

Kirsty Williams AC/AM
Ysgrifennydd y Cabinet dros Addysg
Cabinet Secretary for Education



Llywodraeth Cymru
Welsh Government

Ein cyf/Our ref KW/01285/17

Phil Lord
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Dear Mr Lord

Thank you for forwarding Delyth McIntyre's letter to me, in support of the requirement for schools to provide a daily act of collective worship. I understand that you wanted my reply directed to you.

In Wales, collective worship in schools should be sensitive to the range of beliefs held by pupils in the school and should give pupils the opportunity to worship without encouraging them to do something that is against the teachings of their religion. For example, times of prayer may be left open-ended for pupils to say their own prayers silently or to reflect on moral or philosophical issues. As you are aware, parents are entitled to remove their children from acts of collective worship, in accordance with section 71 of the School Standards and Framework Act 1998.

I am aware of the petitions in relation to collective worship and I will be responding to the Petitions Committee over the coming weeks.

Yours sincerely

Kirsty Williams AC/AM
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Cabinet Secretary for Education

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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.