

Cynulliad Cenedlaethol Cymru | National Assembly for Wales
Y Pwyllgor Plant, Pobl Ifanc ac Addysg | Children, Young People and
Education Committee

Blaenoriaethau ar gyfer y Pwyllgor Plant, Pobl Ifanc ac Addysg |
Priorities for the Children, Young People and Education Committee

CYPE 17

Ymateb gan : Gwasanaeth Addysg yr Eglwys Gatholig

Response from : Catholic Education Service

Question 1 – Within the remit set out above: what do you consider to be the priorities or issues that the Children, Young People and Education Committee should consider during the Fifth Assembly?

The Catholic Education Service fully supports the vision and aims for education in Wales as set out, for example, in *Qualified for Life; A Curriculum for Wales – a curriculum for life; New Deal for the Education Workforce*; and, *Rewriting the Future: raising ambition and attainment in Welsh schools*, recognising in them the fundamental aim of Catholic schools: that all people ‘may have life and have it to the full’ (John 10:10).

One area that parents, students and other stakeholders, raise is learner transport to schools. Local Authorities are, of course, facing severe financial constraints and proposed changes to learner transport provision often feature in financial cutbacks. The response to such proposals is frequently hostile. It might be helpful for the CYPE committee to investigate all aspects of learner transport to examine its provision across Wales and the impact of changes. At the same time, it might clarify, in terms of the Equality Act 2010 (Statutory Duties) (Wales) Regulations 2011 and the Well-being of Futures Generations (Wales) Act 2015, within the ‘protected characteristic’ of religion and belief, the provision of learner transport to Church schools as well as to Welsh-medium schools. In both cases, parents are choosing schools that are not their nearest ‘suitable’ community schools. The opportunity to be educated through the medium of Welsh, or in a Church school in Wales, is a source of strength in the Welsh education system. Learner transport should sit within the Education Minister’s portfolio and protecting the

ability of parents to use learner transport to support their choice of school would help the nation of Wales fulfil its duties under the Equality Act.

Question 2 – From the list of priorities or issues you have identified, what do you consider to be the key areas that should be considered during the next 12 months (please identify up to three areas or issues)? Please outline why these should be considered as key priorities.

Please see above.