

Kirsty Williams AC/AM
Y Gweinidog Addysg
Minister for Education



Llywodraeth Cymru
Welsh Government

Eich cyf/Your ref: P-05-950
Ein cyf/Our ref: KW/00467/20
Janet Finch-Saunders AM
Chair
Petitions Committee
National Assembly for Wales
Ty Hywel
Cardiff Bay
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18 March 2020

Dear Janet,

Petition P-05-950 - Agriculture and Countryside Education for 4-16-year olds in schools

Thank you for your letter of 9 March regarding a petition that your Committee has received supporting the provision of teaching about agriculture and countryside issues within the Curriculum for Wales. I note from the additional information that there is a strong emphasis here on raising awareness about the approaches to food production.

The current National Curriculum for Wales provides the flexibility for teaching and learning about topics relating to agriculture, the environment and food within Personal and Social Education. This includes, for example, provision to enable learners to explore a wide range of issues related to the sustainability of food production, as well as supporting them in developing practical cooking skills. In addition, through Design and Technology, learners are able to use a broad range of skills and techniques to carry out practical cooking tasks and to develop an understanding of what constitutes a healthy, balanced diet.

These opportunities will be expanded through our new Curriculum for Wales, the refined guidance for which was made available in January, ahead of first teaching under this new framework from September 2022.

One of the four purposes of the new curriculum is that learners progress as healthy, confident individuals. One of the characteristics of that purpose is learners who can apply knowledge about the impact of food and diet on physical and mental health in their daily lives.

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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.

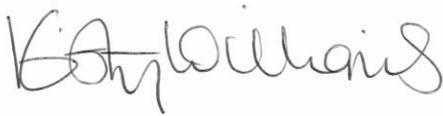
We welcome receiving correspondence in Welsh. Any correspondence received in Welsh will be answered in Welsh and corresponding in Welsh will not lead to a delay in responding.

Enabling learners to embody the four purposes will be the central concern of every school's curriculum. The new curriculum will encompass six Areas of Learning and Experience and those relating to Health and Well-being, Humanities and Science and Technology include learning and guidance which support learners' understanding of food and its production. The new curriculum allows practitioners to develop a more integrated approach, drawing across different disciplines and areas to consider issues like food production, more holistically.

It is also important to add that schools will have the flexibility to determine how their curriculum can reflect their locality, community and the issues relevant to their learners. This is likely to lead to a greater focus on agriculture and countryside studies, in some cases. The new curriculum guidance provides schools with support on drawing on a range of local factors and contexts in developing their curriculum, supporting them to develop learning most relevant to their learners.

I hope this information is helpful to the Committee.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Kirsty Williams', written in a cursive style.

Kirsty Williams AC/AM
Minister for Education