

Kirsty Williams AC/AM
Y Gweinidog Addysg
Minister for Education



Llywodraeth Cymru
Welsh Government

Eich cyf/Your ref P-05-909
Ein cyf/Our ref KW/00303/20

Janet Finch-Saunders AM
Chair Petitions Committee
National Assembly for Wales
Ty Hywel
Cardiff Bay
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25 February 2020

Dear Janet Finch-Saunders AM,

Thank you for your follow-up letter of 12 February, on behalf of the Petitions Committee, regarding Petition P-05-909 - Promoting the use of Makaton sign language in all Welsh schools, and allowing me the opportunity to respond to these points.

The starting point for the new curriculum is that it should enable every pupil to enjoy their education and fulfil their potential. We do not want to put limits on what should be taught to all our learners. Schools will design their own curriculum within a clear national framework, and will decide what experiences, knowledge and skills will support their specific learners reflecting their particular needs.

It is important to note that Makaton is not a language but one of several sign support systems. Sign support systems enhance and support wider language development. The most effective impact on language development is to ensure that practitioners in all learning environments are able to enrich language development in all forms rather than only provide specific sign support.

Our digital learning platform, Hwb, provides the opportunity for all schools in Wales to promote relevant bilingual resources and events. Should a school, region or organisation wish to share information with a particular focus like Makaton then Hwb could offer the opportunity for this to be shared to all schools in Wales.

Yours sincerely,

Kirsty Williams AC/AM
Y Gweinidog Addysg
Minister 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.