

Kirsty Williams AM
Minister for Education

18 July 2019

Dear Kirsty

Draft Curriculum for Wales 2022

As you know, the Health, Social Care and Sport Committee recently published its report on the physical activity of children and young people. One of the recommendations in that report was ‘that the Welsh Government makes the recommended 120 minutes of physical education in schools a minimum statutory requirement’ (recommendation 8).

The evidence we heard as part of our inquiry made it very clear that physical activity is not given sufficient priority in schools. The majority of schools are not meeting the recommended 120 minutes a week for physical education, and curriculum pressures often mean that the time allocated to physical education in primary and secondary schools is reduced. A statutory minimum requirement would guard against this and protect time within the school week for physical activity as part of a broad and balanced curriculum.



In your response to our report, you indicated that you did not accept this recommendation. We note your aspiration for the new curriculum to provide flexibility for schools to tailor-make their curricula and provide the freedom for practitioners to use their professionalism and creativity to meet the needs of all learners. However, we remain concerned that schools are not currently giving physical activity the attention and priority it deserves and believe that, to not address this as part of the curriculum review, is a missed opportunity.

We therefore ask that you re-consider our recommendation.

Kind regards

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "David Lloyd". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial 'D' and 'L'.

Dr Dai Lloyd AM

Chair, Health, Social Care and Sport Committee

