

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



Llywodraeth Cymru  
Welsh Government

Ein cyf/Our ref: MA-P-KW-1698-18

Lynne Neagle  
Chair of the Children, Young People and Education Committee

15 May 2017

Dear Lynne

Thank you for your letter of 4 May seeking the Children, Young People and Education Committee's input in shaping the School Organisation Code before it is laid before the Assembly.

As you are aware the School Standards and Organisation (Wales) Act 2013 requires the Welsh Ministers to issue a School Organisation Code. Before issuing or revising the Code they must consult with local authorities, school governing bodies, her majesty's Chief Inspector of Education and Training in Wales and any other person they consider appropriate.

I announced my intention to consult on revisions to the School Organisation Code in Plenary in November 2016. Subsequently on 30 June 2017 I issued a written statement advising Assembly Members of the launch of a 14 week consultation on the draft Code. I encouraged Assembly Members to respond and to urge parents, teachers and communities in their constituencies to do so also. The consultation ended on 30 September 2017.

We are currently in the process of analysing consultation responses, a summary of which will be published before summer recess. The Code must then be updated to reflect consultation responses before being laid before the National Assembly for Wales for 40 days, which does not include any time during which the Assembly is dissolved or is in recess for more than four days. The Code may then come into force unless the Assembly resolves not to approve it. If no such resolution is made before the end of that period the Welsh Minister must issue the revised Code in the form of the draft. We expect the Code to be published in the autumn and to come into force before the end of the year.

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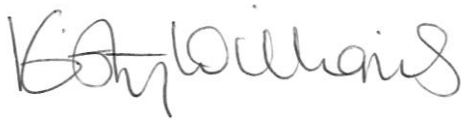
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Rydym yn croesawu derbyn gohebiaeth yn Gymraeg. Byddwn yn ateb gohebiaeth a dderbynnir yn Gymraeg yn Gymraeg ac ni fydd gohebu yn Gymraeg yn arwain at oedi.

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 will forward you the draft Code for the Committee to have sight of before it is laid before the Assembly.

Yours sincerely

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

**Kirsty Williams AC/AM**

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