



Eich cyf/Your ref
Ein cyf/Our ref OQ56277(e)

David.Melding@Senedd.Wales

10 March 2021

Dear David

I am writing in follow up to your question to me of 10 February regarding UNESCO's seventh consultation on education for international understanding, co-operation and peace, and education relating to human rights and fundamental freedoms. You asked whether this Government contributed to the UK Government response, and if so if I could give some detail.

The Welsh Government did input into the UK Government's submission to UNESCO. Contributions covered the place of Education for Sustainable Development and Global Citizenship (ESDGC) in the current curriculum arrangements, as well as the significant importance of these aspects of learning in the new Curriculum for Wales, the Youth Work Strategy for Wales, and the role of Estyn in monitoring provision in this area. Our contribution also highlighted the important role of the Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act.

I understand that the Welsh Centre for International Affairs (WCIA) also contributed to the UK Government response. That submission included information on their Global Learning Programme and how their work links closely to the approaches that will be taken forward through the Curriculum for Wales.

I agree that changes in our relationship with the European Union, alongside the demands of the climate emergency and the pandemic, have highlighted more than ever the importance of education regarding global citizenship. That is why our new curriculum in Wales has embedded these aspects within its fundamental purposes, from which all learning and teaching will be developed. Following the successful stage 4 passage of the Curriculum and Assessment (Wales) Bill in the Senedd this week, we will now have a curriculum that truly embeds the principles set out in UNESCO's 1974 recommendation across the whole curriculum framework, for all schools and for all learners.

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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.

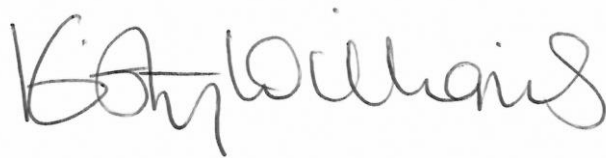
We welcome receiving correspondence in Welsh. Any correspondence received in Welsh will be answered in Welsh and corresponding in Welsh will not lead to a delay in responding.

By the age of 16, I want learners to be confident, ethical individuals who play an active part in their community and society. Specifically on encouraging civic awareness and action, under the four purposes, children and young people in Wales will be able to:

- understand and consider the impact of their actions when making choices and acting;
- be knowledgeable about their culture, community, society and the world, now and in the past;
- respect the needs and rights of others, as a member of a diverse society; and
- show their commitment to the sustainability of the planet.

Taking forward these purposes, learning about human rights, equity, diversity and international contexts are cross-cutting themes in the Curriculum for Wales guidance for all schools. More specifically, and for example, learning about rights forms part of the mandatory statements of what matters. There are also four mandatory statements of what matters which are explicitly linked to the environment and raising awareness and understanding of related issues, such as the climate emergency; these span the Humanities and Science and Technology areas of learning and experience. Schools will, therefore, be required to include learning about rights, diversity and sustainability in their curriculum.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading 'Kirsty Williams'.

Kirsty Williams AS/MS
Y Gweinidog Addysg
Minister for Education