



Ein cyf/Our ref LN/01283/25

1 December 2025

Dear Mr Speaker,

Thank you for your email of 28 October 2025 on behalf of the Speaker's Conference, regarding the Second Report on the security of MP's, candidates and elections.

It is important that we prepare our children and young people for active engagement in society, which is vital to the health of our democracy, and supporting learners to become ethical, informed citizens of Wales and the world is a mandatory part of the Curriculum for Wales, through the Curriculum and Assessment (Wales) Act 2021.

Within the Humanities Area of Learning and Experience, the mandatory Statements of What Matters make clear that learners should develop an understanding of how systems of government operate, the importance of democracy, and the different ways countries and societies, including Wales, have been governed in the past and present. This includes enabling learners to recognise their roles and responsibilities within a democratic system.

Schools are expected to deliver political awareness education from the early years through to age 16, ensuring consistent exposure to local, national, and international contexts. Alongside mandatory subjects such as Geography and History, Politics may be taught where appropriate, supporting the development of transferable skills such as creativity, critical thinking, and problem solving.

With voting rights now extended to 16 and 17-year-olds in Wales, learning about Welsh democracy is more important than ever. Through the Democratic Engagement Grant, we fund a range of programmes to support schools in achieving this. We have committed to funding this grant for a further three years, with an increased budget to expand its reach and impact.

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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.

Since the rollout of the Curriculum for Wales, we have worked with partners to develop a range of materials to support teachers in delivering this important area of learning:

- Vote2Voice Resource – Supports schools and youth settings to educate young people on the importance of voting through interactive activities and discussions.
- The Politics Project – Provides resources for primary, secondary, and Additional Learning Needs learners, including a teacher's guide aligned to the Curriculum for Wales. Its Digital Surgeries and Digital Dialogue programmes connect students with politicians via online platforms, helping rebuild trust and understanding between young people and elected representatives.
- Association of Citizenship Teaching (ACT) – Offers materials to help teachers hold impartial discussions on registering to vote and understand legislative processes and governmental structures.
- Electoral Commission – Publishes impartial resources for educators and young people, offers guidance for embedding democratic education in the curriculum, and runs Welcome to Your Vote Week annually to raise awareness.
- Media Literacy Resources – Help learners challenge misinformation, disinformation, fake news, and conspiracy theories.
- Global Citizenship Case Studies – Demonstrate effective approaches to teaching citizenship education within curriculum design.
- WJEC Political Literacy Pack – Includes activities to develop understanding of political systems in Wales, the UK, and globally.

Democracy is about more than voting. Over the past three years, the Democratic Engagement Grant has supported over thirty projects across Wales, many working directly with young people in non-school settings.

Current projects include:

- The Politics Project – Digital surgeries in schools
- Boys and Girls Club Wales – Pizza and politics workshops
- I Have a Voice – Voter registration drives in colleges
- Llanelli Town Council – Citizenship sessions in schools
- PLANED – Activities connecting young people to elected officials
- Swansea MAD – Facilitating youth engagement with democracy
- Scouts Cymru – Developing and delivering a new democratic badge

Supporting young people to learn about the political process and become active citizens is a priority for this government. The Independent Commission on the Constitutional Future of Wales has highlighted the importance of civic education to the health of our democracy, and its recommendations have been endorsed in full. Work is underway to deliver on this agenda. In the lead-up to the Senedd elections in May 2026 and Local Government elections in 2027, we will continue to fund organisations to deliver projects that increase the availability and quality of democratic education in our schools.

Citizenship and political education are central to the Curriculum for Wales. One of the Four Purposes of our curriculum is to develop learners as ethical, informed citizens of Wales and the world, confident in engaging with contemporary issues and challenges. Concepts such as rights and responsibility, justice, authority, and governance provide rich opportunities to question and evaluate the systems that guide how we live and behave. These experiences help learners become socially responsible and provide them with an understanding of their legal and democratic rights so they can fully engage as citizens.

Thank you once again for sharing the report. Please feel free to contact me if you would like to arrange a meeting with my officials to discuss the work we are undertaking in Wales.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'Lynne Neagle'.

Lynne Neagle AS/MS

Ysgrifennydd y Cabinet dros Addysg
Cabinet Secretary for Education