



Ein cyf/ MA-KW-0273-21

24 March 2021

Dear colleagues

You will have noted that on 2 March I laid before the Senedd the Additional Learning Needs Code and the associated regulations (as detailed below):

- The Additional Learning Needs (Wales) Regulations 2021;
- The Education Tribunal for Wales Regulations 2021;
- The Education (Pupil Referral Units) (Management Committees etc.) (Wales) (Amendment) Regulations 2021;
- The Independent Schools (Provision of Information) (Wales) (Amendment) Regulations 2021;
- The Equality Act 2010 (Capacity of parents and persons over compulsory school age) (Wales) Regulations 2021.

I am pleased to inform you that yesterday on 23 March, the Senedd approved the Additional Learning Needs Code and all regulations for which its approval is required. This is a significant step forward in these key reforms and I would like to thank you and all the stakeholders who have engaged with us, both during the consultation and beyond, to help us make this subordinate legislation. Your engagement and hard work has been a key factor in delivering the aspirations of the Additional Learning Needs and Education Tribunal (Wales) Act 2018. I am proud of our achievements and am keen to ensure that support is provided, to maintain progress and to deliver the successful phased implementation of the system from September 2021.

The aim of our phased approach is to provide everyone involved in the process – schools, pupil referral units, local authorities and others supporting learners, with a gradual transition to the new system. Earlier this year I announced the cohorts of learners that will transition to the new system in year one and to help delivery partners to better understand the process officials will shortly publish a detailed implementation guide. At the same time and to further support partners with their planning officials will also be publishing, our aims and objectives for the process for years two and three of the implementation plan.

I am aware that the last year has been far from ideal in terms of our education system being able to function at its optimum, however I am also mindful of the extraordinary efforts that have been undertaken to provide support to our learners, especially some of the most vulnerable, in the most challenging of circumstances.

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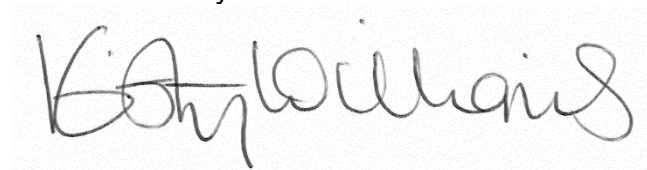
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Rydym yn croesawu derbyn gohebiaeth yn Gymraeg. Byddwn yn ateb gohebiaeth a dderbynnir yn Gymraeg yn Gymraeg ac ni fydd gohebu yn Gymraeg yn arwain at oedi.

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.

I thank you all for your support over this last year during what have been some very challenging circumstances.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Kirsty Williams', written in a cursive style. The signature is set against a light grey, textured rectangular background.

Kirsty Williams AS/MS

Y Gweinidog Addysg
Minister for Education