

Jeremy Miles AS/MS
Gweinidog y Gymraeg ac Addysg
Minister for Education and Welsh Language



Llywodraeth Cymru
Welsh Government

Ein cyf/Our ref JMEWL/11539/21

Rosie Lewis & Mary van den Heuvel
UNISON Cymru & NEU Cymru

Mary.VandenHeuvel@neu.org.uk

2 November 2021

Dear Rosie and Mary,

Thank you both for your letter of 27 October to the First Minister and me, on behalf of Unison and NEU, about the guidance and resources available to schools to help them keep Covid out of their schools. I am replying on behalf of the Government.

Please be assured that ensuring schools remain safe environments for teaching and learning and the wellbeing and health of our learners and the workforce remain my key priorities. As you know, we continue to monitor the evidence and to be guided by the current scientific and medical advice, and endeavour to take on board the concerns of sector representatives, learners and their families.

You will know from previous discussions that having reflected on your and others feedback and concerns around our approaches to testing, self-isolation and vaccinations we have subsequently updated our policy position. Our policies are kept under constant review and, through our commitment to social partnership working, we will continue to maintain an open and ongoing dialogue with our partners.

We have now shared our draft toolkit and accompanying flowchart for schools with you, and I welcome your feedback on it. It will sit alongside the Local Infection Control Decision Framework and is intended to help schools to decide when to consider introducing different interventions and support the escalating and de-escalating of intervention measures in response to local risks. I intend to publish the toolkit within the next week.

As part of the latest 21 day review cycle, and as set out in the First Minister's [announcement](#) on Friday, we have strengthened the protective measures we're taking to address the high coronavirus rates. I hope your members will welcome these changes too.

I am pleased that you welcome the investment in CO2 monitors that are currently being rolled out. To support any remedial action required to improve ventilation, Local Authorities have been informed of the funding they will each be provided, so that priorities are reviewed locally to improve ventilation in teaching spaces.

Bae Caerdydd • Cardiff Bay
Caerdydd • Cardiff
CF99 1SN

Canolfan Cyswllt Cyntaf / First Point of Contact Centre:
0300 0604400

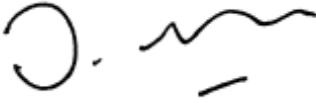
Gohebiaeth.Jeremy.Miles@llyw.cymru
Correspondence.Jeremy.Miles@gov.wales

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.

Thank you again for sharing your concerns with me. I plan to attend the next meeting of the Schools Social Partnership Forum on 02 November and this will be another opportunity to continue our ongoing dialogue regarding the operation of the Framework on the ground.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, consisting of a large 'J' followed by a series of wavy lines and a short horizontal stroke at the end.

Jeremy Miles AS/MS

Gweinidog y Gymraeg ac Addysg
Minister for Education and Welsh Language