

Kirsty Williams AM
Minister for Education

25 November 2019

Dear Kirsty,

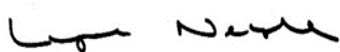
School improvement and raising standards

Thank you for agreeing to attend our meeting on 13 February 2020 to provide oral evidence on school improvement and raising standards.

To inform our scrutiny, we would be grateful if you could provide a written paper on the points listed in the annex to this letter. We would be grateful to receive this information by **Thursday 30 January 2020**.

Evidence has also been requested from the four regional consortia in advance of sessions scheduled with them on 16 January 2020. This will be published on the [relevant webpage](#) in advance of the sessions.

Yours sincerely,



Lynne Neagle AM
Chair



ANNEX – Request for written information

More information about providing information to committees, including how we will handle that information, **is available on our website**.

The Committee would be grateful to receive a paper on the points listed below:

- A brief overview of the Welsh Government's approach to working with regional consortia, local authorities and schools on school improvement and raising standards.
- An update on progress to tackle the attainment gap:
 - between eligible for free school meals (eFSM) pupils and other pupils;
 - between ethnic minority groups at risk of underachieving and other pupils;
 - between Gypsy, Roma and Traveller children, and other pupils;
 - between Looked After Children and other pupils (including details of what work has been undertaken to identify and improve the attainment of adopted children compared to other pupils).
- We have asked for details of funding for school improvement as part of the information requested for draft budget scrutiny (section 2.2 of our letter dated 31 July 2019). If there is anything you wish to add to that, the Committee would be grateful to receive it.
- Your comments on the PISA 2018 results and what they signal about where Wales has reached on its school improvement journey.
- Your comments on Key Stage 4 and A/AS level attainment in 2019 and previous years.
- An update on the Welsh Government's implementation of recommendations 26-29 of the Committee's report, ***On the Money? Targeted funding to improve educational outcomes***, which you either accepted or accepted in principle (relating to Schools Challenge Cymru).
- Any other information or commentary you wish to provide.

