

Kirsty Williams AC/AM

Y Gweinidog Addysg

**Minister for Education**

Ein cyf/Our ref KW/00068/20  
Councillor Edgar Owen

Council Chairman

eirianroberts3@gwynedd.llyw.cymru



Llywodraeth Cymru  
Welsh Government

28 January 2020

Dear Councillor,

Thank you for your letter dated 13 January, regarding the recent resolution your Council approved concerning learning the national anthem in Gwynedd schools.

It is essential that every learner in Wales has the opportunity to learn about the culture and history of Wales, its traditions and music. These are matters that schools can get to grips with via the current school curriculum.

Presenting the curriculum itself, the decisions regarding the exact contents of the curriculum, and choosing resources to support it is a matter for schools and their governing bodies. It is a matter for the school to choose the teaching of the whole national anthem or otherwise, and if local authorities wish to encourage schools in their area to act in a similar way to Gwynedd they are free to do so.

I am also willing for my officers to include an article in the Dysg newsletter to schools, in the period prior to St David's Day to draw attention to your approach, together with a link to the complete national anthem - if you are satisfied with this suggestion then perhaps one of your officers could contact my department to make the arrangements, please contact Kerry Davies. [kerry.davies@llyw.cymru](mailto:kerry.davies@llyw.cymru). You may also wish to contact the WLGA to share your approach in Gwynedd, in order that other local authorities may also consider this matter.

Our new curriculum has been designed with four key purposes that are central to it. One of these key purposes is that all children and young people are ethical, informed citizens who are ready to be citizens of Wales and the world, ensuring that they are knowledgeable about the culture, community and history of Wales and its place in the world.

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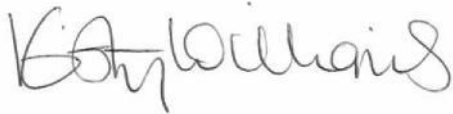
Rydym yn croesawu derbyn gohebiaeth yn Gymraeg. Byddwn yn ateb gohebiaeth a dderbynnir yn Gymraeg yn Gymraeg ac ni fydd gohebu yn Gymraeg yn arwain at oedi.

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 am totally committed to the innovative approach of the new curriculum of dealing with the theme 'Cynefin/Habitat' as a starting point for study. It will be an integral part of every learning and experience area. Learners will be immersed in an understanding of identity, the landscapes and histories that form our habitat.

The analysis, understanding and questioning of the history and stories of Wales, our communities and neighbours should not and cannot be restricted to history lessons alone. An understanding of Wales, its culture and history should be included appropriately across all learning.

Yours sincerely,

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

Kirsty Williams AC/AM

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