



GwE Bulletin



Please share our Bulletin with your whole staff team in your school and encourage all your colleagues to subscribe to our [mailing list](#).



Message from GwE and Local Authorities of the Region

We hope you and your school community are keeping safe and well.

Further to recent announcements in England regarding schools re-opening, we felt it important to write to you to clarify the current situation in Wales.

The Minister has made it clear that any decision on the re-opening of schools in Wales will be guided by the very latest scientific advice and will be based on the determined five key principles being met:

1. The safety and mental, emotional and physical wellbeing of students and staff
2. Continuing contribution to the national effort and strategy to fight the spread of COVID-19
3. Having the confidence of parents, staff and students – based on evidence and information – so that they can plan ahead
4. Ability to prioritise learners at key points, including those from disadvantaged backgrounds
5. Consistency with the Welsh Government's framework for decision making, to have guidance in place to support measures such as distancing, managing attendance and wider protective actions

The Minister also emphasised in her speech that any announcement about the re-opening of schools would be undertaken by herself and that it would be communicated well in advance to stakeholders to allow everyone time to plan for the next stage. **As it currently stands, the situation in Wales has not changed and schools are not expected to reopen on 1 June.**

We would advise you therefore to disregard any communication regarding transition back to school which is shared by either Westminster or any commercial based companies that are offering advice to schools based in England.

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We would also like to take the opportunity to reassure you that, when instructions to reopen schools are delivered by Welsh Government, we will work closely and effectively with you and your local authority to ensure as smooth a transition as possible.

Initial work is currently being undertaken in partnership with local authority officers to develop a regional framework which will ensure that schools are comprehensively supported with the task of re-opening. The Framework will consist of risk assessments and draft policies/guidance covering a range of areas for consideration and development by schools. A regional approach will also give staff, pupils and parents confidence that there will be consistency and equity in how the next re purposing of schools will be managed.

We hope that the information shared above will prove useful.

We will issue further communication as the situation develops.

[Click here for a copy of the letter](#)

Cadw'n Ddiogel.
Dal ati i Ddysgu.



Stay Safe.
Stay Learning.

Welsh Government Update on Current Schools Situation

Kirsty Williams has announced that the situation for schools **will not** change on June 1st. A message regarding coronavirus and the most up-to-date information on education in Wales can be found [here](#).

Stay Safe. Stay Learning

USEFUL LINKS:

- [Stay Safe. Stay Learning' programme](#)
- [Advice for settings, schools and pupil referral units \(PRUs\) to support them in their work with learners - Developing approaches to support distance learning](#)
- [Advice for parents/carers](#)
- [Distance learning tools through Hwb](#)
- [New Advice to Support School and PRU Leaders to Continue with School Business](#)

In addition to the guidance, there are resources available to help prepare learning activities and these are being shared with you via your Supporting Improvement Advisers.

GwE Information and Guidance

Google Classroom for Teaching Assistants

A reminder that new resources are added regularly. The code for the page has been shared with headteachers – ask your headteacher for the code if you have not yet received it.

See the link below for instructions on how to access the page using your Hwb account: <https://bit.ly/Google-Classroom-Instructions-for-TAs>

[Click here](#) for guidance on how to use Google Classroom.

Here's a link to a voiceover explaining what's included in the Google Classroom: <https://bit.ly/Voiceover-Google-Classroom>



Contacting GwE

We're here to help! We're online and available to support schools and governors.

Contact us at post@GwEGogledd.Cymru and we'll get back to you ASAP.



Update on NQT Guidance

We have received a growing number of queries regarding newly qualified teachers undertaking induction and how school closures will affect their ability to pass during this academic year. The newly amended guidance for induction that has been approved by The Education Minister can be found [here](#).

NQT Guidance - April 2020

The four consortium reps have produced a 'frequently asked questions' sheet, as well as creating a couple of videos for the NQTs to try to explain the temporary WG guidance.

Please can you ensure that these reach your NQTs and schools. As previously, GwE will contact the EVs with the updated guidance. The guidance will also be available on the GwE, EWC, Hwb and Welsh Government websites.



Video Link to YouTube



Continuity of Learning and Teaching Form



Covid-19 Induction FAQs

GwE induction lead contact details: Ieuan Jones:



ieuanjones@gwegogledd.cymru

GwE Resources on Google Classroom

Guidance on [Google Classroom](#) and Microsoft Teams is provided. Further information available [here](#).

GwE Covid-19 Updates

To make it easier to source & reference, we have created a [dedicated space on our website](#) where we will include all GwE information & updates sent to schools.

The space will also include useful links, updates & links from Welsh Government, Qualifications Wales etc.



Welsh Government Information and Guidance

Welsh Government Consultation

The Welsh Government [launched](#) a consultation on changes to legislation to support Religion, values and Ethics as a mandatory part of the Curriculum for Wales. **The consultation ends on July 28.**

Supporting your Children to use the Welsh Language at Home

[Click here](#) to view the guidance to parents and carers to support their children to use the Welsh language at home.

Post-16 Distance Learning Resources

Materials from HEIs in Wales for use with Year 12 and 13 students. [This link](#) will take students to subject specific resources as well as advice and guidance from universities. This webpage should be constantly updated so please keep checking for new additions. The resources have been developed by SEREN co-ordinators across Wales and the Welsh Government.

Covid 19 - Welsh Government Updates

Welsh Government links regarding the coronavirus can be found below:

- Welsh Government coronavirus website: <https://gov.wales/coronavirus-covid19>
- Welsh Government guidance for educational settings: <https://gov.wales/coronavirus-covid-19-educational-settings-guidance>
- COVID-19: travel guidance for the education sector: <https://gov.wales/coronavirus-travel-guidance-education-settings-and-students-html>
- Public Health Wales advice: <https://phw.nhs.wales/topics/latest-information-on-novel-coronavirus-covid-19/>
- Follow on Twitter [@WG_Education](#) or www.facebook.com/educationwales

Dysg Newsletter

Make sure you receive Welsh Government's weekly updates and developments on education and training sectors in Wales. Sign up to Dysg [here](#)

Information and Guidance from Others

North Wales Online Reading Project – Keeping Pupils Reading!

HEADSPROUT

There are now FREE 90 day Headsprout licences giving access to online reading tuition, supported by a FREE comprehensive online training package from Bangor University. [Click here](#) for further information.

If you would like to join the project, or if you have any questions, please e-mail sarah.e.roberts@bangor.ac.uk



Schools: Free Online Courses to North Wales Residents

Public Health Wales / BCHB are delighted to announce that staff and parents can now access an innovative ONLINE course about children, worth £39, completely free of charge. Understanding Your Child is put together by the Solihull Approach, an accredited, evidence based approach established 20 years ago by psychologists, health visitors and other health professionals.

The course usually costs £39 per person. However using the Access Code: NWSOL (valid until November 2022) at www.inourplace.co.uk you can register for your own account and revisit the course indefinitely without paying a penny.

Understanding Your Child is for parents, carers, and professionals caring for children aged 0-18 years. It looks at brain development, play, styles of parenting, sleep, temper tantrums, communication and more and is based on the nationally and internationally acclaimed face to face course offered by the Solihull Approach.

There are 9-11 modules each taking around 20 minutes (the main screens have optional audio voice-overs) as well as interactive activities, quizzes, video clips and practical handouts.

FURTHER INFORMATION:

[Information for Parents](#)

[Parents Testimonials](#)



National Centre for Learning Welsh's Newsletter

[Here's](#) the latest news from the National Centre for Learning Welsh.



Welsh Language Learners - BBC Bitesize

BBC Bitesize would like to thank everyone who uses their resources to learn Welsh. See their video [here](#).

post@gwenorth.wales

