

January 2021

To Directors of Education/Children's Services, Sixth-form Colleges and Independent Schools

Dear Colleague

COVID-19 – Attendance at schools and colleges

We are at a critical situation across the country. The percentage of people testing positive for coronavirus (COVID-19) in Wales has continued to increase, and during the most recent week, the Office for National Statistics estimates that 44,100 people had coronavirus, equating to around one in 50 people.

The whole of Wales has now entered a further lockdown and schools should have closed to everyone except the children of critical workers and vulnerable children. The clear purpose of this lockdown is to reduce contact between people and therefore reduce the infection rate of COVID-19. This means that children should be kept at home if it is safe to do so.

There are families where both parents are involved in frontline work that takes them out of the house and where their work is essential in the fight against COVID-19. Where this is not the case, it would greatly help schools if children stayed at home and accessed the remote learning offer. In England, Government guidance published on 7 January is clear, saying *'parents and carers who are critical workers should keep their children at home if they can.'*

This will help schools reduce potential transmission of COVID-19 by minimising the numbers on site and to ensuring that staff have the capacity to support the home learning of all other pupils.

Each school should have undertaken a health and safety risk assessment and know the maximum number of pupils they are able to have safely on site at any one time, given the amount of staff they have available.

We recognise that this will cause considerable disruption to personal and working lives, and we wish children could be in school for the sake of their education and wellbeing. We hope the progress with vaccinations means that we can see a return to normality later in the year.

The NASUWT asks that you immediately act to communicate with the parents of children in your schools and colleges to convey the above information and encourage them to keep their children at home if it is safe to do so.

I look forward to hearing from you.

Yours sincerely



Dr Patrick Roach
General Secretary

Ionawr 2021

At Gyfarwyddwyr Addysg/Gwasanaethau Plant, Colegau Chweched Dosbarth ac Ysgolion Annibynnol

Annwyl Gydweithiwr

COVID-19 – Presenoldeb mewn ysgolion a cholegau

Rydym mewn sefyllfa argyfyngus ledled y wlad erbyn hyn. Yng Nghymru, mae'r canran o bobl a gafodd brawf COVID-19 positif (y Coronafeirws) wedi parhau i gynyddu, ac mae'r Swyddfa Ystadegau Gwladol yn amcangyfrif bod gan 44,100 o bobl y feirws yn yr wythnos fwyaf diweddar, sef oddeutu un ymhob 50 o bobl.

Erbyn hyn, mae Cymru gyfan wedi mynd i mewn i gyfnod clo arall a dylai ysgolion fod ar gau i bawb ac eithrio plant y gweithwyr allweddol a phlant sy'n agored i niwed. Pwrpas amlwg y cyfnod clo hwn yw lleihau'r cysylltiad rhwng pobl ac felly ostwng cyfradd heintio'r Coronafeirws. Mae hyn yn golygu y dylid cadw plant gartref o'r ysgol os yw hynny'n ddiogel iddynt.

Mae rhai teuluoedd sydd â'r ddau riant yn gwneud gwaith rheng flaen sy'n eu cymryd nhw allan o'r tŷ a lle mae eu gwaith yn hanfodol yn y frwydr yn erbyn COVID-19. Os nad dyna'r sefyllfa gartref, byddai o gymorth mawr i ysgolion petai'r plant yn aros gartref ac yn defnyddio'r cyfleoedd dysgu o bell sydd ar gael iddynt. Ar 7 Ionawr, cyhoeddwyd canllawiau gan y Llywodraeth yn Lloegr sy'n nodi'n glir y *“dylai rhieni a gofalwyr sy'n weithwyr allweddol gadw eu plant gartref os yw hynny'n bosibl iddynt.”*

Bydd hyn yn helpu ysgolion i roi llai o gyfle i'r feirws drosglwyddo drwy leihau'r nifer o bobl sydd ar y safle ar yr un pryd, ac i sicrhau bod y staff yn gallu cefnogi'r holl ddisgyblion eraill wrth iddynt ddysgu o gartref.

Dylai pob ysgol fod wedi gwneud asesiad o'r risgiau i iechyd a diogelwch a dylent wybod beth yw'r nifer uchaf bosib o ddisgyblion y gallent eu cael yn ddiogel ar y safle ar yr un pryd, o ystyried y nifer o staff sydd ar gael iddynt ar y pryd.

Rydym yn cydnabod y bydd hyn yn achosi amhariad sylweddol ar fywydau gwaith a phersonol pobl, ac rydym yn gresynu na all y plant fod yn yr ysgol er budd eu haddysg a'u lles. Gobeithiwn y bydd datblygiad y rhaglen frechu'n golygu y gall pethau fynd yn ôl fel yr oedden nhw eto yn ddiweddarach eleni.

Mae NASUWT yn gofyn i chi gymryd camau ar unwaith i gyfathrebu â rhieni'r plant sydd yn eich ysgolion a'ch colegau i gyfleu'r wybodaeth uchod a'u hannog i gadw eu plant gartref os yw hynny'n ddiogel iddynt.

Edrychaf ymlaen at glywed gennych.

Yr eiddoch yn gywir



Dr Patrick Roach
Ysgrifennydd Cyffredinol