



Llywodraeth Cymru
Welsh Government

WRITTEN STATEMENT BY THE WELSH GOVERNMENT

TITLE **Return to school and college arrangements**

DATE **04 January 2021**

BY **Kirsty Williams MS, Minister for Education**

The situation in Wales and across the UK remains very serious. Today, the four UK Chief Medical Officers have agreed that the UK is now at the highest level of risk, Joint Biosecurity Council level 5.

In the light of that decision the Welsh Government, in consultation with the WLGA and Colegau Cymru, has agreed that all schools, colleges and independent schools should move to online learning until January 18th.

As a government we will use the next two weeks to continue to work with local authorities, schools and colleges to plan for the rest of term.

This is the best way to ensure that parents, staff and learners can be confident in the return to face to face learning, based on the latest evidence and information.

Schools and colleges will remain open for children of critical workers and vulnerable learners, as well as for learners who need to complete essential exams or assessments. On this basis Special Schools and PRU's should remain open if possible.

We had initially given schools flexibility in the first two weeks of term to decide when to reopen based on local circumstances.

But it is now clear that a national approach of online learning for the first fortnight of term is the best way forward.

We know that schools and colleges have been safe and secure environments throughout the pandemic.

However, we also know that education settings being open can contribute to wider social mixing outside the school and college environment.

We are confident that schools and colleges have online learning provision in place for this immediate period.

Universities in Wales have already agreed a staggered start to term. Students should not return to universities for face to face learning until they are notified that they can do so.

Wales remains in the highest level of restrictions. Everyone must stay at home.

I will continue to update members.



Llywodraeth Cymru
Welsh Government

DATGANIAD YSGRIFENEDIG GAN LYWODRAETH CYMRU

TEITL Trefniadau dychwelyd i'r ysgol a'r coleg

DYDDIAD 04 Ionawr 2021

GAN Kirsty Williams AS, y Gweinidog Addysg

Mae'r sefyllfa yng Nghymru a ledled y DU yn parhau i fod yn ddifrifol iawn. Heddiw, mae pedwar Prif Swyddog Meddygol y DU wedi cytuno bod y DU bellach ar y lefel uchaf o risg, gyda'r Cydgyngor Bioddiogelwch ar lefel 5.

Yn unol â'r penderfyniad hwnnw, mae Llywodraeth Cymru, mewn cydweithrediad â CLILC a Cholegau Cymru, wedi cytuno y dylai pob ysgol, coleg ac ysgol annibynnol symud i ddysgu ar-lein tan Ionawr 18.

Fel llywodraeth byddwn yn defnyddio'r pythefnos nesaf i barhau i weithio gydag awdurdodau lleol, ysgolion a cholegau i gynllunio ar gyfer gweddill y tymor.

Dyma'r ffordd orau o sicrhau y gall rhieni, staff a dysgwyr fod yn hyderus wrth ddychwelyd i ddysgu wyneb yn wyneb, yn seiliedig ar y dystiolaeth a'r wybodaeth ddiweddaraf.

Bydd ysgolion a cholegau yn parhau i fod ar agor i blant gweithwyr hanfodol a dysgwyr sy'n agored i niwed, yn ogystal ag i ddysgwyr sydd angen cwblhau arholiadau neu asesiadau hanfodol. Ar y sail hon dylai Ysgolion Arbennig ac UC Dau aros ar agor os oes modd.

I gychwyn, roeddem wedi rhoi hyblygrwydd i ysgolion yn ystod pythefnos cyntaf y tymor i benderfynu pryd i ailagor yn seiliedig ar amgylchiadau lleol.

Ond mae'n amlwg bellach mai dull cenedlaethol o ddysgu ar-lein ar gyfer pythefnos cyntaf y tymor yw'r ffordd gorau ymlaen.

Gwyddom fod ysgolion a cholegau wedi bod yn lleoliadau diogel drwy gydol y pandemig.

Fodd bynnag, gwyddom hefyd y gall lleoliadau addysg sy'n agored gyfrannu at gymysgu cymdeithasol ehangach y tu allan i amgylchedd yr ysgol a'r coleg.

Rydym yn hyderus bod gan ysgolion a cholegau ddarpariaeth ddysgu ar-lein ar waith ar gyfer y cyfnod uniongyrchol hwn.

Mae prifysgolion yng Nghymru eisoes wedi cytuno ar ddechrau graddol i'r tymor. Ni ddylai myfyrwyr ddychwelyd i brifysgolion ar gyfer dysgu wyneb yn wyneb hyd nes y cânt eu hysbysu y dylent wneud hynny.

Mae Cymru yn parhau i fod yn y lefel uchaf o gyfyngiadau. Rhaid i bawb aros gartref.

Byddaf yn parhau i ddiweddarau aelodau.