

CYPE(5)-01-20 - Paper to note 6

Kirsty Williams AC/AM
Y Gweinidog Addysg
Minister for Education



Llywodraeth Cymru
Welsh Government

Eich cyf/Your ref
Ein cyf/Our ref

Lynne Neagle AM
Children, Young People and Education
Committee National Assembly for Wales
Cardiff Bay
Cardiff
CF99 1NA

11 December 2019

Dear Lynne

Thank you for your letter of 19 November regarding home education and correspondence received by committee members about the recent consultation on statutory guidance for local authorities on home education.

In relation to the legal advice you refer to in your letter, my officials are currently considering and analysing the consultation responses including those that raise matters regarding points of legal interpretation and clarification. Whilst I am not yet in a position to provide you with clarification on the points raised, my ministerial statement on the 11 December confirmed that we are taking time to consider all of the complex issues that the consultation has identified.

The statement also outlined that both the statutory guidance and the database regulations¹ will be subject to robust processes and scrutiny, such as a data protection impact assessment, integrated impact assessment and a regulatory impact assessment. I can confirm the regulations will also be the subject of a plenary debate in due course.

I acknowledge the concerns of the committee, and I assure you the intention remains unchanged, and that is to ensure that home-educated children and young people in Wales receive a suitable education. The best interest of the child is paramount and I am committed to ensuring that children are supported to be the best that they can be, whether in mainstream education or home educated.

¹ Children Act 2004 Education Database (Wales) Regulations 2020 and the Education (Information about Children in Independent Schools) (Wales) Regulations 2020

Canolfan Cyswllt Cyntaf / First Point of Contact Centre:
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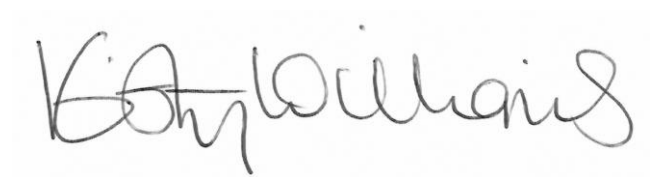
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Rydym yn croesawu derbyn gohebiaeth yn Gymraeg. Byddwn yn ateb gohebiaeth a dderbynnir yn Gymraeg yn Gymraeg ac ni fydd gohebu yn Gymraeg yn arwain at oedi.

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.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Kirsty Williams". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "K" and a prominent "W".

Kirsty Williams AC/AM
Y Gweinidog Addysg
Minister for Education