



Llywodraeth Cymru  
Welsh Government

Ein cyf/Our ref TO/LN/05149/24

Families First in Education  
[REDACTED]@familiesfirst.wales

30 April 2024

Dear Families First in Education

Thank you for your letter of 8 April, in relation to the children and young people's version of the children missing education database consultation.

There are many ways to consult. The chosen method may be informed by whether we have consulted on the policy previously, and the response rate under that consultation. An online version for children and young people does not mean that it is more accessible and other approaches should be considered if these could be more effective in helping children understand the issues and increase their opportunities to respond. This approach does not prevent young people from responding to the consultation online, or requesting further information to enable them to respond in an age-appropriate way.

The targeted engagement that has been undertaken aims to ensure that the views of different groups of children and young people are captured. Targeted consultation requires the support of stakeholders, parents and carers who know the children involved and to facilitate, where necessary, and provide support where further issues unfold thereby supporting the child's inclusion in the engagement process. This is especially relevant when consulting on a complex policy. The Children in Wales link you have referenced is one part of the targeted engagement exercise. All responses received as part of the consultation will be conscientiously considered and referenced within the consultation summary once analysis has been undertaken.

The decision to undertake targeted engagement with children and young people was an informed decision which was included in the published Children's Right's Impact Assessment (CRIA) on 31 January. The CRIA also confirms that a document would be prepared to support the targeted engagement, as part of the consultation. This document, (the children's version of the consultation document you have received) was sent to several

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.

Home Educator Groups, for information, following a request for a copy of the document from Home Ed Cymru on 24 March.

The consultation document is clear that this consultation is about children who are missing education, and not about elective home education. Under the proposals, if children who are educated at home are in receipt of a suitable education they would not be included on the database. The silhouette imagery within the consultation document emphasises this, and aligns with that used in the statutory [‘Help prevent children missing education guidance’](#). The statutory guidance was first published in 2010, and updated in 2017. The use of the same imagery is intended to make it clear that the database aims to capture children who are CME and to maintain consistency across this policy. In contrast, the statutory elective home education guidance does not use this imagery.

The child-friendly consultation document was commissioned and developed in line with our standard processes and is consistent with the style and level of content appropriate for a child-friendly version. This also includes ensuring that all relevant information from the full version is included within the child-friendly version.

All aspects of the document underwent prior testing with the contracted organisation’s Youth Advisory Board. This is the standard process that is carried out to ensure that the final version is fully informed, engaging, appropriate and clear. The images include a mix of ‘missing children’, children in school uniform, and children in non-uniform, as the principles behind the policy apply to all children.

Yours sincerely

Equity in Education Division