility for practitioners. However, within those parameters, it is clear that the central organising principle of the new curriculum will be the four purposes set out in the report, one of which is to support children and young people to become healthy, confident individuals.

The Pioneer Schools will have a leading role in developing the content and structure of the six Areas of Learning Experience (AoLEs), including Health and well-being. *Successful Futures* notes that this AoLE will draw on mental, physical and emotional well-being. Work on the AoLEs is scheduled to begin in the autumn and as the development work progresses there will be mechanisms for stakeholders and interested parties to feed into the process.

Bae Caerdydd • Cardiff Bay
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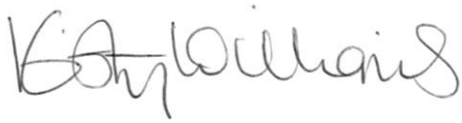
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Rydym yn croesawu derbyn gohebiaeth yn Gymraeg. Byddwn yn ateb gohebiaeth a dderbynnir yn Gymraeg yn Gymraeg ac ni fydd gohebu yn Gymraeg yn arwain at oedi.

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.

I envisage the new curriculum will be made available to schools from 2018 and fully available to support learning and teaching by 2021.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Kirsty Williams'.

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