



To: Headteachers - all schools and settings

9 July 2021

Dear Headteacher

Before you embark on a well-earned break this summer I want to take this opportunity to express my gratitude for all your hard work and effort over the last academic year. I hope the break will offer you, and your staff, a chance to look back over the last year with immense pride – you have shown immeasurable determination and resilience in supporting learning and keeping education settings as COVID-secure as possible. Diolch yn fawr iawn.

I have spent this term listening to you. It's clear that learners' well-being and progression is at the heart of everything you do. I am determined that the emphasis on wellbeing and flexibility shown over the last year is built upon and closely aligned with the introduction of our new curriculum.

This is why I have confirmed this week that the Curriculum for Wales will continue to be implemented in primary schools, maintained nursery schools, and non-maintained nursery settings from September 2022

In 2022, schools which are ready to rollout the curriculum to Year 7 may do so, but this will not be mandatory until 2023, with rollout to Years 7 and 8 together. For those schools who want to start implementing the curriculum from September 2022, I would encourage you to do so.

You can read or view my Oral Statement to the Senedd here: [Oral Statement: Curriculum Reform—Next Steps \(6 July 2021\)](#)

Plans for September

By the end of September everyone working in our education system will have been offered both vaccinations, providing greater protection for our education workforce and I continue to encourage anyone who has not yet received their vaccine to take up this offer. A growing body of evidence also shows that children and young people are more at harm from missing school than from COVID.

We will publish *The Local COVID-19 Infection Control Decision Framework* which will be available from the start of the autumn term for you to embed into your operations during the weeks that follow. Supported by public health officials and your local authority the

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.

framework will enable you to tailor some of the interventions to reflect the level of risk identified locally to ensure interventions are appropriate to your circumstances.

In the meantime I want to be as clear as I can be at this time about the basis on which you should currently plan for September to limit the disruption for you and your learners:

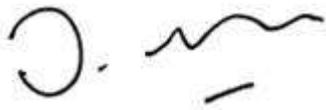
- We will no longer be recommending the routine use of face coverings in classrooms
- Contact groups/bubbles will no longer be recommended. However we will use our TTP system in order to identify close contacts of learners who have tested positive, and TTP may contact your school to supplement the information they have gathered with any further intelligence you may have available. Our expectation of your school is that you follow the specific advice you receive from TTP about whether individuals need to self-isolate.
- Normal session times will resume.
- Secondary school children and education workforce should be encouraged to test before returning to school.

We have today published [an advice notice on the key changes from September along with updated Operational Guidance](#) which provides further detail on all of the elements set out in this letter, including further clarity on the roles and responsibilities associated with the TTP process from September.

There may be a need to issue further updates in the event of any significant developments during the summer holiday period. In these circumstances, we will work with stakeholders to consider how best to provide you with the time required to make any necessary adjustments to mitigations at the start of term.

I would like to end by once again repeating my thanks to you for your immense hard work over the most challenging of times.

Diolch o galon

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'J. Miles', with a stylized flourish underneath.

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