

Kirsty Williams AC/AM
Y Gweinidog Addysg
Minister for Education



Llywodraeth Cymru
Welsh Government

Eich cyf/Your ref P-05-862
Ein cyf/Our ref KW/05031/18

David John Rowlands AM
Chair, Petitions Committee
National Assembly for Wales
Cardiff Bay
CF99 1NA

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7 January 2019

Dear David

Petition P-05-862 Tackling school bullying

Thank you for your letter dated 18 December seeking my views on the above petition.

The Welsh Government's position is that any bullying in the Welsh education system should not be tolerated. We regard the safety, security and wellbeing of children and young people with paramount importance and expect schools to adopt a zero tolerance approach to all forms of bullying. Our vision is to tackle bullying holistically, addressing the root causes of unacceptable behaviour, and to create an inclusive and engaging environment where learners feel safe and are ready to learn.

All schools must, by law, have a school behaviour policy. Effective anti-bullying strategies should be central to that behaviour policy and be developed and put into effect by everyone in the school, including learners.

There are a range of strategies and programmes aimed at challenging bullying. It is for schools to decide, as part of their approach, which works best for their learners. These decisions will then inform how a school records and monitors bullying.

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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.

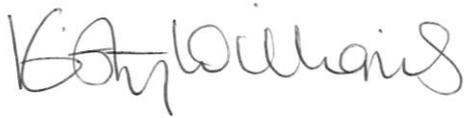
We are updating our *Respecting others* anti-bullying guidance, which was published in 2011. We published revised guidance for consultation in November. The draft we published has been drafted with the input of experts and takes into account the already extensive engagement undertaken with key stakeholders, including schools, public and third sector organisations and children and young people. We want to ensure the revised guidance provides practical support to schools and improves clarity on the law, policy and effective strategies. The guidance sets out the importance of taking a whole school, proactive approach to tackle and prevent bullying, which includes parental engagement. The revised guidance will be accompanied by an online resource toolkit, and early version of which has also been published as part of the consultation.

I want to ensure the widest possible range of views are expressed and heard as part of the consultation. To facilitate this, my officials will be holding a series of multi-agency engagement events early in the New Year.

We urge your petitioners to have their say on the draft guidance by responding to the [consultation](#).

I hope this information is of help.

Yours sincerely

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

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