



REPORT TO THE JOINT COMMITTEE

24 FEBRUARY 2021

Report by: Arwyn Thomas, GwE Managing Director

Subject: Distance/Remote Learning and parent/carer engagement

1.0 Purpose of the Report

1.1 To share information with Joint Committee members regarding our strategy and the support available to schools in relation to remote learning.

2.0 Background

2.1 Welsh Government has set clear expectations for schools (Guidance on learning in schools and settings: coronavirus updated 15 January 2021) in terms of the priorities for learning in schools and settings throughout the response to COVID-19 and as we move to recovery.

2.2 As part of the regional strategy, two documents have been produced to further support and assist schools to respond to questions and queries regarding remote learning.

2.3 The first document is for school policy or statement steering purposes on how remote learning is delivered (Appendix 1 - Remote/Distance Learning guidance for North Wales' schools). It can be used to provide further detail on remote/distance learning for governors or parents/carers. The second document, 'Remote/Distance Learning Guidance for parents/carers in North Wales Schools' (Appendix 2), can be shared and used with parents/carers.

3.0 Considerations

3.1 The documents build on Welsh Government guidance and provide an overview of the practices schools can adopt to strengthen further their practices in remote learning.

3.2 These guidance documents aim to:

- Support Heads and teachers to plan remote learning as part of the provision for learners
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- Support Heads and teachers to manage the expectations of parents/carers and stakeholders
 - Support Heads and teachers to maximise live learning
 - Support Heads to evaluate remote learning and when reporting to stakeholders including the governing body
- 3.3 Many schools acknowledge that the engagement of parents/carers has been crucial in ensuring effective remote/blended learning. In response, GwE and the Local Authorities have provided a range of guidance documents to support schools to improve parent/carers engagement, including developing resources and good practice.
- 3.4 A regional strategy needs to be developed to improve parent/carers engagement so that they can effectively support their children throughout and beyond the COVID period.
- 4.0 Recommendations**
- 4.1 The Joint Committee is asked to note and accept the report and to support our strategy and the support in place for schools in relation to parent/carers engagement and remote learning in North Wales.
- 5.0 Financial Implications**
- 5.1 There are no financial implications arising from this report. GwE will operate within current financial resources.
- 6.0 Equalities Impact**
- 6.1 There are no new equalities implications arising from this report.
- 7.0 Personnel Implications**
- 7.1 There are no new personnel implications arising from this report.
- 8.0 Consultation undertaken**
- 8.1 Consultation with GwE Management Board.
- 9.0 Appendices**
- Appendix 1 - Remote/Distance Learning guidance for North Wales' schools
- Appendix 2 - Remote/Distance Learning Guidance for parents/carers in North Wales Schools
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OPINION OF STATUTORY OFFICERS

Monitoring Officer:

Nothing to add from a propriety perspective.

Statutory Finance Officer:

I note in part 5 above that there are no financial implications arising from the report and that GwE will implement this key issue within its current resources.